

**Report from the TA Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting of June 29 , 2021**

The TA CAC meeting held on June 29 was chaired by John Fox due to Chair Barbara Arietta's inability to access Internet via cell phone service. Chair Arietta did participate by calling in from a landline.

The committee met online via a Zoom meeting with TA staff. The CAC heard presentations and reviewed reports, and there were both informational items as well as agenda items requiring a motion with roll call vote.

**The informational items were**

- CAC Item 5a (TA board 10a)- Report on the Peninsula Corridor Electrification project

John Funghi gave a presentation on electrification progress, with lots of good news on placement of the power stations, the poles and wires, and photos of physical progress. There are very important signal system upgrades, and this includes coordination with the FRA. We saw photos of the first train set on the high-speed test track in Pueblo, CO, and had schedule updates on the assembly of the production train sets in Utah.

We also heard of schedule and budget problems, some directly related to COVID issues with production work, and some cost issues unrelated to COVID. As part of the project management, new schedule and risk assessments have been made. The basic news is that there is a shortfall of roughly \$330M to complete, and about a 2 year delay compared to current schedule. The signal system upgrade, integration and testing is now a critical path item for schedule completion. Difficulties with the train manufacturers have led to the parties being in mediation to try to avoid litigation to resolve contract conflicts. There isn't a clear plan to solve the funding shortfall, several options were being considered, including Federal sources, issuance of new bonds, use of measure RR authority, revenue from low carbon fuel credits, and other possible mechanisms. April Chan and Michelle Bouchard commented on the final backstop of the 4 party contingency agreement.

- CAC Item 5d (TA Board Item 12) State and Federal Legislative Update

Ryan McCauley briefed the CAC on both Federal and State legislation in process. The Federal focus on infrastructure should bring opportunities for transit funding, but with the several possible bills, there are many uncertain proposals. The State is likely to have a budget surplus, the amount that might go to transportation invest-

ments is unclear. Peter Ohtaki wondered if several local projects, specifically funding for Caltrain grade crossings, and Dumbarton rail, might be earmarked or raised in visibility as the legislation is being written.

- TA board item 5(a) Approval of Minutes of the Board of directors Meeting of May 6, 2021

There were no comments or suggested edits.

**There were agenda items requiring a motion and vote.**

- Approval of CAC Minutes from June 1, 2021

Minutes were approved unanimously.

- CAC item 5b, TA board item 11(a) - Programming and Allocation of \$23M from Measure A funds to support the SSF Caltrain project

April Chan and Rob Barnard gave us a presentation on the status of the South San Francisco station upgrade. The photos show the new center platform, eliminating the holdout rule, the new pedestrian features, the integration with the redevelopment plans for buildings around the station. There has been lots of progress, the work is estimated to be 87% completed, but there isn't enough funding to complete the project. The initial plan to begin construction before completing utility and site studies led to the project essentially halting for 18 months while critical electric services, fiber optic services, and even a fuel pipeline to the SF airport were discovered and re-located to facilitate the new station alignment. This station, which has had rail service for over 100 years, did not have appropriate historic documentation of the site utilities to begin the new construction. The new station is scheduled to open November 2021.

Rob was frank about the difficulties, and the CAC had a discussion about the extra funding allocated two years ago as the project was in an earlier phase (also with funding shortfall). The basic issue was how to solve the funding, the amount of \$25M requires \$23M from measure A funds, with \$2M of SSF city funding. The CAC had many concerns that this use of the Measure A funds was possibly precluding future worthy Caltrain projects. There were several comments that the biotech industry local to the SSF station (such as Roche) should be brought into this funding shortfall discussion, as their employees benefit from these investments, they can recruit employees because of the transit connection, etc.

The CAC voted to allocate the \$23M, but asked that the SSF pursue public-private funding opportunities for this station completion cost.

- CAC item 5(c)TA Board Item 11(b) - Programming and Allocation of Measure A funding of \$138K for Design Phase of the State Route 1 Main to Kehoe Project

Arul Edwin provided the purpose for this request. The heavy route 1 traffic, the limited side and frontage streets lead to significant conflicts with pedestrians and bikes. It is proposed to improve the frontage road, add a signalized intersection, and this funding is sought for the design phase. Ray Razavi contributed to this discussion on project importance as public comment, members of the CAC also agreed this is an area with need to improve pedestrian and bike features, as well as safety. The CAC recommended to the presenters that the presentation materials could use more clear graphics and tightened bullets to show what is being proposed, it is anticipated the BOD presentation will benefit from these suggestions. The CAC voted unanimously to program the funds.

- CAC Item5(e), TA board Item 5(b) Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for Period Ending May 31, 2021

The Motion passed unanimously. Vice-Chair Fox encouraged the CAC to examine the reports and pass any questions to staff through Joe Hurley.

- CAC item 5(f), TA item 5(c) Contract award to e-Builder software of \$180K

Joe Hurley explained the use of online software tools to maintain design and planning documents for large projects. These had been licensed from the software vendor with unlimited "licenses" or without restriction on numbers of users. The current expires on July 22. A decision was made to purchase a limited number of licenses for roughly 1/2 the old license cost, and this scale of use is expected to be adequate to complete the projects in 1 and a half years. The motion passed unanimously.

- CAC item 5(g) TA board item 5(d) Approve Execution of a Second Amendment to the Cooperative Funding Agreement with the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority

Joe Hurley and Jayden Sangha explained the motivation to amend the funding agreement, The Motion passed unanimously.

- CAC item 5(h) TA item(e) - Approval and Ratification of Fiscal Year 2022 Transportation Authority Insurance program

Marshall Rush explained the situation with the insurance market, the increases in premiums, the balance between deductibles and premium costs, etc. This insurance also protects the CAC and TA staff. The Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting concluded with

- Report of the Chair

Barbara Arietta told of her experience in attending the Caltrain Governance Board meeting, and her discovery the meeting was rescheduled as some county representatives were boycotting the meeting. She told some of the history of Caltrain funding, the significance of the passage of Measure RR, and the long history of San Mateo providing upfront early funding with an expectation of being paid back by San Francisco and Santa Clara counties. Where this will go isn't clear, there are several possible governance ideas being proposed, some might include mergers with BART? HSR? A regional transportation authority? Barbara will keep us posted on this action/adventure serial.

- Report from Staff

Joe Hurley reported for the TA, and a proposal to extend the 101 managed lanes farther north (beyond the present project boundary). This is in the early part of the environmental phase, there are real questions on available space in the existing lane configuration.

- Report from Members

Vice-Chair Fox started a discussion about strengthening the experience of the members of the CAC with the formal aspects of running the meetings and taking notes. He invited interested CAC members to help with the CAC meeting Report to the BOD, and to help retain notes and summaries of the thinking of the CAC on various agenda matters. Karen Kuklin also thought this was a good way to spread experience, and those interested in serving in the future as vice-chair or chair could use this as an opportunity to work with the current chair, and get experience for the future.

Thanks were expressed to all the meeting presenters, as well as Jean Brook for her consistent skill keeping the Zoom meeting running smoothly.

Submitted June 30, 2021

John D. Fox

TA CAC Vice Chair