

## Report from the TA Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting of March 2, 2021

The TA CAC meeting held on March 2 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.

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**

- **Item 4 (CAC Only)** Update on the SMCTD Website Replacement Project Update

We heard a presentation from Jeremy Lipps, Manager of Digital & Social Media, and from Jens-Peter Jungclaussen, Eric Leland, and Inke Noel, who are part of the project team at FivePaths. This was a very detailed presentation on the existing web platform used by the SMCTD, and the ambitious plans to modernize it. The new direction is to build the functionality as an app for the mobile (phone) platforms, it will run better this way for mobile users. There is still functionality for web browser-based users.

The presentation included research interviews within the TA and SMCTD community, as well as outside transit users. It is clear that users want many things, the design plan is to focus on the most requested functions with the most direct click path. The presenters are very clear they see a need to address the diverse community, young and old, and have a theme of showing graphics, photographs and maps to convey information (so less text). They also are working on themes to show taking transit as a way to travel efficiently, save time, save stress, save energy and participate in a diverse community (even sometimes have fun). There are options to include real-time bus and train information, it was mentioned that besides the phone GPS location, bus stops and stations could use QR scan codes which the app can scan via a photo and get location and service information. There are many possibilities to consider as the design progresses.

The general CAC reception was enthusiastic; all want to see this implemented. The questions included "what about users with minimal flip-phones, how can they be helped?" A public comment suggested that incorporating all transit agencies, (e.g. BART) in this this trip planning functionality would be best (it should be a seamless transportation tool, so you don't have to hop from app to app or website to website). There was a practical question on "who maintains this and keeps it up-to-date after the design team delivers", the answer is that Jeremy Lipps and internal

resources at SMCTD are expecting to take over for the operational phase. This will require commitment from the team to have adequate skilled staff and resources.

- Item 11b Short Range Highway Plan Update

We heard from the Patrick Gilster, Manager of Programming and Monitoring, on the plan, and the progress. One component of the plan is to use data metrics to identifying critical gaps or routes to invest limited resources. Examples were presented showing how data on delays, and accident rates, can highlight areas of concern. We will be getting future updates as the plan progresses.

- Item 11c - Program Report: South San Francisco Caltrain Station Improvement Project Update

Michelle Bouchard, Chief Operating Officer, Rail presented updates and current status on the South San Francisco Station Project. There was discussion on the progress, and a public comment about the long platform, and the number of service ramps to get passengers on/off the platforms from the stations via tunnels. The concern was in an emergency situation where one of the two paths are blocked or unavailable, is there sufficient capacity to quickly evacuate the platform?

- Item 11d - 101 Express Lanes Equity Study Update

The CAC heard from April Chan, Chief Officer on this study, due to the late hour there was limited discussion. The CAC is eager to follow this study, we look forward to a future presentation and progress report. The CAC was provided a list of upcoming meetings regarding the equity study and were encouraged to participate.

- TA Board item 13 - State and Federal Legislative Update

The CAC had a status update from Ryan McCauley, Government Affairs Specialist, on how the new administration is organizing transit funding and areas for investment, also how this can tie with State programs. Peter Ohtaki had several questions on how the TA is positioned to have "shovel-ready" projects should there be new calls for projects and new opportunities opened up. Peter Skinner said that the TA agrees with this goal, there are internal plans to respond flexibly as the new Federal/state transportation funding is defined.

- Approval of Minutes of the Board of directors Meeting of February 4, 2021

There were no comments or suggested edits.

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

- Approval of CAC Minutes from February 2, 2021

Minutes were approved without edits or additions.

- Item 11a Acceptance of Capital projects Quarterly Status Report for 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2021

Joe Hurley, Director TA Program gave a short verbal summary, because of the lengthy meeting, there was little discussion among the CAC on the report. Fox encouraged the CAC members to check the report on their own and express any questions to Joe Hurley. This motion passed unanimously.

- Item 12a - Measure and Allocate Measure A Grade Separation Category funds for the Broadway Grade Separation Project

The CAC had a presentation from Peter Skinner, Director of Programming and Monitoring, and Joy Sharma, Senior Project Manager, JPB, on the overall state of the project, some of the ongoing design issues to resolve, and on the funding short-falls. Joy Sharma's presentation had many points on value engineering, and options to change the height profiles of the bridges, roadways, etc. are in evaluation to see if costs can be controlled through careful design. There is an issue with re-locating a parallel -station for the electrified rail system, this is a big task involves coordination with the City of Burlingame. Peter Skinner fielded questions on the plan for the City to get funding for their match contribution, what happens to the TA funds if the City doesn't get grants or is successful in finding funding? The short answer is the TA wouldn't claw back the funds advanced on the project, but he also thinks the City is in a good position to get the funding. The new administration and interest in rail investments, transportation investments may help on this. This motion passed unanimously.

The CAC unanimously supported the programming and allocation of an additional \$1,025,000 to the City of Burlingame for the design and construction cost to minimize if not avoid the conflicts between the Caltrain Electrification and Broadway Grade Separation projects.

- Item 6 (b) Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending January 31, 2021

Joe Hurley offered a quick verbal summary, because of the late hour there was little discussion. This motion passed unanimously. Fox encouraged the CAC members to check the report on their own and express any questions to Joe Hurley.

The meeting concluded with

- Report of the Chair

Barbara Arietta commented on local traffic and her hope that the new Transportation Secretary, Pete Buttigieg, will bring energy, vision and most importantly advocacy for transit needs in San Mateo County. She is hopeful the new administrations infrastructure investments will help with needs here as well as nationwide.

- Report from Staff

Joe Hurley reported for the TA.

- Report from Members

At this late hour, the comments were to take good care during the pandemic and thanks were expressed to all the meeting presenters, as well as Jean Brook for her consistent skill keeping the Zoom meeting, with multiple public comments, running smoothly.

Submitted March 4, 2021

John D. Fox

TA CAC Vice Chair