

**Report from the TA Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting of January 5, 2021**

The TA CAC meeting held on January 5 was chaired by John Fox due to Chair Barbara Arietta's inability to access Internet and cell phone service. Chair Arietta did participate by telephone.

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 action items requiring a motion with roll call vote.

The informational items were

- (Item 12) State and Federal legislative update

We heard a report from Ryan McCauley on both State and Federal actions, including what might be anticipated through the new administration.

- (Item 14a) Grade Separation Program Update

April Chan introduced Peter Skinner, who gave a presentation on Grade Separation Program along the Caltrain corridor. The report included a history of completed projects, details on the 4 projects in the pipeline with budget and schedule plans, and also a project in the planning phase for which there is need, but no identified funding. The general history shows rapid cost escalation to build these projects, as well as the sense these are not just roadway/rail projects but become significant city revitalization/development projects. It is clear that funds within the TA (Measure A and Measure W) cannot contribute more significantly, the current policies are designed to require significant cost sharing with local, state and federal partners.

There were agenda items requiring a motion and vote.

- (Item 5b) Acceptance of Statement and Revenues and Expenditures for period ending November 30, 2020

This motion passed unanimously (with 1 abstention) after brief discussion with Staff on the ongoing situation with tax revenues being reported in a delayed fashion after the reporting interval.

- (Item 13a) TA Board Adoption of 2021 Legislative Program

Ryan McCauley recapped the program for 2021, which had been presented in detail at the December meeting. This motion passed unanimously.

- (Item 15a) TA Board Program and Allocate \$23.8 million of Measure A grade Separation Program Funds for the 25th Avenue Grade Separation Project

April Chan gave an overview of the need for this supplemental funding, followed by detailed presentations on the project status and history from San Mateo City staff, former San Mateo City Manager Larry Patterson with expert knowledge of the project history, and representatives from Caltrain. The history of the funding, which includes substantial High Speed Rail funds, was explained. The situation with the 25th Ave project was documented in detail, and the need for supplemental funds was attributed to delays in the project due to negotiations with UPRR, unexpected gas pipeline and fiber optic utility relocations cost, and several smaller factors. The San Mateo representatives came with news that their city council just voted to increase the city contribution by \$1Million (to \$3.1Million). CAC members requested clarification regarding why some potential overruns were not anticipated, and the general sense was "how can we learn from this?". The summary thinking was "We have to spend 25 million now, or spend \$50 million in two/three years to get out ahead of the Caltrain electrification project" This motion passed unanimously.

- (Item 15b).Program and Allocate \$350,000 for the development of the Alternative Congestion Relief and Transportation Management plan

Patrick Gilster spoke on the purpose of the Congestion and Demand Management program, and the value of supporting it as a part of the TA mission. This motion passed unanimously.

- Report of the Nominating Committee for 2021 Chair and Vice Chair

Rich Hedges, Karen Kuklin and Jeff Londer reported on the outreach to the CAC members, and suggested three candidates for Vice Chair and 1 candidate for

Chair. After discussion, a motion to elect Barbara Arietta as Chair, and John Fox as Vice Chair passed unanimously.

The meeting concluded with

- Report of the Chair

Barbara Arietta reported on plans to remove large eucalyptus trees from portions of El Camino Real. She is concerned how dramatically the landscape will change with removal of these trees.

- Report from Staff

Joe Hurley reported for the TA.

- Report from Members

Jeff Londer is serving on one of the committees that is re-envisioning El Camino, and he gave some background for the tree issues Barbara Arietta raised in her comments.

Dave Reed reported on a productive meeting between the TA staff and representatives from Pacifica. The focus was on identifying good candidates for bike and pedestrian projects in future calls, and encouraging more submissions from the Coastside.

Submitted January 6, 2021

John D. Fox

TA CAC Vice Chair