

Report of the TA Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting of April 5, 2022

Committee Action

- Approved the Minutes of the CAC Meeting of March 1, 2022

Committee Motions Regarding TA Board Items for April 7, 2022

- Approved the Adoption of Resolution Making Findings that the Proclaimed State of Emergency for COVID-19 Continues to Impact the Board's and Committees' Ability to Meet Safely in Person
- Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending February 28, 2022
- Accepted the Measure A and Measure W Semiannual Program Status Report
- Authorized Execution of Master Agreement and Program Supplements for State-Funded Transit Projects
- Approved Programming and Allocation of Measure W Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Funds for the Safe Routes to School Grant Program
- Approved the Legislative Proposals to Support Senate Bill (SB) 922 (Wiener) and Assembly Bill (AB) 1944 (Lee)

Discussion Highlights

Measure W Citizens' Oversight Committee Report for Fiscal Year 2020 and Annual Audit of Measure W Funds for Fiscal Year 2021

Grace Martinez, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, provided the presentation. Peter Ohtaki said he was pleased that there was a clean, unmodified audit. Rich Hedges asked how the Measure W income for 2021 compares with earlier projections. Ms. Martinez said she did not have that information at hand but said there was an uptick from the previous year. Mr. Hedges asked if there was \$7.5 million for bicycle/pedestrian (bike/ped) projects. Peter Skinner, Director, Grants and Fund Management, said he would find out what the amount of funds would be for that category in the next call for projects. Vice Chair Fox asked what the next bike/ped call for projects submission date would be and Mr. Skinner said it would be in August 2022.

Upcoming Funding Opportunities and TA Strategy

Jessica Epstein, Manager, Government and Community Affairs, and Mr. Skinner provided the presentation. Mr. Ohtaki commended staff on taking good advantage of the federal infrastructure bill. He asked if the Dumbarton Rail project would be eligible for funding in light of Seamless Bay Area. April Chan, Acting Deputy General Manager/CEO, said Dumbarton Rail has currently been put on hold and put in Tier 2 of Plan Bay Area 2050. She said that MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) funding will be directed towards projects that are in a more advanced state of readiness. Mr. Hedges noted some historical facts about funding the

Dumbarton project. Chair Barbara Arietta asked if people working from home and not commuting affected the Dumbarton schedule. Ms. Chan said staff still considered the link between the Peninsula and East Bay is crucial. Vice Chair John Fox asked if funding for smaller, yet important projects would be available. Mr. Skinner said it would be difficult to tell until future notices of funding programs comes out. Ms. Epstein said they requesting all project sponsors be aware of funding opportunities.

State and Federal Legislative Update and Approval of Legislative Proposals: Support Senate Bill (SB) 922 (Wiener) and Assembly Bill (AB) 1944 (Lee)

Amy Linehan, Government and Community Affairs Officer, provided a summary of federal and state legislation. She said the Senate approved the omnibus appropriations bill, which the President signed on March 19. She said it provided \$100 billion for transportation. She said that staff is now working on 2023 earmarks. She said on the state side, the Governor announced a package to offset high gasoline prices. Incentive grant for local transit agencies to provide free transit. She said they were requesting CAC support for Senate Bill (SB) 922, a CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) exemption bill to help move local projects forward. She said that Assembly Bill (AB) 1944, is a public meetings bill that addresses changes to rules regarding teleconferencing, and responded to questions about the bill from for Sandra Lang. Dave Reed asked why the CEQA exemption was being proposed. Ms. Linehan said the bill would provide more flexibility in the CEQA process. The CAC approved support of AB 1944 unanimously, but approved SB 922 with six votes in favor, four votes against, and one abstention.

Report of the Chair

Chair Arietta gave a report on Caltrain governance as discussed at the JPB (Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board) March 3 Board meeting. She provided details of the proposed agreement, which will require approval from Caltrain's member agencies.

Report from Staff

Mr. Skinner noted that the TA is releasing the first ACR/TDM (Alternative Congestion Relief/Traffic Demand Management) call for projects with \$4 million in funds. He also noted that they are anticipating releasing \$17 million in bicycle/pedestrian program funding on August 4, 2022, thanks to Measure W.