

**Report from the TA Citizens Advisory Committee  
Meeting of September 1, 2020**

The TA CAC meeting held on September 1 was chaired by John Fox due to Chair Barbara Arietta's inability to access Internet and 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 action items requiring a motion with roll call vote.

**The informational items were**

- State and Federal legislative update

We heard a report from Ryan McCauley on both State and Federal actions. There was discussion on the impact of a likely federal Continuing Resolution this fall before the election.

- San Mateo County Transit District Shuttle Study Update

Daniel Shockley gave the committee a PowerPoint presentation on how the shuttle program is evolving, and how it might change going forward. Ridership on the shuttles is down, consistent with ridership on Caltrain and the SamTrans routes. The impact of telework and COVID-19 shelter-in-place health orders has had a very dramatic impact on commuters and commutes in general.

There was discussion on the user experience with the shuttles, challenges with online schedules and online shuttle location information. An example of user challenge – many of the shuttle stops (particularly on private property) have no signage to indicate this is a stop, some do not have a sidewalk or paved safe place for passengers to load and unload, particularly difficult for passengers with mobility issues.

This study is looking at how the program might evolve and integrate with the larger changes in transit systems.

- Alternative Congestion Relief Program Update

Jennifer Williams (staff) and John Ford (CEO of Commute.org) presented on the current state of the congestion relief program. One aspect of this year's program is the inclusion of telework, work from home, etc. as a component of the Commute.org portfolio and promotional materials. The shuttle ridership and carpooling participation is down during the pandemic, creative things such as transforming "bike to work day" into "bike to anywhere day" are in place.

The committee discussed the situation with cycling as a transit alternative, one thread was that to be more successful in attracting a wider range of cyclist commuters, the medium and small scale workplaces, retail establishments, etc. have to help with making bike features, parking much more visible ( e.g. feature bike parking right in front of a store, visible from the street, etc.).

- Approval of Minutes of the Board of directors Meeting of August 6, 2020

There were no comments or suggested edits

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

- Approval of CAC Minutes from July 7, 2020

Minutes were approved without edits or additions

- TA Board Item 12(a) Allocation in Support Funding in Support of Commute.Org's FY2021 program

The discussion was led by Peter Skinner (staff). The funding for the next cycle is down compared to this year's but is still a significant program. Motion passed unanimously

- TA Board Item 12b. Reprogramming and Reallocation of Funding from the PID phase of the 101/92 Direct Connector project

The discussion was led by Arul Edwin (staff), This motion passed unanimously after brief discussion.

- TA Board Item 12(c) Adoption of FY2021 budget

The proposed budget and structure was presented by Derek Hansel (staff). There was considerable discussion within the CAC on estimates for future Sales Tax revenues, and how conservative the TA should be forecasting in this COVID pandemic. Mr. Hansel's opinion was to look over a several year interval, and he commented that the most recent revenue was trending upward each year. His observation was that even in the pandemic, revenues were consistent with 2017 and 2018 trends. He thinks the current budget is a careful balance. Motion passed unanimously

- TA Board Item 5(b) Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and expenditures for July 2020

The discussion was brief, some observations that the State sales tax submission deadlines for information and actual funds had been relaxed and so it really wasn't known what last quarter's revenues were, we will know better in the future. The Motion passed Unanimously.

- TA Board Item 5 (c) Acceptance of Capital projects Quarterly status Report for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter FY2020

Joe Hurley (staff) commented on the projects that are flagged with red and yellow concerns, and general progress on the major capital projects. Motion passed Unanimously

The meeting concluded with

- Report of the Chair

Barbara Arietta reported on the updated situation with Caltrain funding, ballot measure and announced a series of meetings with groups seeking more unified bay area transit approaches (Friends of Caltrain and Seamless Bay Area)

- Report from Staff

Joe Hurley reported for the TA. Much of the update was on the Broadway interchange project, also the approval of a loan by SMCEL-JPA for the Express Lanes Project. Bike/Ped proposals are due September 21, he encouraged the CAC to remind local cities to have their proposals submitted.

- Report from Members

Rich Hedges reported on a proposal from transit agencies in Los Angeles to explore a fare-free program for portions of the public transit network, and the arguments for such an approach.

Submitted September 2, 2020

John D. Fox

TA CAC Vice Chair