

Report of the TA Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting of May 31, 2022

Committee Action

- Approved the Minutes of the CAC Meeting of May 3, 2022

Committee Motions Regarding TA Board Items for June 2, 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 April 30, 2022
- Accepted the Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 3rd Quarter Fiscal Year 2022
- Approved the Establishment of the Appropriations Limit for Fiscal Year 2023
- Approved the Programming and Allocation of \$3,499,200 in Measure A Ferry Program Funds to the Port of Redwood City for the Proposed Ferry Terminal in Redwood City
- Approved the Adoption of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023

Discussion Highlights

Program and Allocate \$3,499,200 in Measure A Ferry Program Funds to the Port of Redwood City for the Proposed Ferry Terminal in Redwood City

Jennifer Williams, Administrative Analyst II, presented the staff report. Don Snaman, Consultant, Port of Redwood City, introduced Bill Hurrell, Vice President, CDM Smith, who provided the presentation.

Jeff Londer asked if there would be on-site parking. Mr. Hurrell said the conceptual design includes parking and room for a transit stop. Mr. Londer asked if there had been private service; Mr. Hurrell said there had been private Google and Facebook ferries in the past, which were not open to the public. An Chen said it was important to loop in Stanford Hospital since their employees could be major users of the ferry. She said it was also important to coordinate with hospital worker shifts. Mr. Hurrell said they had contacted Stanford during the feasibility study. Sandra Lang asked if there was a possibility of extending service to the central part of San Mateo County between Redwood City and South San Francisco. Mr. Hurrell said there are linkages between Caltrain and the ferry and said it was up to employers to extend shuttle service.

Vice Chair Fox asked if the Redwood City ferry service would compete with the South San Francisco ferry service. Kevin Connolly, Planning and Development Manager, San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) said that they looked at an interim stop type of model where vessels would originate from Oakland and make a stop at South San Francisco and then go to Redwood City. He said that the impact on the travel time for Redwood City-bound passengers was so significant that it may render the service really uncompetitive.

Vice Chair Fox asked how increased frequency of Caltrain service would impact ferry service between Redwood City and San Francisco. Peter Skinner, Director, Grants and Fund Management, said that taking Caltrain from Redwood City to San Francisco would be faster than taking the ferry. Vice Chair Fox said that with electrification, Caltrain would be even more competitive with the ferry in the future. He said that last-mile service should definitely include Caltrain. Jessica Manzi, Transportation Manager, City of Redwood City, said there is proposed shuttle service to the ferries.

Public Hearing: Adoption of Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023

Joe Hurley, TA Director, noted that the budget had not changed since the last meeting on May 3. Ms. Lang asked if there would be any impact on revenues that are dependent on sales tax and Measure W. Connie Mobley-Ritter, Director of Treasury, said they are trying to be conservative with their sales tax estimation. Peter Ohtaki asked if the 12 percent increase in sales tax revenue was deemed a conservative estimate by the consultants for the coming year. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said they will find out how they did for the fiscal year in the August-September timeframe.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Amy Linehan, Government and Community Affairs Officer, provided a summary of federal and state legislation. She said on the federal side, Congress had enacted a \$40 billion Ukraine humanitarian and military package. She said that gun control would dominate the discussions coming up to the midterms. She said on the state side, Governor Newsom released the May revise of the budget proposal. She said there was an approximately \$50 billion surplus, a portion of which is targeted to be invested in transportation; \$2 billion over a four-year period for transit and rail projects; \$500 million for grade separations and grade crossing improvements; and \$4.2 billion for high-speed rail in the Central Valley. She noted that there was \$1.25 billion for active transportation funding projects and \$400 million for state and local climate adaptation projects. She noted that there were two CAPTI (Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure) bills that had been introduced that staff is currently assessing to understand what impacts they may have on the TA program of projects.

Mr. Ohtaki asked if the grade separations money was contingent on high-speed rail. Ms. Linehan said that grade separation funding was a critical portion of the package. Mr. Ohtaki asked if grade separations was an issue in Southern California and Ms. Linehan said it was a nationwide concern.

Chair Arietta noted that the Caltrans, the California Transportation Commission, and the California Air Resources Board were required to jointly meet on or before January 1, 2025 to comprehensively re-evaluate the transportation program funding levels projects and eligibility criteria, and asked if that process had begun. Ms. Linehan said she would investigate and get back to her.

Report of the Chair

Chair Barbara Arietta reported on two grant applications that were made to the California High-Speed Rail Authority last month.

Report from Staff

Jean Brook, CAC Secretary, noted that the upcoming TA CAC recruitment period would be June 8 to July 8. She said there were five terms up for renewal and two vacancies. Mr. Hurley said there would be a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday for a bicycle trail on the Coast.

Member Comments/Requests

Dave Reed announced that Stanford University was starting a new school of sustainability, the first new school at the University in 70 years. He said that the executive director for Stanford Healthcare had requested how they can cooperate with the transportation authorities in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, and Mr. Hurley said he would get back to him.