

Report of the TA Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting of July 5, 2022

Committee Action

- Approved the Minutes of the CAC Meeting of May 31, 2022

Committee Motions Regarding TA Board Items for July 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 May 31, 2022
- Approved the Programming and Allocation of \$4,330,880 In Measure A Funds to the San Mateo County Transit District for the SamTrans Paratransit Program
- Approved the Amendment of Transportation Authority Strategic Plan 2020-2024 Measure A and Measure W Pedestrian and Bicycle Program Match Requirements
- Approved Execution of a Third Amendment to the Cooperative Funding Agreement with the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority
- Approved the Ratification of the Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Authority Insurance Program

Discussion Highlights

Alternative Congestion Relief and Traffic Demand Management Program Cycle 1 Call for Projects Draft Recommendations

Patrick Gilster, Manager, Programming and Monitoring, provided the presentation. He said that the Eucalyptus project was creating a side path connection adjacent to the roadway and that they will be removing some of the eucalyptus trees as part of the project. Rich Hedges asked if the money could be used for engineering of difficult intersections. Mr. Gilster said the money could be use only if the intersection is accessing a major transit hub or part of the Safe Routes to School Project. Jeff Londer said the program looked undersubscribed. Mr. Gilster said he was encouraged that they had received 19 applications for funding, as this was a new program. Ken Chin asked re the San Mateo 101 project, who was the lead. Mr. Gilster said the lead was the City of San Mateo and the TA is dedicated to helping with that project. Mr. Chin asked that when the project starts that the San Mateo/Foster City School District be notified. Vice Chair John Fox said that typically the TA has more projects than they have funding and asked about how TA staff publicized the ACR/TCDM program. Mr. Gilster outlined how the TA publicizes their calls for projects via news blasts and social media to local jurisdictions within the County. Peter Skinner, Director, Grants and Fund Management, said they had predicted the program would be undersubscribed since this is the first time the TA had done a call for projects for the program. Mr. Hedges said he felt that the smaller cities may not have the time or staff to apply. Mr. Chin asked if matching funds posed a barrier to cities applying. Mr. Gilster said he felt that

the matching request for the project was lower than for other programs and was not as big of an issue. Vice Chair Fox suggested providing funding to assist potential applicants apply for projects. Chair Barbara Arietta asked if there was feedback regarding application guidelines, and Mr. Gilster said there was not. Vice Chair Fox asked what the timeframe was for implementation. Mr. Gilster said they have two years to expend all the funds.

US 101 Express Lanes: Update on Variable Rate Bond and Phase 1 Operations

April Chan, Acting Deputy General Manager/CEO, introduced Connie Mobley-Ritter, Director of Treasury, who provided the presentation on the bond issued for the project. Peter Ohtaki asked if she felt that the capitalized interest fund would last in light of increasing interest rates. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said it should cover the next three years. Mr. Ohtaki asked if the toll revenue would be adequate to cover the higher interest rates, which are approaching 4 percent. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said that they only have the southern portion of the Express Lanes open, they do not yet have enough data to make those projections. She said they would be able to provide more information in the future once the northern portion opens. Ms. Chan introduced Lacy Vong, Senior Product Manager, HNTB for the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority (SMCEL-JPA), who continued providing the presentation on the operation of the Express Lanes. Mr. Hedges asked what the current policy was on toll penalties. Ms. Chan replied that under the current toll ordinance, the first notice of violation is \$25, which increases to \$45 for the second notice. She said there is recommendation for the SMCEL-JPA Board to lower the penalties. Mr. Hedges asked how people can qualify for the equity program. Ms. Vong said the JPA voted to raise the income threshold to \$76,000 for a family of four. Mr. Ohtaki asked how the projections look to be able to cover the interest costs down the line, based on existing toll project data. Ms. Chan said they had presented to the JPA board that they would be receiving at least \$5 million in total revenues through the end of Fiscal Year 2022. She said once the entire 22-mile corridor in San Mateo County is open, they will have better data. Ms. Vong said there was also important data from the I-880 and I-680 managed lanes projects. Karen Kuklin expressed her support for the Express Lanes but noted that the FasTrak transponders may not stick to windshields in hot weather. She said that it was a bit more difficult for her to acquire the transponder for her all-electric vehicle. Ms. Chan said they would look into those issues. Vice Chair Fox added that more outreach may be helpful to let electric vehicle drivers know they can get a special transponder. Mr. Chin asked if the CHP (California Highway Patrol) was enforcing the lanes yet. Ms. Chan said they are under contract and working to ensure users are in compliance. Mr. Chin said it would be helpful to compare user volume data from pre-pandemic and now. He asked what the success metric is, i.e., for the reduction of traffic congestion as opposed to revenue generation to cover system operations. Ms. Chan said that was something that they would look into. Vice Chair Fox asked re the capacity measures how the numbers were generated. Ms. Vong said the numbers in her presentation were per lane, not in aggregate. Vice Chair Fox suggested showing the volume of people in addition to the volume of vehicles to indicate the increased mobility of individuals and not only cars.

Approve Execution of a Third Amendment to the Cooperative Funding Agreement with the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority

Grace Martinez, Acting Chief Financial Officer, summarized the staff report. Mr. Hedges asked if there was a repayment plan. Ms. Martinez said the repayment would come from the toll revenues once there are enough funds coming in.

Approval and Ratification of the Fiscal Year 2023 Transportation Authority Insurance Program

Ryan Hinchman, Director, Financial Planning and Analysis, presented the staff report. He said that the TA's insurance premium saw a decrease of about \$85,000 or 25 percent. He attributed the pricing change to their marketing efforts to solicit new insurance carriers.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Amy Linehan, Government and Community Affairs Officer, provided a summary of federal and state legislation. On the federal level, she said the Senate and House were on recess. She said the House had approved the 2023 appropriations bill. She said the Senate has not laid out a timeline for the appropriations process and was likely to have a continuing resolution in 2023. On the state side, she said the Governor announced a multibillion-dollar transportation package and noted that the August Board packet would contain more details on all the pending bills.

Report of the Chair

Chair Arietta provided an update on Caltrain governance and California High-Speed Rail.

Report from Staff

Mr. Skinner said the San Mateo County Office of Education released a call for projects for the Safe Routes to School program and TA staff participated in the evaluation of project proposals, recommending 12 projects for funding totaling \$130,000. He said additional details were available in the Report of the Executive Director.

Member Comments/Requests

The members wished An Chen well in her endeavors after retiring from the CAC.