

Report of the TA Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting of August 2, 2022

Committee Action

- Approved the Minutes of the CAC Meeting of July 5, 2022

Committee Motions Regarding TA Board Items for August 4, 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, and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Board and Committee Meetings to Continue
- Accepted the Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook
- Reaffirmed the San Mateo County Transportation Authority Investment Policy and Reauthorized Investment of Monies with the Local Agency Investment Fund
- Approved the Programming and Allocation of \$4,356,300 in Measure A Alternative Congestion Relief and Measure W Transportation Demand Management Funds for the Cycle 1 Call for Projects and Direct Allocations

Discussion Highlights

San Mateo 101 Express Lanes Quarterly Project Update

Leo Scott, Co-Project Manager, Gray-Bowen-Scott, provided the presentation. Sandra Lang asked if fines would be imposed on the southern portion via the cameras. Mr. Scott said if the car does not have a FasTrak transponder, the cameras will view the license plate and FasTrak will generate a bill. He said if a transponder is set to HOV3+ but there is only a single occupant, the driver will receive a violation if observed by the CHP (California Highway Patrol). Ms. Lang asked how the messaging on the Express Lanes would be clear to new users and drivers from out of the area. Joe Hurley, TA Director, noted there has been an extensive education outreach to the public to prevent not only toll violations but to ensure that the lanes are utilized. Rich Hedges asked if transit services such as Redi-Wheels would be eligible to use the Express Lanes if they are carrying only one passenger. Mr. Hurley said that SMCEL-JPA (San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority) sets the rules as far as who pays and who does not pay tolls on the Express Lanes. He said that SMCEL-JPA has registered public transit vehicles that are exempt from toll fees, and that there continues to be an outreach campaign to explain those rules. Mr. Hedges asked if Mr. Scott was aware of the MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) pilot program that recognizes the passengers in a vehicle. Mr. Scott said that electronic recognition technology to reduce toll revenue loss is still in its infancy and is expensive and requires legislative approval. April Chan, Acting Deputy General Manager/CEO, said that MTC is also working on electronic recognition hardware. She said there may be future funding grants available from the federal government. Karen Kuklin said she had enjoyed using the Express Lanes. Vice Chair John Fox asked for clarification about the fiber optic cable configuration, and Mr. Scott outlined the layout of the access points. Drew made a public

comment noting several overhead signs and sign bridges that he said were in need of adjustment or repair. Mr. Scott requested that Drew email Mr. Hurley with the details.

Highway Project Update: US 101/Peninsula Avenue Interchange

Heba El-Guindy, Deputy TA Director, provided the presentation and acknowledged project sponsor Bethany Lopez, Senior Engineer, City of San Mateo. Ms. Kuklin asked if there had been an equity analysis of the housing that could potentially be eliminated for the project. Ms. El-Guindy said that additional community outreach is planned and that the City would continue to meet with the property owners. Ken Chin asked about the overpass striping. Ms. El-Guindy said the widening of the overcrossing would provide two through lanes, a turn lane, and a bike lane in both the northbound and southbound directions in addition to sidewalks on both sides. Mr. Chin asked if a pedestrian ramp had been added to connect with the path adjacent to the golf course, and Ms. El-Guindy confirmed that it had. Ms. Lang requested sharing the various technical assessments and the effect on the quality of life in the area. Ms. El-Guindy said the studies, including the Community Impact Assessment, would be made available for public review and comment upon the release of the draft environmental document. Mike Swire made a public comment supporting the project, noting the dangers inherent in the intersection at East Poplar Avenue and said that the project would be of benefit to San Mateo High School and other schools in the area in terms of cyclist safety.

Program and Allocate \$4,356,300 in Measure A Alternative Congestion Relief and Measure W Transportation Demand Management Funds for the Cycle 1 Call for Projects and Direct Allocations

Patrick Gilster, Manager, Programming and Monitoring, presented the staff report. Vice Chair Fox noted that for the first call for projects that the TA was undersubscribed, meaning that they received fewer proposals than the dollar amount of available funding. He asked if in such cases the TA funds all proposals received. Mr. Gilster said it is required that applicants meet with TA staff at that stage. He said that even if they are undersubscribed, the TA is not obligated to fund all programs and projects and that projects must meet the funding goals and requirements. Mr. Reed asked if the usual municipalities participated. Mr. Gilster said they had funding for consultants to help smaller coastal jurisdictions complete applications who may not have done so otherwise. Vice Chair Fox noted that historically there have been certain jurisdictions that are assertive about applying for funding.

State and Federal Legislative Update

Amy Linehan, Government and Community Affairs Officer, provided a summary of federal and state legislation. She said that on the federal side, the Senate is working to come to an agreement on the reconciliation bill, which is being called the Inflation Reduction Act. She said the bill does not include much direct transportation programs funding but some energy tax credits and transit electric infrastructure money may be available down the line. She said they are closely watching the appropriations cycle and expecting a continuing resolution. Ms. Linehan indicated that on the state side, the bills of interest that the TA was tracking have either died or been amended to the point where they are no longer a concern. Vice Chair Fox expressed that they are looking forward to how the budget reconciliation bill would get passed.

Report of the Chair

Chair Arietta provided an update on Caltrain governance.

Report from Staff

Ms. El-Guindy noted that two CAC candidates were being recommended for appointment by the TA Board on August 4. She shared that the ACR/TDM (Alternative Congestion Relief/Transportation Demand Management) Plan had received the Northern California Chapter Award for Transportation Planning in May and last month received an Award of Merit in Transportation Planning from the California Chapter of the American Planning Association. She provided an update on the current projects referenced in the Executive Director's report. Ms. Chan invited the TA CAC members to attend a retirement celebration for Mr. Hurley following the next CAC meeting on August 30. Mr. Hurley announced that Naomi Hsu had resigned from the CAC due to a conflict with new work responsibilities and that she expressed her appreciation to have served on the CAC.

Member Comments/Requests

Mr. Reed said that while riding Caltrain recently he had heard from a passenger that the CaltrainMe app was not working.