

Report of the TA Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting of August 30, 2022

Announcement of New CAC Members

- Ivan Bucio
- Mike Swire

Committee Action

- Approved the Minutes of the CAC Meeting of August 2, 2022

Committee Motions Regarding TA Board Items for September 1, 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 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending July 31, 2022
- Accepted the Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2022
- Approved the Programming and Allocation of \$4,263,825 in Measure A Caltrain Category Funds for Caltrain's Fiscal Years 2021-22 and 2022-23 Capital Budgets
- Approved the Execution of a Cooperative Agreement with the San Mateo County Transit District for General Engineering Consulting Services through the TA's Consultant Bench

Discussion Highlights

State and Federal Legislative Update

Amy Linehan, Government and Community Affairs Officer, provided a summary of federal and state legislation. On the federal side, she noted that both the House and Senate are on recess and will return after Labor Day. She said that the House passed a package that includes appropriations for the Department of Transportation (DOT) lawmakers and the Senate Appropriations Committee released its draft Fiscal Year 2023 spending bills, including spending for the DOT. She said that the earmarks for the TA highway projects were not included in the spending bill. On the state side, Ms. Linehan noted that the state legislative matrix included in the Board packet shows all the bills the TA took a stance on during the legislative session. Dave Reed asked if an analysis would be done of why the TA projects did not receive the expected funding. Ms. Linehan said that the TA's request was for highway improvement and that no highway projects in California got earmarked funding since there was more of an emphasis on transit projects. Rich Hedges asked if she could comment on the bills from Assemblymember Buffy Wicks and Senator Anna Caballero regarding housing. Ms. Linehan said that the TA has not been tracking those bills, but said she would look into them and get back to him. Sandra Lang asked for Ms. Linehan's opinion on Senate Bill (SB) 922 regarding people being protected from the risk of residential displacement. Ms. Linehan said it was her understanding that the form of the bill that was amended on August 4 would not cause displacement of people.

Program and Allocate \$4,263,825 in Measure A Caltrain Category Funds for Caltrain's Fiscal Years 2021-22 and 2022-23 Capital Budgets

Cleo Liao, Manager, Budgets, presented the staff report. Mr. Reed asked why the TA was allocating 2022 funds most of the way through 2022. Ms. Liao said that based on the adoptive budget for Caltrain, there was no contribution funding from the three member agencies. She said that they were going to the Board to request approval for allocations for both Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 for Caltrain. Peter Skinner, Director, Grants and Fund Management, noted that they had delayed taking this item to the TA CAC and Board because of the ongoing discussions regarding Caltrain governance and they wanted to have some assurance that the other two member agencies would allocate funds to Caltrain.

Execution of a Cooperative Agreement with the San Mateo County Transit District for General Engineering Consulting Services through the TA's Consultant Bench

Mr. Skinner presented the staff report. Mr. Reed asked why SamTrans' did not have the resources to do the work. Mr. Skinner responded that SamTrans has only one general engineering consultant who is already tasked with a number of other facilities-related projects, so their resources are limited to do this work. Mr. Reed asked what the target ratio between battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell buses was. Liria Larano, Deputy Chief, Fleet and Facilities Infrastructure, said that the ratio has not yet been determined but that feasibility studies were underway which they expect to complete by year's end. Ken Chin asked how large is the fleet and Ms. Larano said they have 319 buses that need to be replaced by 2040. Mr. Hedges asked why hydrogen fuel was chosen when electric seems preferable in light of the problems associated with hydrogen fuel cells. Ms. Larano said they have been in discussion with CTA (California Transit Association) on that topic. She said that hydrogen is comparable to diesel in terms of range, which is longer than with electric. Vice Chair John Fox said it would be helpful to see how other transit agencies are evaluating how the vehicles are doing. Mr. Skinner concurred, saying that all transit agencies in California are required to meet the mandate.

Report of the Chair

Chair Barbara Arietta welcomed the new members, Mr. Bucio and Mr. Swire. She and Vice Chair Fox expressed their appreciation for outgoing TA Director Joe Hurley's leadership during his tenure at the TA.

Vice Chair Fox read the resolution of appreciation for Mr. Hurley that would be considered by the TA Board at their September 1 meeting.

Report from Staff

Mr. Skinner said there was no report.

Member Comments/Requests

The committee members welcomed the new members and they and TA Directors Emily Beach and Carole Groom expressed their appreciation of Mr. Hurley's leadership of the TA.