

Report of the TA Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting of April 4, 2023

Committee Actions

- Approved the Consent Calendar including:
 - Minutes of the CAC Meeting of February 28, 2023
- Motions Regarding TA Board Items for April 6, 2023
 - Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending February 28, 2023
 - Acceptance of Measure A & Measure W Semi-Annual Program Status Report for July to December 2022
 - Adoption of Resolution to Enable Receipt of One Bay Area Grant Funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the 19th Avenue/Fashion Island Boulevard Complete Street Class IV Bikeway Project
- State and Federal Legislative Update and Approval of Legislative Proposals: Support Assembly Bill (AB) 817 (Pacheco) and Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 1 (Aguiar-Curry)

Announcement of New CAC Member

The CAC welcomed new member Doug Bojack.

US 101 Cordilleras Creek Bridge Replacement

A presentation was provided by Mohammad Suleiman and Kelly Ma from Caltrans. Rebecca Krawiec and Kourosh Langari from Caltrans were on hand to answer questions. The members asked Caltrans about the project's impact on the new Express Lanes, whether it has been built to accommodate future sea level rise and if the project would impact the adjacent Bay Trail.

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

Connie Mobley-Ritter, Director of Treasury, provided the initial part of the presentation on the variable rate bond. She said some of the TA's investments are in a LAIF-like (Local Agency Investment Fund) product for the short term and the average cost for bonds is 55 basis points. In response to member questions, she said that if the Express Lanes revenue does not cover the bonds, sales tax revenue would be used.

Monique Fuhrman from HNTB provided the second part of the presentation on the Express Lanes operations. She fielded questions about pre-pandemic and current congestion levels, pricing, and toll lane enforcement. A Committee member raised concerns about capacity increasing highway projects and also asked for the potential of increased tolls on Spare the Air Days to encourage carpooling or transit use.

State and Federal Legislative Update and Approval of Legislative Proposals: Support Assembly Bill (AB) 817 (Pacheco) and Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 1 (Aguilar-Curry)

Jessica Epstein, Manager, Government and Community Affairs, provided an update on recent federal and state legislation. She said on March 9, the President released his budget request. She said the state legislation is in recess from March 30 to April 10. She said the Governor will need to sign a balanced budget by June 30. They are trying to advocate statewide for transportation funding. She said AB 817 proposes exempting nondecision-making advisory bodies and ACA 1 would reduce the voter threshold from three-fourths to 55 percent.

Report of the Chair

Chair Barbara Arietta said she had heard concerns about trees falling due to recent storms near the Caltrain tracks, in particular with electrification. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, said that for trees within the Caltrain right of way, there is a tree trimming program but many large trees along the corridor are not within the Caltrain right of way.

Member Comments/Requests

Peter Ohtaki said that the banks on either side of the Caltrain bridge on San Francisquito Creek have deteriorated due to the storms and Caltrain will need to repair it. Mr. Skinner said that Caltrain is doing emergency repairs. He noted that Caltrain has a bridge replacement program and this bridge will be replaced in the future when funds are available. Karen Kuklin said the City of Millbrae has been monitoring the health of its trees and has removed many of them as a result. Mike Swire suggested having a Board member visit an upcoming TA CAC meeting to field questions from the Committee. Mr. Skinner said a summary of the CAC meeting is provided to the Board members prior to the Board meeting. Doug Bojack said he was pleased with the level of engagement of the Committee. Sandra Lang said she learns something new with every meeting. She suggested that the TA Board provide feedback about the CAC's comments or concerns.