

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA 94070
Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor

MINUTES OF AUGUST 31, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: B. Arietta, J. Bigelow, P. Dixon (Chair), J. Fox, R. Hedges, R. Hees, E. Lasensky, A. Mader-Clark, D. Mensing, L. Shaine, J. Whittemore, A. Vargas, P. Young, G. Zimmerman

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. Maez

STAFF PRESENT: S. Cocke, M. Espinosa, K. Green, R. Lake, K. Rothschild, L. Snow

Chair Pat Dixon called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m. Dan Mensing led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion (Hees/Zimmerman) to approve the minutes of June 29, 2010 was passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ITEMS FOR REVIEW – SEPTEMBER 2, 2010 TA BOARD AGENDA

There was no discussion on the following items:

1. Approval of Minutes of July 1, 2010 – TA Item 3a
2. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending July 2010 – TA Item 3c
3. SamTrans Liaison Report – July 14, 2010 – TA Item 7

April Vargas asked about a bus shelter location in East Menlo Park and how bus shelter locations are determined. Rich Hedges said the local government must make a proposal for a grant, which is reviewed by staff and citizens and then the money is granted. He provided Ms. Vargas with contact information for the appropriate staff person in the city of Menlo Park.

Information on Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending June 30, 2010 – TA Item 3b

Jim Whittemore would like to receive the Statement of Revenues and Expenses before the October 7 board meeting. Director TA Program Joe Hurley said he would look into request.

Public Comment

Pat Giorni, Burlingame, said she requested a bus shelter in Burlingame through Executive Officer, Public Affairs Mark Simon.

Call for a Public Hearing on October 7, 2010 for Adoption of an Updated Property Conveyance Policy and Fee Schedule – TA Item 10

Mr. Hurley said the public hearing will take place at the October 7 TA Board meeting. The policy will provide administrative guidance for processing requests by third parties involving encroachment requests or grants of property rights. The policy was originally adopted in December 2000.

Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2010 – TA Item 11a

George Zimmerman expressed his concern about the large amount of TA funds still invested with the County Pool. Manager Finance Treasury Lori Snow said, in May, the TA Board and CAC accepted moving \$50 million in additional funds from the County Pool to the CSI Capital Management, Inc. (CSI) investment portfolio, to take place in amounts of \$10 million each. CSI Investment Advisor Bill Osher told staff there are not a lot of available securities to buy that are offering any kind of return, which is looking very much like the movement of the \$50 million might be stalled or delayed. The TA is witnessing the same type of competition as most municipalities, and all are facing the same thing and looking for the same quality investments.

Mr. Zimmerman asked if the returns from the County Pool are commensurate with those from CSI. Ms. Snow said the opportunities CSI is currently eyeing in the marketplace will be no better than the County Pool.

Mr. Whittemore said it's difficult to derive the County Pool's performance from the numbers they publish. Ms. Snow said performance reports are published every month on the TA's pool of investments. She said the TA also receives monthly reports from the County Pool but there isn't transparency the TA would like to see.

Mr. Whittemore asked what form of cost basis is used. Ms. Snow said she imagines the County Pool is required to be consistent across all their numbers and will follow up on this request.

Mr. Hedges asked what percentage of TA investments are long or short term. Ms. Snow said Exhibit 1-Report of Investments in the TA Board packet shows the longest term investment goes out until 2014. The strategy over the last year and a half is to invest shorter than longer, which offers the opportunity to replace if the TA finds itself in a rising interest rate market.

Mr. Hedges asked if the TA looks at California general obligation bonds and American bonds with higher interest rates. Ms. Snow will review their risk profile and report back.

Mr. Hedges said the California Constitution requires California bond debt service be paid first. Ms. Snow will follow up on this comment.

Authorize Allocation to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) in the Amount of \$3,000,000 for San Mateo County's Local Share for the Caltrain Systemwide Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2011 – TA Item 11b

Mr. Hurley said Caltrain will undertake a number of new and continuing systemwide capital improvements, which include rolling stock, track improvements, and bridge work that are

systemwide rather than county-specific. San Francisco and Santa Clara counties each will contribute \$3,000,000.

Mr. Zimmerman asked if there are any contingencies in the JPB agreement that the other counties will allocate their fair share. Mr. Hurley said the invoices are paid on a proportional basis and when an invoice is submitted, it's an equal drawdown for each agency.

Jim Bigelow said these allocations are leveraged with other funds and the agencies have historically contributed their share.

A motion (Bigelow/Zimmerman) to support allocation of the local share was approved.

Authorize Allocation to the Peninsula Congestion Relief Alliance (Alliance) up to an Amount of \$398,103 for the Alternate Congestion Relief (ACR) Program Funding Request for Fiscal Year 2011 – TA Item 11c

Mr. Hurley said the allocation will fund a program that supports local shuttles and partners with businesses in the area. This provides the same amount of Measure A funding as in the past and will be carried forward until the ACR call for projects in a year and a half.

A motion (Hees/Shaine) to support the allocation to the Alliance was approved.

Mr. Shaine asked if this was the Alliance's primary funding source. Mr. Hurley said other sources are the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) and the Air Resource Board as well as participating businesses.

Authorize Allocation to C/CAG in the Amount of \$650,000 to Fund Implementation of Traffic Congestion Relief Programs Through Fiscal Year 2011 – TA Item 11d

Mr. Hurley said the funding to C/CAG includes \$300,000 for the shuttle program, \$100,000 for the Ramp Metering Project, \$150,000 to maintain and update the Countywide Travel Forecasting Model, and \$100,000 to update the San Mateo County Comprehensive Bike Route Plan.

A motion (Zimmerman/Arietta) to support the allocation to C/CAG was approved.

Mr. Whittemore asked if the ramp metering program involves lights on Highway 280. Mr. Hurley said Yes, from Highway 380 to the San Francisco County line.

Authorize Allocation to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in the Amount of \$150,000 to Fund the US 101//SR 92 Interchange Study – TA Item 11e

Mr. Hurley said this is a study for develop and evaluate operational improvements on the within and around the 101/92 Interchange. The MTC has undertaken certain locations for assessment of congestion and this is one of the locations. The estimated study cost is \$450,000 with each partner (MTC, C/CAG, and the TA) funding \$150,000.

A motion (Hees/Bigelow) to support the allocation to the MTC was approved.

Mr. Bigelow said this project was big on the list with the renewal of Measure A and it's very worthy of further study and some solution.

Mr. Whittemore asked if the study will expand up to Delaware Street and El Camino Real and when it would be finished. Mr. Hurley said the study includes this area; the study will be completed the first part of 2011.

Public Comment

Pat Giorni, Burlingame, said she assumes this study is going to encompass possible construction and quick fixes and the study might say to tear down, and rebuild or redesign this section. Mr. Hurley said the intent of the study is to identify the problem and explore potential solutions.

Public Comment

Pat Giorni, Burlingame said, even if certification for High Speed Rail (HSR) may go through, there are questions on the possible use of Highway 101 and this should be looked at as a possible alternative for HSR if the Caltrain corridor falls through for some reason. She said the Caltrain Footprint Study, which was necessary for electrification, never took HSR into account.

Barbara Arietta said there are a variety of problems using the Highway 101 corridor for HSR including the garter snake habitat.

Randy Hees asked if the Highway 101 HSR option has been eliminated from the HSR environmental statement. Mr. Bigelow said if the California High-Speed Rail Authority (rail authority) recertifies the Environmental Impact Review (EIR) this week, it will identify Merced to Pacheco Pass to Gilroy, and onto to San Jose and San Francisco. He recalls the TA put aside about \$3 million and looked at tracks and various configurations if HSR came through San Mateo County. He said the purpose of the Footprint Study was really to look at the impacts of HSR and Caltrain electrification in the county, if HSR were to happen.

Public Comment

Pat Giorni, Burlingame, said she attended a Footprint Study session about a year and a half ago and the presenter asked if HSR was taken into consideration. The answer was no, which was repeated several weeks later in a Burlingame city council meeting. Mr. Hurley said a lot of valuable information has come out of the Footprint Study that has fed other studies that are underway in terms of profile adjustment, such as road under rail, road over rail, etc.

Mr. Whittemore asked if the Highway 101/SR 92 study will look at the Hayward Park rail crossing and HSR and if it extends beyond the interchange to include Delaware Street and El Camino Real, which also includes the Hayward Park and Kmart area. Mr. Hurley said it does include going up through El Camino Real on Route 92 but will likely not include the Kmart and Hayward Park rail crossing.

A motion (Hees/Bigelow) to support the study was approved.

Allocation of \$170,625 of New Measure A Funds: Local Shuttle Program (Part 2 of 2) – TA Item 11f

Senior Planner Stacy Cocks said staff is recommending allocation of new Measure A Local Shuttle Program Category funds for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. At the June 29 CAC meeting, staff presented recommendations on the five remaining applications and the CAC supported staff recommendations for the East Palo Alto Shopper shuttle, East Palo Alto Youth shuttle, Menlo Park Senior Shopper

shuttle and the Millbrae On-demand shuttle. The South San Francisco Ferry shuttle is only requesting funding in FY2012.

Mr. Zimmerman asked if daily ridership of 81 trips during the school year for the East Palo Alto Youth shuttle is considered low or acceptable. Ms. Cocke said this is very good, and is \$6.54 in terms of cost per passenger, which is competitive with commuter-type shuttles.

Mr. Zimmerman said the staff report notes the Menlo Park Senior shuttle's average daily ridership is 30 trips and projected future ridership is 60 passengers per week. He asked why an increase is expected. Ms. Cocke said the current shuttle operates one day per week and the proposal is to add one more day.

Mr. Shaine asked if the shuttles were leased from the Parking Corporation of America, other companies or purchased. Ms. Cocke said all the money being requested is for operations and varies based on how the city or organization runs the shuttle.

Mr. Shaine asked where the capital money comes from. Ms. Cocke said the cities are responsible for providing that award contract through the Parking Corporation of America or working with the Alliance.

Mr. Hees congratulated Ms. Cocke for her incredible command of the facts.

A motion (Hees/Hedges) to support the shuttle allocation was approved.

Update on State and Federal Legislative Program – TA Item 12a

Government Affairs Officer Kim Rothschild reported:

- Today is the last day of session for the State of California and there is no budget.
- The governor and Democrats have an agreement today, in principle, on about \$16 billion of the \$19 billion budget deficit. There are \$3.7 billion in cuts to schools, a reserve of \$500 million, the imposition of an oil severance tax, and about \$1.4 billion in adjusted projections by the Legislative Analyst's office. Additional savings of nearly \$1.5 billion have been realized through renegotiation of pension plans by six unions.
- The governor and Democrats are also pushing for another tax swap that would broaden the tax base by reducing the personal income tax and sales tax, while expanding sales tax to services, which should generate about \$2.3 billion. At this point, these are just conversations.

Mr. Hedges asked if the State will finally charge tax on Internet sales. Ms. Rothschild said there are no details on this.

Mr. Shaine asked if Proposition 22 (transportation protection) passes, would it be bulletproof. Ms. Rothschild said there will be a different governor and this can't be answered. She will follow up with the TA lobbyist and report to the CAC.

Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report – 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2010 – TA Item 12b

Mr. Hurley said this report covers a lot of material and he is available for any comments or questions on the report.

Mr. Whittemore asked if he could receive the report electronically for easier reading. Assistant District Secretary Rosemary Lake said the report is available in color in the agenda packet on the TA Web site.

Mr. Shaine said, on page one of the report, the Broadway Interchange Project has all green lights and one yellow triangle. Mr. Hurley said there was a scheduling issue in the last quarter that was addressed in this quarter and the change from yellow to green had to do with solving the scheduling problem.

Ms. Arietta asked about the status of the Calera Parkway Project. Mr. Hurley said there was a public information meeting on June 22 and the comment period was extended to July 22 so items could be included in the environmental document. About 100 comments were received and the project consultant is capturing these to make sure they are addressed in the draft environmental document, which is scheduled to be released in March or April 2011.

Ms. Arietta asked about the environmental document circulation and time period. Mr. Hurley said the normal practice is to post it on the TA Web site, and make it available for review in libraries, community centers, city halls and staffed locations. The original schedule had a timeframe from August 9 to September 24 for circulation of the draft environmental document. As a result of the March 3 scoping meeting and June 22 informational meeting, the schedule has been readjusted and will be reflected in the next quarterly report, which is why the schedule light is yellow.

Paul Young left at 5:38 p.m.

Mr. Bigelow said the EIR/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Dumbarton preliminary engineering has two red lights for significant issues. He said this would probably not be moved along until after the November elections. He asked if cost and ridership were key issues. Mr. Hurley replied yes. Mr. Bigelow requested an update after the November elections.

Mr. Whittemore asked if there is an audit trail when lights go from yellow to green. Mr. Hurley replied yes.

Mr. Hedges said the Dumbarton project is a weak project, in his view, and asked if the money should be moved to Caltrain or to other transportation needs rather than continuing to complete Dumbarton Rail. Mr. Bigelow said, if the project doesn't make it on ridership and funding, it is time to put it to sleep for awhile and preserve the rail corridor.

Mr. Hees asked how Dumbarton money could be distributed with the reauthorization of Measure A. Mr. Hurley said there is a rule for the original and new Measure As. The original Measure A had flexibility to shift dollars to the highest priority – Caltrain. There is no such priority under the new Measure A. If there is a significant change to the Expenditure Plan, which will be evaluated and determined by legal counsel, and it is deemed significant, it is subject to the same approval as the Measure A approval and would have to go back to the voters. Mr. Hurley said no one in any of the other Self-Help counties has done this.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR – PAT DIXON

There will be a public hearing at the September 2 JPB meeting to discuss proposed service and fare changes. Comments can be made at changes@caltrain.com.

Mr. Hurley said the JPB is trying to deal with the structural deficit and is studying multiple options that include service changes and revenue increases.

Mr. Whittemore asked if the current proposal still includes service to Gilroy and weekend service. Mr. Hedges said Caltrain's press release indicates these services will remain.

Mr. Shaine said he hopes midday Giants service can be maintained.

REPORT FROM STAFF – JOE HURLEY

- Caltrain signed off last Monday on the draft environmental document associated with the Broadway Interchange reconstruction project. This clears the hurdle to release the environmental document for public comment. A public meeting to solicit public comments and address concerns associated with the project is scheduled for Wednesday, September 15 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Burlingame public library. The comment period will end on September 29.
- A YouTube video was shown on the June 22 completion celebration for the Highway 101 – Third Avenue to Millbrae Avenue Auxiliary Lane Project. The project includes reconstruction of the Peninsula Avenue interchange, the Monte Diablo pedestrian over crossing, construction of the Broadway pedestrian over crossing and construction of sound walls.

John Fox said it would be nice if the public could acknowledge and understand how much work goes into finishing this type of major project. He congratulated staff and everyone involved with the project.

- There was a groundbreaking ceremony in San Francisco on August 11 for the combined Transbay Transit Center and downtown extension, which was attended by Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. The TA logo was obvious on project signage.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Mr. Whittemore said there is a public meeting on September 8 at 7:30 p.m. at San Mateo city council chambers to discuss the potential project for traffic safety improvement at Poplar Avenue/Highway 101 to Humboldt Avenue.

Austin Mader-Clark has friends who live near the Peninsula Avenue overpass that use the overpass to walk to Coyote Point. She was informed it is a bit dicey using the overpass because of fast-moving traffic and there is just a small sidewalk with no railing. She said the overpass is great but the safety issue should be reviewed.

Mr. Shaine asked that Chair Dixon congratulate Executive Director Michael Scanlon at the TA Board meeting on being nominated as chair for the American Public Transportation Association.

Public Comment

Pat Giorni, Burlingame, said Caltrans has not signed off on the Peninsula Avenue overcrossing project and suggested Ms. Mader-Clark get in touch with Gary Heath at Caltrans about her concerns.

Mr. Hurley asked for confirmation where the problem exists on the overpass. Ms. Mader-Clark said on the overpass between the sidewalk and the street, not down to Highway 101.

Mr. Fox asked if there was a traffic lane, a bike lane and then a sidewalk. Ms. Mader-Clark replied yes. Mr. Fox asked if the concern was between the bike lane and sidewalk and if it affected bicyclists. Ms. Mader-Clark said the traffic moves quickly and creates a dangerous situation for pedestrians.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the TA CAC will be held on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. at 1250 San Carlos Avenue, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, San Carlos, CA 94070.

Adjournment – 6 p.m.