



**TRANSBAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 10, 2020
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

WATCH LIVE:

<https://transbaycenter.webex.com/transbaycenter/onstage/g.php?MTID=e9b2b02cbd668b6b5e391dd9465c2f751>

PUBLIC COMMENT CALL-IN: 1-855-282-6330 — Access Code: 126 180 4359

Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, the Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Room is closed. Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely.
Please see additional information on the next page for remote meeting access.

In compliance with the Governor’s Executive Order N-25-20 (March 12, 2020) as superseded by Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020), this meeting will be held *exclusively* via teleconference participation of a quorum of Committee members in locations not open to the public. The purpose of the orders is to provide the safest environment for all persons consistent with San Francisco Department of Public Health Orders of the Health Officer and current public health recommendations, while allowing the public to observe and address the Committee.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Derrick Holt, Chair
Belal Aftab, Vice Chair

Dan Bell
Paul Bendix
Richard Burnett
Jackson Fahnestock

Robert Feinbaum
Gloria Li
Charley Lavery
Sean McGarry

Mark O’Dell
Andrew Robinson
Owen Stephens
Howard Wong

Interim Executive Director
Nila Gonzales

Staff Liaison
John Updike

CAC Secretary
Julie Markus

1. Call to Order

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Members Present: Belal Aftab, Dan Bell, Paul Bendix, Richard Burnett, Jackson Fahnestock, Robert Feinbaum, Derrick Holt, Gloria Li, Sean McGarry, Mark O'Dell, Owen Stephens and Howard Wong

Members Absent: Charley Lavery and Andrew Robinson

2. Staff Report

Nila Gonzales, TJPA Interim Executive Director (ED) expressed her enthusiasm regarding the recent announcement of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and believes the new Administration will be beneficial for the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX)/Phase 2 project of the Transbay Program. Moreover, President-elect Biden is indisputably a win for infrastructure, known in transportation circles as "Amtrak Joe", he is a guy who understands transportation from the passenger, not the developer, perspective and early indications show that he will likely look to make big infrastructure investments a hallmark of his Administration. Additionally, Joe Biden's well chronicled support for Amtrak will spill over into other modes of transportation to include transit, high speed and commuter rail. The TJPA remains in contact with their federal advocacy team to leverage these opportunities for Phase 2, as a new infrastructure bill will be a top priority under the Biden Administration during his "first 100 days" in office. Interim ED Gonzales further reported that this past summer, under the leadership of Speaker Pelosi, the House passed a massive infrastructure stimulus bill called the Moving Forward Act and current thinking indicates that the Moving Forward Act will guide these efforts in the first 100-days. Also, outside of Congress, the TJPA is expecting to see some changes for the better, particularly as they relate to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Capital Investment Grants pipeline. Interim ED Gonzales expects to see the Biden Administration reverse many actions taken over the last four years which have forced local governments to shoulder exceedingly higher project cost shares and changes to important calculations regarding contingencies, which has inflated overall project costs. Furthermore, by reversing both these actions would be an immediate benefit to the DTX. She noted that the future looks promising moving forward to 2021.

Regarding Phase 2, Interim ED Gonzales reported that on September 25, she was joined by Executive Steering Committee (ESC) Chair Tilly Chang, TJPA CFO Erin Roseman, and Interim DTX Project Director Stephen Polechronis to provide a DTX project update to the California Department of Transportation/Caltrans District 4 Director Tony Tavares and numerous staff from Caltrans, along with the statewide division of Rail and Mass transit. The report provided a brief overview on project history, outlined work that has been completed since the project's reactivation in June, a forecast of upcoming information, and an update on the existing funding plan. Additionally, she reported that on October 15, the TJPA also provided a DTX project update to the Bay Area Delegation which included Senator and former TJPA Board Chair Jerry Hill of San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, staff from the San Francisco delegation offices of Senator Wiener and Assemblymembers Phil Ting and David Chiu, along with Senate and Assembly Transportation committee staff

and East Bay offices, totaling nearly 20 legislative offices. The update was well received and included information about the project history, current project status and activities along with plans to advance the project. Following up on last month's Request for Proposals (RFP) briefing, Interim ED Gonzales noted that two contracts will be presented to the TJPA Board for consideration on Thursday, November 12; the Project Management Integrated System (PMIS) contract and the General Engineering Consultant (GEC) contract, which will continue to advance the DTX project forward. Interim ED Gonzales reported that the recruitment for the DTX Project Director has progressed well and the interview panel that consisted of ESC Chair Chang, ESC Vice Chair Fremier and former TJPA Executive Director, Mark Zabaneh, recommended a candidate to advance to the negotiations stage, which are underway.

Regarding operations, the TJPA has been pleased with the progress made by the City and County of San Francisco (City) as it relates to reopening more social and business activities; however, on Tuesday, November 10th, Mayor Breed announced that the City will temporarily roll back select activities on Friday, November 20 at midnight, in response to an increase in COVID-19 cases. Interim ED Gonzales stated the TJPA will continue to monitor and adhere to all guidance from the City's Health Officer, work closely with transit agencies and tenants to reduce the community spread of COVID-19, and provide commuters and visitors, the most up-to-date information about mask wearing and social distancing through multi-lingual signage, information on digital displays throughout the transit center, including the park and through routine announcements. Interim ED Gonzales was also proud to announce that the Salesforce Transit Center was selected as a winner of the 2020 American Architectural Award. She stated the entity in charge of the award process, "The Museum of Architecture and Design and The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies", received a record number of entries this year, therefore, the TJPA and Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects are especially excited to rise through that field of other great projects and accept the award. She advised that an awards ceremony would normally occur in Los Angeles, however, due to COVID-19, the TJPA received the award virtually. She acknowledged that this achievement was a team effort and thanked all that were part of this amazing project. She also provided an update on filling the Communications and Legislative Affairs Manager position and was thrilled to announce that negotiations have concluded and the TJPA will have a wonderful new addition to the team in mid-December.

Mr. Bendix thanked Interim Ed Gonzales for her remarks regarding President-Elect Joe Biden and was pleased with the level of involvement in national transportation projects and expressed excitement. Interim ED Gonzales stated that the Biden Administration would be a positive step for the Phase 2/DTX project.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 8, 2020

Mr. Wong suggested the following revision in paragraph four, Item 6:

He cited that based on previous peer review studies conducted on Phase 2, the three-track option was preferred and previously determined by the TJPA Board to be the desirable choice.

There was no member of the public wishing to comment. A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Mr. McGarry and seconded by Mr. Feinbaum. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.

4. Facility Operations Update

John Updike, TJPA Facility Director, presented the update.

Mr. Feinbaum asked how many businesses located at the transit center are currently open. Mr. Updike stated that Fitness SF and Onsite Dental are currently open, and Verizon is planning to open this week. Additionally, he stated that Philz Coffee was able to reopen last April, pursuant to the health regulations, however, for economic reasons, they have remained closed. Mr. Wong asked how the TJPA handles quality of life issues at the transit center. Mr. Updike stated that TJPA has been coordinating with the City and the East Cut Community Benefit District surrounding the transit center. Additionally, he stated that a recent City resolution successfully transitioned the encampments that were occupying Main Street into housing/shelter. Mr. Updike concluded his report and noted that the Security Operations team uses a proactive but sensitive approach to quality of life issues at the transit center.

Chair Holt thanked TJPA Chief Security Officer Rodney Harris for the great job his team has done throughout the year. He also thanked Mr. Updike and was pleased to learn of the new tenants scheduled to open at the transit center soon, with two additional prospects slated to open Spring 2021.

5. Phase 2/Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) Update

Stephen Polechronis, Interim Project Director, presented the update.

Chair Holt thanked Mr. Polechronis for the update and expressed appreciation for his timely response to the various requests from the CAC.

Mr. Feinbaum suggested contacting Salini Impregilo, a Milan-based contractor that recently won a High-Speed Rail contract in Texas, which will connect Dallas to Houston and suggested including them in discussions regarding additional funding opportunities. Mr. Feinbaum also suggested taking a different approach and explore more robust financing rather than eliminating some of the deferred items. Mr. Polechronis stated that exploring additional funding options has been integrated in the business model.

Mr. Fahnestock reiterated the need for a video display showcasing the DTX/Phase 2 project in the Grand Hall. Mr. Updike stated that technical issues are being resolved and this matter remains a high priority.

Mr. Wong suggested the TJPA accelerate the funding request to the FTA to 2023 and be ready to capture any large infrastructure investment funds, even if the TJPA must propose completing some of the smaller projects sooner. Mr. Polechronis stated that the TJPA is working diligently with the San Francisco County Transportation Authority to gain funding

needed to accelerate the current schedule in order to meet the 2023 submission deadline for FTA New Starts funding.

Public Comment:

Roland Lebrun thanked Mr. Polechronis for the presentation and asked that the Industry Outreach report from the recent Request for Information be posted before the next ESC Meeting for public viewing. Additionally, he suggested that the ESC provide a funding update each month that highlights the funding plan. Mr. Lebrun also expressed concern regarding the TJPA's recent Notice to Proceed for the GEC contract without an operations study and a plausible connection to the East Bay. Furthermore, he stated that not reopening the environmental document could set up the project to fail when it comes to extending the train box. He concluded his remarks by noting that he received a verbal quote to do both the DTX and Pennsylvania Avenue Extension for less than a billion dollars.

6. Update on San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Master Plan of the two-way cycle track on Beale Street

John Updike, TJPA Facility Director, presented the update.

Ms. Li stated that she has contacted a supervisor with Muni regarding the bus drivers parking near the driveway of the Millennium Tower which causes issues for residents; she asked if Mr. Updike would follow up on the issue.

7. Public Comment

Roland Lebrun stated that with three southbound and northbound tracks, the throat structure becomes too narrow and the only way for trains to get to the transit center is via the 7th Street Alignment.

8. CAC Member Comments & Future Agenda Requests

Mr. Wong asked about the funding source for the Millennium Tower Settlement. Interim ED Gonzales stated the settlement was paid with bond sale proceeds and within the Phase 1 construction budget.

Mr. Feinbaum reiterated a previous request and asked that Caltrain present its Operational Study to the CAC. Mr. Updike offered to help refine the presentation and suggested the CAC submit questions to him. Mr. Polechronis stated that he would be glad to reach out to Caltrain.

Ms. Li asked about an update on the temporary terminal site and the current status on development plans. Mr. Updike stated that the TJPA is currently in escrow to transfer the site to the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII), consistent with the Redevelopment Plan to develop housing and a park on the site, and the transfer will likely conclude in January. Additionally, OCII is in the process of selecting a property management firm to appropriately manage the site until construction begins. Also, there is

an interim activation strategy underway, which will yield RFPs and a public comment process coordinated by the OCII Transbay CAC. Mr. Updike said the role of the future property manager before the development of the project consists mainly of caretaking of the property.

Interim ED Gonzales thanked the CAC for their dedication and hope the updates provided were informative as the TJPA strives to be as transparent as possible. She also stated the TJPA will make every effort to have Caltrain provide an update to the CAC and wished everyone a safe and peaceful Thanksgiving.

Future agenda requests include 1) train doors and platform heights for DTX; 2) review of bus and traffic circulation in the area surrounding the transit center; 3) update from Pearl Media on digital signage; 4) detailed presentation from Caltrain on the Railyard Study and Electrification and reduced ridership due to the COVID-19 pandemic; 5) AC Transit update on reinstating the Bus Only Lane on the Bay Bridge; and, 6) Presentation on the rebranding and outreach plans for DTX/Phase 2.

Note that Item 6 on this agenda satisfies the previous future agenda request that was on this list and is now removed.

9. Adjourn

Chair Holt adjourned the meeting at 7:18 p.m.

The Ethics Commission of the City and County of San Francisco has asked us to remind individuals that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance (Campaign and Gov't Conduct Code, Article II, Chapter 1, § 2.100, et seq.) to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the Ethics Commission at 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220, San Francisco, CA 94102, telephone (415) 252-3100, fax (415) 252-3124 and website: www.sfethics.org