



**TRANSBAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

Tuesday, July 13, 2021
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

WATCH LIVE:

<https://transbaycenter.webex.com/transbaycenter/onstage/g.php?MTID=e66ec9a856443f1298fbad26d140afe29>

PUBLIC COMMENT CALL-IN: 1-855-282-6330 — Access Code: 182 783 4955

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-08-21 (June 11, 2021), 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 order is to help California respond to, recover from, and mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, while allowing the public to observe and address the Committee.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Derrick Holt, Chair
Belal Aftab, Vice Chair

Dan Bell
Richard Burnett
Jackson Fahnestock
Claire Kostohryz

Brian Larkin
Gloria Li
Pedro Mendez
Mark O’Dell
Bob Planthold

Andrew Robinson
Owen Stephens
Sally Stull
Howard Wong

Interim Executive Director
Nila Gonzales

Staff Liaison
Lily Madjus Wu

CAC Secretary
Donald Pollitt II

REMOTE MEETING ACCESS

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Providing Public Comment

Ensure you are in a quiet location – Speak Clearly – Turn off any TVs or radios around you

1. When prompted, “raise hand” to speak by pressing *3 (star, 3) to be added to the queue.
2. Callers will hear silence when waiting for their turn to speak.
3. When prompted, callers will have two minutes to provide comment.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Members Present: Belal Aftab, Dan Bell, Richard Burnett, Jackson Fahnestock, Derrick Holt, Claire Kostohryz, Brain Larkin, Gloria Li, Pedro Mendez, Mark O’Dell, Bob Planthold, Andrew Robinson, Sally Stull and Howard Wong (*arrived during Item 2*).

Members Absent: Owen Stephens.

2. Staff Report (10 minutes)

Nila Gonzales, TJPA Interim Executive Director (ED), thanked CAC members for their support over the last year since her appointment as Interim ED in August 2020. She highlighted the partnership between the TJPA and CAC in working collectively to bring greater visibility of the Salesforce Transit Center and the regional significance of the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) project. Due to personal health reasons, Interim ED Gonzales stated she has decided not to pursue the permanent ED position. She noted that she will continue to lead the TJPA as the Interim ED until a permanent ED is hired and that she is engaged with the TJPA Board of Directors’ search to fill the ED position. She noted she would ensure a smooth onboarding of a new ED and continue to provide stability while remaining in her role as TJPA Chief of Staff.

Regarding the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) recruitment process, Interim ED Gonzales reported that the application period closed on June 2 and promising candidates have been identified. Initial interviews were held during the month of June, with finalists advancing for additional interviews the week of July 6, and she noted the TJPA is close to selecting a candidate to present to the TJPA Board in the coming weeks.

Regarding recent hires, Interim ED Gonzales introduced Alfonso Rodriguez, the new DTX Project Director. Since his July 1 start date, Mr. Rodriguez has been fully immersed in various DTX project efforts. Mr. Rodriguez introduced himself and noted he has been spending time getting to know his colleagues, as well as the intricacies of the DTX project. He reported that the

DTX project is preparing to refresh its design to ensure it is aligned with the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) New Starts funding phase, which is a big milestone for the project.

Lily Madjus Wu, TJPA Communications and Legislative Affairs Manager, presented the Staff Report. Since the reopening of the State and City on June 15, she reported that the TJPA opened its office to the public and noted the Transit Center, in partnership with its transit operators, continues to provide transit services. Per the requirement of the Transportation Security Administration, the TJPA requires masks to be worn at the Transit Center and in buses/vehicles.

Regarding Salesforce Park, Ms. Madjus Wu highlighted the addition of two new Park programming activities in July, which includes Zumba on Thursdays and live music on Fridays. Park attendance continues to increase and in response, more tables and chairs have been added to the Main Plaza. The TJPA continues to actively invite the public to attend the free activities currently being offered.

Regarding TJPA's legislative efforts, Ms. Madjus Wu reported that the TJPA continues to track potential funding opportunities as it relates to the Transbay Program by working with its federal and state advocates to identify and take advantage of funding programs. Last May, the TJPA submitted a community funding project request to Senator Padilla's office to support TJPA's Wayfinding program and noted that Senator Padilla has advanced the TJPA's request in his budget appropriation request. She further reported that the TJPA continues to coordinate the Transit Center's Wayfinding program with its transit operators, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and AC Transit. The TJPA also continues to track the progress of the State's budget process and remains optimistic that the funding requests for operational enhancements for the Transit Center and/or funding for the DTX project are included in the transportation budget bill in discussion by California Governor Newsom and legislature.

Regarding DTX, the TJPA continues to advance important details of the project, which include working together with Executive Steering Committee (ESC) partners on the funding plan to advance the Community Facilities District (CFD) Series 2021 bond issuance through the City and County of San Francisco's (CCSF) legislative process. Ms. Madjus Wu reported that when the TJPA requests entry into the FTA's Project Development this October, the TJPA will need to demonstrate that it has \$30 million in committed funds necessary to complete the Project Development work and noted the Transbay CFD Series 2021 bond issuance process will demonstrate that the TJPA has secured the needed funds for the DTX project to complete the Project Development Work under the current expedited project schedule.

Ms. Madjus Wu provided an overview of the CFD Series bond issuance under 2014-1 (Transbay Center), noting it was created in 2014 to fund the park, DTX project, rail components of the Transit Center, streetscape and BART station improvements in the area. She reported that two-thirds of landowners, which are generally real estate development companies in the Transbay area, voted to approve the Transbay CFD and stated that taxes are levied only on properties that requested and received zoning bonuses for increased building height. She further reported that about 83 percent of the CFD revenues are allocated to the TJPA to fund the overall operations of the Transbay Program, with the remaining 17 percent allocated to San Francisco Public Works and BART for right of way improvements, signalizations, station improvements and traffic

studies in the Transbay area. Ms. Madjus Wu stated that the item will be presented at the September 8 Board of Supervisors' (BOS) Budget and Finance Committee meeting and at the full BOS on September 14 for the final reading and noted the TJPA is encouraging CAC members and members of the public to attend and provide public comment in support of the DTX project funding.

Ms. Madjus Wu concluded her report by stating that on June 15, 2021, the State updated Executive Order N-29-20 issued on March 17, 2020 that allowed exclusive teleconference of public meetings under the Brown Act and noted this Executive Order will end on September 30, 2021 and the TJPA looks forward to seeing CAC members in-person in the coming months. Additionally, Ms. Madjus Wu noted that the Regular September CAC meeting will occur after the TJPA Board date due to how it falls on the calendar and, therefore, asked if members would like to move the meeting of September 14 to September 7, 2021. Per the concurrence of CAC members, Secretary Pollitt indicated he would send out a cancellation for September 14 and Special meeting notice for September 7.

Member Fahnestock asked for more information on the Wayfinding program and Ms. Madjus Wu provided background on how the Wayfinding program came about as a result of a Wayfinding Gap Analysis that was conducted two years ago in partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). She noted the TJPA continues to partner with the SFMTA, AC Transit and MTC on the Wayfinding Program. Member Fahnestock also asked whether plant zone signage would be part of the Wayfinding program to which Ms. Madjus Wu stated the TJPA would look at all forms of signage, as resources allow, noting she is working closely with John Updike, TJPA Facility Director, on the Wayfinding program. Member Wong asked about the San Francisco and Santa Clara governance issue and if it would impact the Transbay Program or DTX project. Interim ED Gonzales replied that those governance matters are unrelated to the TJPA or DTX project. Member Planthold asked how the TJPA plans to make the Transit Center more accessible for visitors who are potentially blind or have very low vision. Interim ED Gonzales stated that the TJPA worked closely with the Mayor's Office on Disability as well as other code requirement enforcement departments to ensure the Transit Center was built to ADA standards, she also noted that TJPA continues to monitor the program and will enhance it as opportunities arise.

Public Comment:

Roland Lebrun expressed appreciation towards Interim ED Gonzales for the work she has done over the past year as well as securing Alfonso Rodriguez, the permanent DTX Project Director.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: June 8, 2021

There was no public comment.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Member Larkin and seconded by Member Planthold. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.

4. Facility Operations Update (15 minutes)

John Updike, TJPA Facility Director, presented the item.

Member Stull asked about the status and location of the restaurant at the Transit Center. Mr. Updike stated that there are two location opportunities, the Main Plaza centrally located in the park, and the iconic restaurant location on the west end of the park, with lease negotiations currently ongoing for both locations. Member Stull asked about dogs being on the park and Interim ED Gonzales responded that Chief Security Officer, Rodney Harris, is actively addressing the issue as some people are unfamiliar with the Park Rules. Member Wong asked about the use of kitchen exhaust vents at the Center for our retailers and whether that exhaust is filtered or treated in some way to mitigate odors. Mr. Updike responded that the air exhaust is scrubbed below ground and exits through the roof. Member Li mentioned that more events are happening at the Transit Center and asked for clarification regarding the booking process. Mr. Updike stated that information is listed on the salesforcetransitcenter.com website for the public to inquire about Park event rental needs. Member Mendez asked how the TJPA inspires and supports local Bay Area artists. Mr. Updike stated that the TJPA partnered with the San Francisco Arts Commission through the Two Percent for Art program, which was delivered in Phase 1 and exceeded the two percent requirement. The main commissioned art pieces of the Transit Center include the art on the Grand Hall floor, Shaw Alley lighting, the Bus Fountain and LED lighting. Interim ED Gonzales added that TJPA worked with the San Francisco Arts Commission to display the work of local artists on vacant store fronts at street level.

5. Presentation of DTX Phasing Study (20 minutes)

Alfonso Rodriguez, DTX Project Director, introduced the item and Stephen Polechronis, Program Management Program Controls Program Manager, presented the item.

Member Larkin referenced the BART Pedestrian Connector and asked if the TJPA was in communication with BART to discuss their respective workplans regarding modifications to the Embarcadero Station. Mr. Polechronis confirmed that TJPA is in communication with BART and noted that the project team plans to recommend a deferral of the BART Pedestrian Connector. Additionally, he stated that the project team will continue to coordinate with AC Transit and intercity bus providers on the deferral of the Intercity Bus Facility (IBF). Member Stull referenced the congested intersection of Beale and Howard streets due to cars and buses and expressed concern regarding the IBF that would potentially bring additional buses and urged the TJPA to work with the City to plan and manage the safety of pedestrians and cars. Mr. Polechronis stated that if the Integrated Program Management Team's (IPMT) recommendations are accepted, the IPMT would then develop a coordination and workplan with the City. Member Planthold asked if the TJPA has been in touch with Greyhound to determine if it has conducted a passenger survey for their projected San Francisco-based passengers by the year 2025 and how it would impact their current slot options. Interim ED Gonzales stated that TJPA is in communication with AC Transit, who is currently leasing space to Greyhound and clarified that the IBF is being built to facilitate intercity bus providers, such as Greyhound, so as AC Transit transportation needs increase and before AC Transit is no longer able to lease bus bays to Greyhound, the timing and size of the IBF will be further considered.

Public Comment:

Roland Lebrun expressed concern regarding the presentation, stating it was the same provided to the ESC a month ago and noted that progress still has not been made to move the DTX project forward. He also expressed concern regarding the design of the 4th and Townsend Street station.

6. Presentation by East Cut Crossing on the Interim Activation Plan for the former Temporary Terminal/Blocks 2,3,4 (20 minutes)

Andrew Robinson, East Cut Community Benefit District Executive Director, presented the item.

Member Wong suggested using space at the former Temporary Terminal to host flea markets and Mr. Robinson stated that the Crossing at East Cut is in talks with La Cocina and Into Action to establish markets.

7. Public Comment

Roland Lebrun expressed concern regarding designing a ventilation structure between 4th and Townsend and the Transit Center, stating that it is not needed. He also suggested the project team eliminate the 7th Street curve, as it impacts the entire railyard block between 6th and 7th streets.

8. CAC Member Comments & Future Agenda Requests

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; and 4) AC Transit update on reinstating the Bus Only Lane on the Bay Bridge.

9. Adjourn

Chair Holt adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

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