

**TRANSBAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

Tuesday, October 12, 2021
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

WATCH LIVE:

<https://transbaycenter.webex.com/transbaycenter/onstage/g.php?MTID=e4ce50804c3c7b89ce3fbc5231d978932>

PUBLIC COMMENT CALL-IN: 1-855-282-6330 — Access Code: 2552 478 9625

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 Assembly Bill (“AB”) 361 (Rivas, Chapter 165, Statutes of 2021) and its amendments to California Public Resources Code Section 54953(e), this meeting will be held exclusively via teleconference participation of a quorum of Committee members in locations not open to the public. This meeting is being held during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state and local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing. The TJPA Board of Directors is expected to make appropriate findings related thereto on behalf of its legislative bodies, including the Citizens Advisory Committee.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Derrick Holt, Chair
Belal Aftab, Vice Chair

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
Herschell Larrick

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 5:35 p.m.

Members Present: Richard Burnett, Jackson Fahnestock (*arrived during Item 5*), Derrick Holt, Claire Kostohryz, Brain Larkin, Gloria Li, Pedro Mendez, Mark O’Dell, Andrew Robinson, Owen Stephens, Sally Stull and Howard Wong.

Members Absent: Belal Aftab and Bob Planthold.

2. Staff Report (15 minutes)

Lily Madjus Wu, TJPA Communications and Legislative Affairs Manager, presented the Staff Report. She introduced Franklin Wong who joined the TJPA in August as the Chief Financial Officer. She stated that Mr. Wong is a seasoned professional who brings strong technical skills, extensive finance and capital program management, political acumen and a can-do management style. She highlighted that Mr. Wong came from the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), where he served as the Deputy Director of Finance, Budget & Program Management since 2019. She noted that prior to VTA, he was at BART for 12 years, holding positions in program and financial management.

Ms. Madjus Wu thanked CAC members who emailed, sent support letters, and spoke in support of funding efforts for the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) project. In September, there were two funding items: the Community Facilities District (CFD) Bond resolution for up to \$35 million before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors (BOS) and a request to the San Francisco County Transportation Authority for the remaining \$2.6 million under the TJPA’s Notice to Proceed 2B, both of which were approved. The efforts would not have been successful without the participation and support from all the TJPA’s partners, including labor partners such as building trades, electrical engineers, sheet metal workers, plumbers, carpenters, painters and sprinkler fitters, as well as CAC members, and DTX stakeholders such as Save Muni, SPUR and Bay Area Council. Ms. Madjus Wu extended gratitude to all of TJPA’s partners as their support showed how imperative these funds were to help advance the DTX project. Ms. Madjus Wu

noted that there is a related-CFD item currently before the BOS in October, which is needed as part of its administrative process to release DTX funds from the expected bond sale in November.

Ms. Madjus Wu reported that the TJPA team has been preparing the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts project development letter which is planned to be submitted by the end of October. Regarding other funding opportunities for DTX, she highlighted that the TJPA continues to track the congressional federal efforts on the infrastructure package in Washington, D.C. and that the TJPA is also working with its Federal advocates to submit an application for the Federal Railroad Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grant, noting that applications are due the Monday after Thanksgiving. She also shared that the TJPA is expecting the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to approve the final disbursement of the American Rescue Plan formula funds at the end of October for the \$1.2 million of the remaining \$3 million disbursement which MTC has apportioned to the TJPA to cover operation costs.

Ms. Madjus Wu reported that the TJPA continues to track the City's response to COVID-19 and asks visitors to remain vigilant regarding masking in the Transit Center except when on the Rooftop Park. She highlighted that there continues to be an increase in people visiting the park. Ms. Madjus Wu announced that the TJPA is partnering with Epiphany Dance Theater to host the 18th annual San Francisco Trolley Dances, which will be held in the Transit Center's Grand Hall on October 16 and 17. She stated that the performances will take place in the Castro and East Cut, with the Grand Hall being just one of the stops on the tour during both days. More information can be found at salesforcetransitcenter.com/events.

Relating to remote meetings, Ms. Madjus Wu reported that California Governor Newsom signed legislation extending public agencies ability to meet remotely through January 2024, as long as the emergency orders continue and the TJPA Board approves the continuation of meeting remotely through approving a monthly resolution. The TJPA Board is expected to approve the first such resolution at their October 14 meeting.

Ms. Madjus Wu announced the TJPA is recommending two new members to fill the open seats on the CAC at the TJPA October 14 Board meeting: Hunter Oatman-Stanford for the Bicycle Advocate seat, and Gabriel Chan for the Daily MUNI Rider on a line that terminates at or passes through the Transbay Terminal seat. She thanked Member Stephens for staying on as the Daily MUNI Rider until a replacement was found.

Public Comment:

Roland Lebrun suggested that Closed Captioning be provided for CAC meetings and asked if the information presented could be posted to the website.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: September 7, 2021

There was no member of the public wishing to comment. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Member Wong and seconded by Member Robinson. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.

4. Facility Operations Update (15 minutes)

[At the discretion of the Chair, this Item was heard after Item 6]

John Updike, TJPA Facility Director, presented the item.

Member Stull asked for details about the \$25 million investment mentioned in the presentation, which Mr. Updike replied represents the anticipated full investment in physical improvements to both the Park level restaurant site and ground level. Member Stull also asked for clarification on what Barebottle Brewing Company serves, which Mr. Updike replied that Barebottle Brewing Company will provide not only beverage services but also a light food service. He clarified that the idea for having a light menu is to be complementary with ground floor vendors.

Member Wong suggested an idea for wayfinding signage that consists of an art directional piece made up of a pole with up to 12 arrow shaped signs pointing the way to various destinations. Mr. Updike said the idea would be taken into consideration.

Member Robinson congratulated Mr. Updike and the TJPA team on securing the Barebottle Brewing Company lease.

5. Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) Project Development Presentation (30 minutes)

Alfonso Rodriguez, TJPA DTX Project Director, presented the item.

Chair Holt thanked Mr. Rodriguez for the thorough review and update for the CAC.

Member Larkin asked about the changes at Second and Howard street where a section of track is being eliminated, he wondered if this change might reduce operational flexibility in the long term. Mr. Rodriguez replied that the project has conducted both a phasing study and an operational analysis that supports the recommendations that came out of the phasing study. He said that when they first considered reducing a segment of the third track, that they made sure that it was supported by the operational analysis from the phasing study, as well as by the through-running operational analysis that the Executive Steering Committee had asked TJPA to conduct. The analysis was conducted by the train operators and their consultant, and they confirmed that this design configuration of reduced third track not only meets their business plan peak hour requirements, but also accommodates perturbed situations.

Member O'Dell asked about the tracks and platforms in the Transit Center and whether the plan has changed back to an earlier configuration. Stephen Polechronis, Program Management and Program Controls (PMPC) Program Manager, confirmed the plan looks like an earlier configuration because new efficiency studies have shown that the California High-Speed Rail Authority will have a quicker turn-time and will need fewer platforms, allowing Caltrain to have more platforms, which has allowed for the new configuration. Member O'Dell also asked if this new platform configuration is what allowed the reduction in the third track. Mr. Polechronis answered that the platform configuration did not have an impact on that, and clarified that it is more about the arrangement that Mr. Rodriguez presented regarding Fourth and Townsend which allows the reduction of the third track.

Member Wong asked Mr. Rodriguez to clarify the terms “mining”, “cut and cover” and “tunneling” that Mr. Rodriguez used in his presentation. Mr. Rodriguez answered that mining and tunneling are essentially the same techniques. He clarified that mining refers to a construction method using sequential excavation below ground, which will be used for this project. The mining method has only minor surface impacts, while some of the excavations will be done through cut and cover which is excavation from the surface down, and this method does have surface impacts. Mr. Rodriguez assured CAC Members that the project is considering safety and cost when choosing the best excavation methods to limit surface disruptions. Member Wong asked if flexibility has been incorporated into the plans to accommodate potential service disruptions. Mr. Rodriguez replied that the operational analysis along with the phasing and through-running analysis plans have studied perturbed situations within the tunnels and stations to build in flexibility.

Member Fahnestock asked about the DTX impact from the transportation budget that did not pass last legislative session. Ms. Madjus Wu stated that TJPA is hopeful that there will be further discussion on last legislative session’s transportation budget when the legislative session starts back up in January 2022. Mr. Rodriguez added that while the state funding is important, the federal government is the largest funder for the project.

Member Robinson asked whether TJPA has been coordinating with the San Francisco Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII) on the site of the vent at Block 12. Mr. Polechronis confirmed that TJPA has been coordinating with OCII regarding that property, which will be a future affordable housing site.

Public Comment:

Roland Lebrun commented on the interface between DTX and Link 21 and also spoke about the platform configurations.

6. DTX Rebranding and Outreach Plan Efforts Presentation (15 minutes)

Lily Madjus Wu, TJPA Communications and Legislative Affairs Manager, presented the item.

Member Wong asked if TJPA has done polling to understand what the public knows about DTX and the Transit Center, and Ms. Madjus Wu confirmed that the survey mentioned in the presentation was a poll of 400 respondents focused on the public’s understanding and perception of DTX. Member Wong noted it is important to convey the benefits of the project to the local population. Chair Holt asked Ms. Madjus Wu if Member Wong’s point was already included in the project outreach plan. She confirmed and stated outreach would be undertaken in San Francisco and other stakeholder counties to discuss the project’s regional benefits.

Public Comment:

Roland Lebrun suggested repackaging the DTX project as a segment of the Link21 project to borrow their name recognition.

7. Public Comment

Roland Lebrun commented on funding for the DTX project from state and federal sources.

8. CAC Member Comments & Future Agenda Requests

Member Larkin asked for a presentation with more detail focused on the methods of traffic reduction or mitigation at Second and Howard streets. Interim Executive Director Nila Gonzales said that a future presentation could be provided.

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) AC Transit update on reinstating the Bus Only Lane on the Bay Bridge; and 5) Methods of traffic reduction or mitigation at Second and Howard streets.

9. Adjourn

Chair Holt adjourned the meeting at 7:14 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.