

**TRANSBAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

TJPA Office
425 Mission Street, Suite 250
San Francisco, CA

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Derrick Holt, Chair
Belal Aftab, Vice Chair

Dan Bell
Paul Bendix
Don Dickerson
Robert Feinbaum

Amy Jalili
Charley Lavery
Gloria Li
Sean McGarry
Nathan Morales

Andrew Robinson
Patty-Jo Rutland
Owen Stephens
Howard Wong

Executive Director
Mark Zabaneh

Staff Liaison
Christine Falvey

CAC Secretary
Julie Markus

1. Call to Order

Chair Holt called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Members Present: Belal Aftab, Robert Feinbaum, Derrick Holt, Gloria Li, Nathan Morales, Andrew Robinson, Patty-Jo Rutland and Howard Wong

Members Absent: Dan Bell, Paul Bendix, Don Dickerson, Amy Jalili, Charley Lavery, Sean McGarry and Owen Stephens

2. Staff Report

Christine Falvey, TJPA Director of Communications, provided an update on the TJPA response to the community spread of novel Coronavirus or COVID-19. The TJPA was guided by local public health and emergency management professionals on its response and was briefed by the Federal Transit Administration. Ms. Falvey stated that the TJPA was committed to the safety and health of all users of the transit center, including transit riders and operators, park users, retail tenants, customers, and all employees. Ms. Falvey stated communication was recently sent by the TJPA staff to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) outlining efforts,

which included coordinating with local, state and federal public health and emergency response agencies; temporarily cancelling park activities and programming; increasing the frequency of cleaning of restrooms and touch points, such as handrails, elevator buttons, door handles, and touch screens with a federally approved germicidal agent; and providing staff with a briefing from the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management (SFDEM). The training included advising employees to stay home if sick, increase frequency of washing hands, cover coughs, and prepare for disruptions. Furthermore, multilingual Department of Public Health (DPH) posters were posted throughout the center and frontline staff was provided information so they could answer questions about the TJPA's response. Ms. Falvey reported that the TJPA was in contact with several government agencies including SFDEM, as the TJPA has a representative on the City's Emergency Operations Center Transportation Branch. Ms. Falvey further reported that the TJPA was in close communication with its transit partners and, as the situation was changing rapidly, the TJPA would continue to monitor and respond appropriately.

Ms. Falvey provided an update on the wayfinding project at the transit center. After opening the transit center in 2018, the TJPA determined through anecdotal feedback from the public, commuters, and transit agencies, that the current static and digital wayfinding signage needed enhancement. The TJPA was working in partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to conduct a wayfinding gap analysis, and this effort was well underway. The team completed a general assessment through reviewing existing systems, survey research, bus passenger interviews, pedestrian journey tracking, volunteer test journeys, and a series of interviews with everyone from the janitorial staff to transit agency personnel, partners, stakeholders, and neighbors. Ms. Falvey also provided an update on retail leasing and was pleased to announce that Philz opened two locations, including a mobile order-only storefront at the transit center this week. Philz joins Onsite Dental and Fitness SF. She stated that the TJPA was thrilled to welcome them to the transit center, with added vibrancy and offer the neighborhood additional retail options. She also stated that when Verizon opens later this spring, the transit center will have 45 percent of its retail square footage leased and open for business.

Executive Director Zabaneh provided an update on the efforts to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the TJPA's partners on the Phase 2/Downtown Rail Extension (DTX). He stated that the TJPA previously received about \$10 million dollars in funding from the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA). In July 2018, however, with the discovery in October 2018 of fissures in two structural steel girders, the SFCTA rescinded the funding, so the TJPA had not been able to proceed with engineering work on the Phase 2/DTX.

Additionally, the SFCTA initiated a peer review and that effort was completed and presented to the TJPA Board in October 2019. Since then, the TJPA has been working closely with partners in the region on ways to deliver Phase 2/DTX in a collaborative manner. Further, the MOU vision establishes an Executive Steering Committee composed of executive management from the TJPA, MTC, City and County of San Francisco, SFCTA, Caltrain, and the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA). The intent of the Executive Steering Committee was to keep all partners involved in a collaborative effort and act as peer reviewers. Furthermore, under this level of management, a program management team will be led by a Project Director from the TJPA. An announcement will go out shortly to retain someone for this position. Further, any design issues will be resolved by the Executive Steering Committee and relayed to the TJPA Board. Executive Director Zabaneh said that the first order of business will be to design a road map to get the work to a shovel ready status so that construction may begin once

funding becomes available. He highlighted that the TJPA Board will have overall authority and can accept or reject any recommendations from the Executive Steering Committee. Executive Director Zabaneh stated that the reporting structure will be complex and there may be a need to have the TJPA Board more involved on reviewing day-to-day activities depending on the availability of committee members. Executive Director Zabaneh also reported that in early 2019, the TJPA Board requested the American Public Transportation Association conduct a peer review of how the TJPA could deliver Phase 2/DTX. The peer review was completed and presented to the TJPA Board in May 2019.

Mr. Wong stated that some megaprojects in California, such as the Bay Bridge and High Speed Rail, turned into politically brokered deals having a negative impact on the delivery of the projects and asked how this will be avoided with Phase 2/DTX. Executive Director Zabaneh stated the project will have all partners involved early in the process as part of the working group along with an Executive Steering Committee.

Mr. Feinbaum stated that the proposed MOU appears to be politically motivated and many of the representatives on the Executive Steering Committee are the same people who have held up the project and felt it was not feasible to advance the project to a shovel-ready status. He also asked if the funding would be released by the SFCTA once the proposed MOU was approved by the TJPA Board. Executive Director Zabaneh stated that funding along with the proposed bond sale could free up \$35 million dollars, which would move the project forward.

Executive Director Zabaneh stated that with the partnership of the MTC and some of the state representatives, the project will have a better chance of advancing successfully.

Executive Director Zabaneh introduced Rodney Harris as the new TJPA Chief Security Officer. Mr. Harris stated that he was excited with the new role and looked forward to continuing to provide exceptional security services for the transit center.

Public Comment:

Jim Patrick stated that the proposed MOU was a boondoggle, which has delayed the project for two years and that having the TJPA Board and another organization involved with expensive people will do essentially nothing for the project.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: January 14, 2020

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Rutland and seconded by Mr. Feinbaum. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.

4. California High-Speed Rail Authority Draft 2020 Business Plan and Environmental Reviews

James Tung, Senior Engineer, and Yvonne Chen, Northern California Outreach Representative with California High-Speed Rail Authority, presented the item.

Chair Holt stated that using the high-speed rail train will save several hours of drive time for commuters.

Ms. Li asked how many California firms have responded to the Requests for Proposals (RFP). Mr. Tung stated that CHSRA strives to obtain 30 percent of RFPs from California and that goal has essentially been met. Ms. Li stated she works for the State Treasurer's Office and issued

bond funds for Virgin Trains. She stated there have been discussions of working with CHSRA depending on the timeline. Mr. Tung stated that he will discuss this with Boris Lipkin, Regional Director for CHSRA, on how to collaborate on connections.

Public Comment:

Mitchell Bonner stated that he does not know how projects can be planned for the next several decades due to extreme weather from global warming and severe storms.

5. Presentation on the issuance of tax allocation bonds for the Transbay Program
Erin Roseman, TJPA Chief Financial Officer, presented the item.

Executive Director Zabaneh encouraged the CAC to support the approval of the bond sale to ensure that the TJPA can generate \$35.5 million, an important source of funding for Phase 2/DTX.

Mr. Feinbaum suggested the CAC go on record in support of the item and asked staff to draft a statement to be signed by the CAC to show support.

Mr. Aftab asked if the CAC would be able to issue a verbal statement in support of the issuance of the tax allocation bonds sale. Chair Holt made a motion in favor of a vote to issue a verbal statement of support for the item. The CAC unanimously voted in support of the motion.

Mr. Wong asked if the economy had a severe downturn, what were the chances of advocating for additional stimulus funds for shovel ready projects, such as Phase 2/DTX or High Speed Rail to accelerate the bond sales and types of strategies would be possible. Ms. Roseman stated that TJPA has submitted the DTX/Phase 2 project and applied for various federal grants and would be ready to accept additional stimulus funding.

6. Facility Operations

Richard Piette, LPC, West General Manager, presented the item.

Ms. Li thanked Mr. Piette for remaining proactive on the COVID-19 issues and taking precautionary measures. Ms. Li mentioned that on weekends she has seen an increase in owners bringing their dogs into the park and suggested having more signs with pictures posted instead of the existing signs, which appear wordy.

Executive Director Zabaneh thanked Ms. Rutland and Mr. Morales for their service and contribution on the CAC.

Public Comment:

Jim Patrick stated that many employees from companies such as Google and Salesforce have been working from home due to the COVID-19 health emergency and may prefer to continue to work from home even after the pandemic, which could change the dynamics of the real estate market.

7. Public Comment

Jim Patrick suggested having a system to track demographics of visitors at the transit center.

8. CAC Member Comments & Future Agenda Requests

Ms. Li stated that she has heard other members of the public visiting the park express a need to have more child friendly activities.

Mr. Feinbaum suggested having a presentation from Caltrain on their business plan and electrification project.

Ms. Rutland stated that it was difficult to move a project forward in San Francisco due to the politics within government agencies. She commended the TJPA staff.

Future agenda requests include 1) update on the schedule and funding of DTX and the Pennsylvania Avenue Extension; 2) train doors and platform heights for DTX; 3) review of bus and traffic circulation in the area surrounding the transit center; 4) update from Pearl Media on digital signage; 5) detailed presentation from Caltrain on the Railyard Study and Electrification; 6) update on the redevelopment of the Temporary Terminal site; 7) reinstating the Bus Only Lane on the Bay Bridge; and 8) presentation from East Cut CBD and SF Planning on the master plan of the two-way cycle track on Beale Street

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