

**TRANSBAY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

Tuesday, November 9, 2021  
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

WATCH LIVE:

<https://transbaycenter.webex.com/transbaycenter/onstage/g.php?MTID=ef7858a3b2aab630314e9674743df1cf4>

PUBLIC COMMENT CALL-IN: 1-855-282-6330 — Access Code: 2554 127 5607

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 made the appropriate findings related thereto on behalf of its legislative bodies, including the Citizens Advisory Committee on October 14, 2021.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Derrick Holt, Chair  
Belal Aftab, Vice Chair

Richard Burnett  
Gabriel Chan  
Jackson Fahnestock  
Claire Kostohryz

Brian Larkin  
Gloria Li  
Pedro Mendez  
Mark O’Dell  
Hunter Oatman-Stanford

Bob Planthold  
Andrew Robinson  
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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**PUBLIC COMMENT CALL-IN: 1-855-282-6330 -- Access Code: 2554 127 5607**

### **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

Vice Chair Aftab called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Members Present: Belal Aftab, Richard Burnett, Gabriel Chan, Jackson Fahnestock, Claire Kostohryz, Brain Larkin, Gloria Li (*arrived at the start of Item 4*), Pedro Mendez, Hunter Oatman-Stanford, Bob Planthold (*arrived during Item 5*), Sally Stull and Howard Wong.

Members Absent: Derrick Holt, Mark O’Dell and Andrew Robinson.

#### 2. Staff Report (15 minutes)

Lily Madjus Wu, TJPA Communications and Legislative Affairs Manager, presented the Staff Report. She welcomed new CAC members, Hunter Oatman-Stanford as the Bicycle Advocate seat member and Gabriel Chan as the Daily MUNI Rider on a line that terminates at or passes through the Transbay Terminal seat member.

Ms. Madjus Wu reported on Congress’ recent approval of the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act known as the Infrastructure Package, which was passed on a bi-partisan basis in both the House and Senate and is expected to be signed by President Biden. She explained that the funding provided in the Infrastructure Package will help to advance TJPA’s Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) project and noted that TJPA is evaluating potential funding requests against the numerous upcoming competitive funding opportunities, with many of them available on an annual basis for the next five years. Ms. Madjus Wu stated that TJPA continues to monitor all funding opportunities for the Transbay Program including for the Transit Center and the DTX project. She noted that the passage of the Infrastructure Package couldn’t come at a better time for the DTX as the TJPA recently submitted a letter to the Federal Transit Administration requesting entry into the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) New Starts program. She further informed the CAC that the Infrastructure Package will provide \$23 billion for the CIG program, which is about double the amount typically provided in the program. Ms. Madjus Wu reported that TJPA is receiving a great deal of local support from Bay Area elected officials, Labor, and stakeholders for TJPA’s grant application to the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and

Safety Improvements program, which will be submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration by the end of November.

Regarding TJPA's legislative efforts, Ms. Madjus Wu reported that in preparation for the State legislative session in January, TJPA continues to collaborate with its San Francisco Peninsula Rail Program partners to advocate for additional DTX project funding. She further reported that the Community Facilities District (CFD) Bond closed on November 3<sup>rd</sup> for about \$34 million, which was approved by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in October. She also reported that in late October, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approved the \$1.2 million of the remaining \$3 million disbursement of American Rescue Plan formula funds, which MTC apportioned to the TJPA to cover operation costs.

Ms. Madjus Wu highlighted two recent tours of the Transit Center conducted in October, which included board members of the Sacramento-based Local Government Commission, which is comprised of mayors and council members located throughout the State and the San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council, which represents the unions throughout the City.

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 further reported that the park continues to increase its events and activities and continues to see an increase in visitors. She announced that the recess cart has been brought back and invited members to visit and make use of it as it is filled with books and other amenities. She highlighted that plans are underway to celebrate the holiday with a lighting celebration and a special weekend of activities in the park in the middle of December.

Ms. Madjus Wu acknowledged TJPA security for mobilizing and monitoring a protest that occurred at Blackrock, a neighboring property, in coordination with San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to minimize impacts to the Center.

Ms. Madjus Wu noted that the Regular December 14 CAC meeting will occur after the TJPA Board date of December 9 due to how it falls on the calendar and, therefore, per concurrence with Vice Chair Aftab, Ms. Madjus Wu asked members to put a hold in their calendar for the new meeting date of December 7. She stated that a cancellation notice would be sent for December 14 along with a Special meeting notice for December 7.

Member Wong asked if tours are being given to neighborhood groups or the media. Ms. Madjus Wu replied that tours for the public and media are still under development as part of the public outreach plan, which will also encompass the rebranding of DTX. She stated that more tours will begin to occur in 2022.

**Public Comment:**

Roland Lebrun suggested that Ms. Madjus Wu's Staff Report be posted online and noted that Caltrain meetings are video recorded with subtitles.

### 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: October 12, 2021

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

### 4. Facility Operations Update (15 minutes)

John Updike, TJPA Facility Director, presented the item.

Member Wong asked if TJPA receives any inquiries from movie or commercial scouts for park use. Mr. Updike replied that most of the inquiries are for commercials and recently included iPhone. He further reported that sometimes they support film shoots that are offsite by renting out adjacent properties.

Vice Chair Aftab asked about the slide showing first and second quarter 2022 tenant openings, and whether they are all expected to renew. Mr. Updike clarified that the dates Vice Chair Aftab referenced are the opening dates for the retail businesses at the Center.

Member Li asked if there could be better signage for tenant openings, giving the example of Happy Lemon which on opening day was difficult to find. Mr. Updike answered that they are aware of the issue and working to find solutions, such as considering additional signage on the Park level to help the public find food and services of tenants on other levels.

#### Public Comment:

Jim Patrick inquired about the cost of Eddie Rickenbacker's tenant improvements and wondered what TJPA will do with Eddie Rickenbacker's drink trailer. He commented on the installation of vents and the calculation of building occupancy rates being based on square footage.

Roland Lebrun inquired about the cost of the tenant improvements at the Eddie Rickenbacker site and wondered how TJPA will recover those costs.

### 5. Security Metrics Report (15 minutes)

Rodney Harris, Chief Security Officer, presented the item.

Member Wong asked how far the TJPA security team's jurisdiction extends beyond the building. Mr. Harris answered that TJPA security is focused on the Transit Center building and doesn't go beyond the bollards surrounding the building. Member Wong asked if something was happening beyond that line, would TJPA security intervene or help. Mr. Harris stated in the affirmative and replied that they use a proactive approach, clarifying that if they saw something going on, they would help and also, alert the SFPD.

Member Stull asked if there were still park ambassadors and how vagrancy issues are handled in the park. Mr. Harris said that while the official ambassador role has been phased out, all contract

security personnel are trained to answer questions from the public and all act as public ambassadors. He said that vagrancy is a citywide issue found in all the City's neighborhoods. He stated that one of the ways TJPA has sought to address it is by creating a group within the neighborhood called South of Market Security Consortium to share information and coordinate, as needed. He said that they attempt to change the behavior of individuals and treat each person with respect and care.

Member Oatman-Stanford asked what is being done to help prevent bicycle thefts. Mr. Harris said theft at the bicycle racks can occur in as little as 30 seconds, with thieves breaking the U-Lock and taking the bicycle within that time. He said that Security keeps the bicycle racks under constant surveillance both with cameras and walking security patrols to deter criminal activity.

Member Chan asked what the criteria is for determining a suspicious person. Mr. Harris answered that they rely on reporting from tenants and transit operators, since they understand their customers and are aware of what is considered normal or suspicious circumstances within their areas.

**Public Comment:**

Jim Patrick commented on the SFPD contract costs and suggested the use of armed security personnel as an alternative to reduce cost. He also commented on SFPD officers' rate of rotation and training needs versus hired security being a more stable work force alternative.

**6. Presentation of the Second and Howard Crossing Construction Approach for the Downtown Rail Extension Project (30 minutes)**

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

Member Fahnestock asked if there are traffic impact studies for each scenario. Mr. Rodriguez said that the studies are part of the environmental reports and he can provide them.

Member Wong asked why the option to close the street for as long as needed to keep costs down isn't chosen since there are other streets traffic can use. Stephen Polechronis, Program Management and Program Controls (PMPC) Program Manager answered that the Second and Howard intersection is considered important within that part of the city, as it has access to the freeway. He clarified that the methods that were discussed in the presentation are well developed and widely used; have a high level of safety; allow access for businesses along the streets to remain open; and maintain pedestrian right-of-way.

Member Chan asked why the baseline plan was selected if the whole street closure option is less costly and quicker. Mr. Polechronis stated that the full closure is still an option that is being studied, but that a full closure while quicker, is very disruptive. He clarified that the TJPA will be working with the City in deciding on the best plan to use.

Member Planthold asked if the accelerated bridge concept is still being considered or if they are going to use the baseline. Mr. Polechronis replied that the three methods: 1) baseline, which is cut and cover decking on Howard street with limited closure, 2) cut and cover decking on

Howard street with full closure, and 3) the accelerated bridge concept are all still on the table and in consideration.

Member Mendez wondered if the DTX project is using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and geospatial analysis to better understand the project's data. Mr. Polechronis said that the team does have experience using GIS and uses it where appropriate.

#### Public Comment:

Roland Lebrun noted a past study that found the third track was not required and suggested that without the third track, construction could proceed with no disruptions to Second and Howard streets.

#### 7. Public Comment

Roland Lebrun offered to give a presentation to the CAC on a plan he has for an alternate alignment of the DTX tunnel.

Jim Patrick, Patrick & Company, stated his support to have Mr. Lebrun share his information, and noted a news item that Amazon is building a warehouse near 7<sup>th</sup> street and suggested that the TJPA buy the rights to Amazon's warehouse basement to use as a station.

#### 8. CAC Member Comments & Future Agenda Requests

Member Fahnestock asked for an update from SF Planning on Southeast Railyard Study and the Pennsylvania Avenue Extension project, and information on how TJPA is involved.

Member Wong asked for more detail on the Federal Infrastructure Package and how it applies to San Francisco projects.

Member Oatman-Stanford asked for a presentation of the status of Under Ramp park.

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; 5) SF Planning update on Southeast Railyard Station Study and Pennsylvania Avenue Extension (PAX) and; 6) more details on the Federal Infrastructure Package and how it applies to San Francisco projects; and 7) update on Under Ramp park.

#### 9. Adjourn

Vice Chair Aftab adjourned the meeting at 7:15 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](http://www.sfethics.org).