



Memorandum

Date: 03.13.14 RE: Plans and Programs Committee
March 18, 2014

To: Plans and Programs Committee: Commissioners Mar (Chair), Kim (Vice Chair), Breed, Campos, Yee, and Avalos (Ex Officio)

From: Elizabeth Sall – Interim Deputy Director for Planning 

Through: Tilly Chang – Executive Director 

Subject: **ACTION** – Recommend Appointment of One Member to the Geary Corridor Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Advisory Committee

Summary

The Transportation Authority has a 13-member Geary Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC). In November 2013, a GCAC member relocated outside San Francisco and resigned from the GCAC, resulting in a vacant seat on the GCAC for a representative of the Japantown/Fillmore area. We issued notices seeking applicants to the GCAC and contacted applicants from previous recent rounds of outreach for candidates. One former member, whose term has expired, is seeking reappointment, and we have received applications from five other candidates. Staff provides information on applicants but does not make recommendations on GCAC appointments. Attachment 1 contains a summary table with information about current and prospective GCAC members, showing neighborhood of residence, neighborhood of employment, affiliation, and other information provided by the applicants. **We are seeking a recommendation to appoint one member to the GCAC.**

BACKGROUND

Geary Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is one of the signature projects included in the Prop K Expenditure Plan. The Transportation Authority is currently leading environmental analysis for Geary Corridor BRT, in partnership with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA). The environmental analysis will identify the benefits and impacts of BRT alternatives, a preferred alternative, and strategies to mitigate any environmental impacts. Engineering work for this phase entails preparation of designs for project alternatives as needed to clarify potential impacts and support identification of a preferred alternative, as well as development of design solutions for complex sections of the corridor. Because of the detailed nature and significance of the study, the Geary Corridor BRT Citizens Advisory Committee (GCAC) is distinct from the Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee.

Role of the GCAC: The role of the GCAC is to advise Transportation Authority staff throughout the environmental analysis of the Geary BRT project by providing input representative of varying interests along the corridor, as well as broader, citywide interests related to the project. The GCAC currently meets approximately bi-monthly. Specifically, the GCAC members have and will continue to:

- Advise on the study scoping to identify the alternatives for analysis;
- Advise on the selection of a preferred alternative based on project benefits and expected environmental impacts;

- Advise on strategies to mitigate any negative environmental impacts; and
- Advise on strategies for effective outreach and assist with outreach to neighborhoods and other stakeholders.

The Board-adopted structure for the GCAC includes 13 seats. Appointed individuals are to reflect a balance of interests, including residents, businesses, transportation system users, and advocates. There is currently one vacant seat on the GCAC.

The purpose of this memorandum is to present the applications received for the open seat on the GCAC and to seek a recommendation to appoint one member to the GCAC for a two-year term.

DISCUSSION

In February 2008, through Resolution 08-56, the Transportation Authority Board established the structure for the GCAC. In October 2013, the Board increased the number of seats on the GCAC from eleven to thirteen, including one additional seat to represent the Japantown/Fillmore area (for a total of three Japantown/Fillmore seats). In November 2013, a GCAC member representing the Japantown/Fillmore area relocated outside San Francisco and resigned from the GCAC, resulting in a second vacancy. In January 2013, the Board appointed one new member to fill the additional Japantown/Fillmore seat, but there remains one vacant seat on the GCAC for a representative of the Japantown/Fillmore area.

The current GCAC membership and structure are shown in the table below:

Geographic Representation	Seats on GCAC	Term Expires	Member(s)
Richmond	3	Sept 2015 Sept 2015 Oct 2015	J. Fong P. Kniha J. Swan
Japantown/Fillmore	3	Sept 2015	B. Horne R. Hashimoto <i>Vacant</i>
Tenderloin/Downtown	2	Sept 2015 Jul 2015	P. Gallotta R. Marshall
At-Large	5	Oct 2015 Sept 2015 Jun 2015 Sept 2015 Nov 2014	P. Chan J. Goldberg M. Goldberg J. John W. Parsons

Recruitment: We issued notices seeking applicants for the GCAC in August and December 2013, and have been continuously accepting applications since August. Recruitment activities in 2013 included:

- Email notifications to the database of interested organizations and individuals compiled as part of prior outreach work;
- Advertisements in buses and shelters throughout the Geary corridor;

- Notice on the Transportation Authority's Geary Corridor BRT website as well as on Facebook and Twitter; and
- A media advisory publicizing GCAC recruitment on August 2.

We also contacted applicants from previous recruitment efforts to determine whether they remain interested in serving on the GCAC.

Applicant Pool: One former member (Anthony Biancalana), whose term expired, is seeking reappointment, and we have received applications from five other candidates. Attachment 1 provides a matrix summarizing the applications, including information about each person's affiliation to and interest in the Geary Corridor BRT project. Applicants were informed of the opportunity to speak on behalf of their candidacies at the March 18 Plans and Programs Committee meeting. Applicants were advised that appearance before the Committee is strongly encouraged, but not required, for appointment. Staff provides information on applicants but does not make recommendations on these appointments.

We are seeking a recommendation to appoint one member to the GCAC.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Recommend appointment of one member to the GCAC.
2. Defer action, pending additional information or further staff analysis.

CAC POSITION

None. The CAC does not make recommendations on other CACs or appointments to those committees.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

None.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend appointment of one member to the GCAC.

Attachment:

1. Applicant and Current Member Matrix

Enclosure:

1. Applications

Attachment 1. Geary BRT Citizens Advisory Committee Members and Applicants, March 2014

Member/ Applicant Status	Name	Corridor Relationship / Interest Group						Affiliation	Residence		Work		Self-Identified:		
		Resident	Business	Employee	Transit	Environment	Disabled		Senior	District	Neighborhood	District	Neighborhood	Gender	Ethnicity
Richmond (3 seats, no vacancies)															
Member, term exp. Sep 2015	Joanna Fong	x		x	x					1	Richmond			F	Chinese
Member, term exp. Sep 2015	Paul Kniha	x			x			Russian speakers		1	Richmond	6	SOMA	M	
Member, term exp. Oct 2015	Jette Swan	x		x	x					2	Inner Richmond			F	Mixed
Japantown/Fillmore (3 seats, 1 vacant)															
Member, term exp. Jan 2016	Richard Hashimoto	part-time	x		x			Japantown Merchants Association	NA		Vallejo, CA (part-time in W. Addition)	5	Japantown	M	Japanese American
Member, term exp. Sep 2015	Benjamin Horne	x	x		x				5	Lower Pac Heights/ Upper Fillmore	3	Union Square/ Lower Pac Heights	M		
Expired, seeking re-appointment	Anthony Biancalana		x	x	x	x		Fillmore Auditorium	9	Bernal Heights					
Applicant	Rob Anderson	x			x		x	Senior	5	Japantown/ Fillmore			M		
Applicant	Joel Aufrecht	x			x				5	Japantown	6	SOMA	M		
Applicant	Richard Johnston	x			x		x	Senior	5	Japantown/ Cathedral Hill			M		
Applicant	Richard Matsuno	x	x		x				1	Richmond	5	Japantown	M		
Applicant	Austin Spires	x		x	x				5	Fillmore	6	SOMA	M		
Tenderloin/Downtown (2 seats, no vacancies)															
Member, term exp. Sep 2015	Peter Gallotta	x			x	x		LGBT	6	Tenderloin	6	Civic Center	M		
Member, term exp. July 2015	Richard Marshall	x		x	x			LGBT	6	Tenderloin			M		

At-Large (5 seats, no vacancies)

Member, term exp. Oct 2015	Paul Chan	x	x		x					1	Richmond	1	Richmond	M	
Member, term exp. Sep 2015	Jonathan Goldberg	x		x	x				SF Beautiful	1	Lower Pac Heights			M	White
Member, term exp. Jun 2015	Matthew Goldberg	x		x	x					1	Outer Richmond			M	
Member, term exp. Sep 2015	Jolsna M John	x								2	Lower Pac Heights			F	South Asian
Member, term exp. Nov 2014	Winston Parsons	x		x	x			x		2	Richmond			M	White