





# Memorandum

**Date:** 09.10.15 **RE:** Plans and Programs Committee  
September 15, 2015

**To:** Plans and Programs Committee: Commissioners Tang (Chair), Christensen (Vice Chair), Breed, Farrell, Yee, and Weiner (Ex Officio)

**From:** Eric Cordoba – Deputy Director for Capital Projects 

**Through:** Tilly Chang – Executive Director 

**Subject:** **ACTION** – Recommend Appointment of Five Members 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). There are five vacant seats on the GCAC: one to represent the Richmond District, one to represent the Japantown/Fillmore area, one to represent the Tenderloin/Downtown area, and two at-large seats. The vacancies are due to the term expirations of five members. Four members whose terms are expiring are seeking reappointment. One at-large member is not. After issuing notices seeking applicants to the GCAC over the past year, we have received applications from 27 additional 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.

## 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 (CAC).

**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.

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. Appointed individuals are to reflect a balance of interests, including residents, businesses, transportation system users, and advocates. Each member is appointed to serve for a two-year term.

## DISCUSSION

The purpose of this memorandum is to present the applications received for the open seats on the GCAC and to seek a recommendation to appoint five members to the GCAC for two-year terms. The five vacant seats on the GCAC include: one to represent the Richmond District, one to represent the Japantown/Fillmore area, one to represent the Tenderloin/Downtown area, and two at-large seats. Four members whose terms are expiring (Joanna Fong – Richmond, Benjamin Horne – Japantown/Fillmore, Peter Gallotta – Tenderloin/Downtown, and Jolsna John – At-Large) are seeking reappointment to the GCAC. The fifth member, Jonathan Goldberg, is not seeking reappointment due to work conflicts.

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

<b>Geographic Representation</b>	<b>Seats on GCAC</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>	<b>Member(s)</b>
Richmond	3	Sept 2015 Apr 2016 Feb 2017	<b>J. Fong (<i>expiring term</i>)</b> J. Foerster A.P. Miller
Japantown/Fillmore	3	Sept 2015 Jan 2016 Mar 2016	<b>B. Horne (<i>expiring term</i>)</b> R. Hashimoto A. Spires
Tenderloin/Downtown	2	Sept 2015 July 2017	<b>P. Gallotta (<i>expiring term</i>)</b> K. Stull
At-Large	5	Sept 2015 Sept 2015 Oct 2015 Apr 2016 Dec 2016	<b>J. John (<i>expiring term</i>)</b> <b>J. Goldberg (<i>expiring term</i>)</b> P. Chan M.H. Brown W. Parsons

**Recruitment:** We solicited GCAC applications in January 2015 and June 2015 through the Transportation Authority’s website and social media accounts, Commissioners’ offices, and an email blast to community members and organizations with interest in the Geary corridor.

**Applicant Pool:** We have received applications from 31 candidates, including the four members seeking reappointment. 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 September 15, 2015 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.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Recommend appointment of five members to the GCAC.
2. Recommend appointment of fewer than five members to the GCAC.
3. 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 five members to the GCAC.

Attachments (2):

1. Geary BRT CAC Members
2. Geary BRT CAC Applicants

Enclosure:

1. Applications

**Attachment 1. Geary BRT Citizens Advisory Committee Members, September 2015**

Term Expiration	Name	Corridor Relationship / Interest / Affiliation								Residence		Work		Self-Identified:	
		Resident	Business	Employee	Transit	Environment	Disabled	Senior	Other	District	Neighborhood	District	Neighborhood	Gender	Ethnicity
<b>Richmond (3 seats, 1 vacancy)</b>															
Sep. 2015	Joanna Fong	x		x	x					1	Richmond			F	Chinese
Apr. 2016	Jonathan Foerster	x			x					1	Richmond			M	
Feb. 2017	Angela Paige Miller	x	x		x	x	x	x	Pedestrian, bicycling advocate	1	Inner Richmond		Stanford	F	Caucasian
<b>Japantown/Fillmore (3 seats, 1 vacancy)</b>															
Sep. 2015	Benjamin Horne	x	x		x					5	Lower Pac Heights/ Upper Fillmore	3	Union Square/ Lower Pac Heights	M	
Jan. 2016	Richard Hashimoto	part-time	x		x				Japantown Merchants Association	n/a	Vallejo, CA (part-time in W. Addition)	5	Japantown	M	Japanese American
Mar. 2016	Austin Spires	x		x	x					5	Fillmore	6	SOMA	M	
<b>Tenderloin/Downtown (2 seats, 1 vacancy)</b>															
Sep. 2015	Peter Gallotta	x			x	x			LGBT	6	Tenderloin	6	Civic Center	M	
Jul. 2017	Kevin Stull	x		x	x	x	x	x	Central City SRO Collaborative; Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee	6	Tenderloin	6	Tenderloin	M	Caucasian
<b>At-Large (5 seats, 2 vacancies)</b>															
Sep. 2015	Jolsna M John	x			x				Pedestrian advocate	2	Lower Pac Heights			F	South Asian
Sep. 2015	Jonathan Goldberg	x		x	x				SF Beautiful	5	Lower Pac Heights			M	Caucasian
Oct. 2015	Paul Chan	x	x		x					1	Richmond	1	Richmond	M	
Apr. 2016	Margie Hom Brown	x			x		x	x	Chinese speakers	1	Richmond			F	Chinese

Term Expiration	Name	Corridor Relationship / Interest / Affiliation								Residence		Work		Self-Identified:	
		Resident	Business	Employee	Transit	Environment	Disabled	Senior	Other	District	Neighborhood	District	Neighborhood	Gender	Ethnicity
Dec. 2016	Winston Parsons	x			x	x			Pedestrian and bicycle advocate	2	Inner Richmond/ Jordan Park	6	SOMA	M	

**Attachment 2. Geary BRT Citizens Advisory Committee Applicants, September 2015**

Applicant Status	Name	Corridor Relationship / Interest / Affiliation								Residence		Work		Self-Identified:	
		Resident	Business	Employee	Transit	Environment	Disabled	Senior	Other	District	Neighborhood	District	Neighborhood	Gender	Ethnicity
<b>Richmond (3 seats, 1 vacancy)</b>															
Member, seeking reappointment	Joanna Fong	x		x	x					1	Richmond			F	Chinese
Applicant	Soumya Aleti	x	x	x	x	x		x	Pedestrian advocate, student	1	Lone Mountain	1	[not provided]	F	East Indian
Applicant	Matthew Alvarez	x			x			x		1	Inner Richmond	3	Financial District	M	Latino
Applicant	Cyndi Bakir	x		x	x	x		x	Pedestrian and bicycling advocate	1	Inner Richmond	1	Richmond	F	Euro-American
Applicant	Jamie Choy	x			x				Pedestrian advocate	2	Sea Cliff/Outer Richmond	n/a	Oakland	M	Chinese-Caucasian
Applicant	Sascha Cohen	x	x		x	x			Bicycling and pedestrian advocate	1	Inner Richmond	5	Inner Sunset		
Applicant	Gilbert Dair	x						x		1	Richmond	9	Mission		
Applicant	Emily Grimm	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Pedestrian advocate	1	Outer Richmond	6	Financial District	F	Caucasian
Applicant	Rene Hinojosa	x	x							1	Richmond	3	Financial District	M	Latino
Applicant	Patrick Kennedy	x	x		x					1	Inner Richmond	3	Russian Hill	M	Caucasian
Applicant	Sanford Kingsley	x	x		x					2	Richmond	1	Richmond	M	Caucasian
Applicant	Kate Lazarus	x	x	x	x	x				1	Richmond	3	Jackson Square	F	Caucasian
Applicant	David Lee	x	x		x	x		x		1	Richmond	1	Richmond	M	Chinese
Applicant	Dylan MacDonald	x				x				1	Inner Richmond	6	SOMA		
Applicant	Suzie Moy	x	x			x	x	x		1	Richmond			F	Asian

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		Resident	Business	Employee	Transit	Environment	Disabled	Senior	Other	District	Neighborhood	District	Neighborhood	Gender	Ethnicity
Applicant	Alexei Nikolaeff-Svensson	x	x	x	x	x			Bicycling advocate	1	Inner Richmond	1	Inner Richmond		
Applicant	Daniel Sisson	x	x		x				SF Transit Riders Union	1	Inner Richmond	3	Financial District	M	Mixed
Applicant	Victoria Stephens	x			x	x		x		1	Richmond			F	Caucasian
Applicant	Ventsislav Stoichev	x			x	x				1	Richmond	3	Financial District		
Applicant	Joe Strella	x			x	x			Pedestrian advocate	1	Inner Richmond	n/a	San Bruno	M	
Applicant	Mark Valentine	x	x		x	x			Pedestrian advocate	1	Richmond	1	Richmond		
Applicant	Kevin Watkins	x	x		x				Bicycling advocate	1	Inner Richmond		SOMA	M	Caucasian
Applicant	Oleg Zhoglo	x	x		x	x				1	Outer Richmond	6	SOMA	M	
<b>Japantown/Fillmore (3 seats, 1 vacancy)</b>															
Member, seeking reappointment	Benjamin Horne	x	x		x					5	Lower Pac Heights/ Upper Fillmore	3	Union Square/ Lower Pac Heights	M	
Applicant	Lotus Yee Fong	x	x		x	x	x	x	Pedestrian advocate	5	Western Addition			F	Asian
Applicant	Alan Kita	x	x	x	x	x				5	Western Addition	5	Western Addition	M	Asian American
Applicant	William Newsom	x	x		x	x			Bicycling advocate	5	Western Addition	3	Financial District	M	
<b>Tenderloin/Downtown (2 seats, 1 vacancy)</b>															
Member, seeking reappointment	Peter Gallotta	x			x	x			LGBT	6	Tenderloin	6	Civic Center	M	
<b>At-Large (5 seats, 2 vacancies)</b>															
Member, seeking reappointment	Jolsna M John	x			x				Pedestrian advocate	2	Lower Pac Heights			F	South Asian

Applicant Status	Name	Corridor Relationship / Interest / Affiliation								Residence		Work		Self-Identified:	
		Resident	Business	Employee	Transit	Environ- ment	Disabled	Senior	Other	District	Neighborhood	District	Neighborhood	Gender	Ethnicity
Applicant	Elliott Talbot				x					2	Marina	3	Financial District		
Applicant	Jeffrey Wood	x	x			x				8	Noe Valley	8	Noe Valley	M	