





# Memorandum

**Date:** 01.07.16 **RE:** Plans and Programs Committee  
January 12, 2016

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

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

**Through:** Tilly Chang – Executive Director 

**Subject:** **ACTION** – Recommend Appointment of Two 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 two vacant seats on the GCAC for representatives of the Japantown/Fillmore area. The vacancies are due to the resignation of Austin Spires and the term expiration of Richard Hashimoto, who is seeking reappointment. After issuing notices seeking applicants to the GCAC over the past year, we have received applications from four eligible 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 GCAC and to seek a recommendation to appoint two members to the GCAC for two-year terms. The vacant seats on the GCAC are for two representatives of the Japantown/Fillmore area and are due to the resignation of Austin Spires and the term expiration of Richard Hashimoto, who is seeking reappointment. 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	Apr 2016 Feb 2017 Sep 2017	J. Foerster A.P. Miller J. Fong
Japantown/Fillmore	3	Jan 2016 Mar 2016 Sep 2017	R. Hashimoto ( <b>expiring term</b> ) A. Spires ( <b>resigned</b> ) B. Horne
Tenderloin/Downtown	2	Jul 2017 Sep 2017	K. Stull P. Gallotta
At-Large	5	Apr 2016 Dec 2016 Sep 2017 Sep 2017 Oct 2017	M.H. Brown W. Parsons C. Bakir J. John P. Chan

**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. Applications are also accepted on a rolling basis on the Transportation Authority’s website.

**Applicant Pool:** We have received applications from three eligible candidates, including the one member 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 January 12, 2016 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 two members to the GCAC.
2. Recommend appointment of one member 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 two members to the GCAC.

Attachments (3):

1. Geary BRT CAC Members
2. Geary BRT CAC Applicants for Japantown/Fillmore Seats
3. Geary BRT CAC Applications for Japantown/Fillmore Seats

**Attachment 1. Geary BRT Citizens Advisory Committee Members, January 2016**

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)</b>															
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
Sep. 2017	Joanna Fong	x		x	x					1	Richmond			F	Chinese
<b>Japantown/Fillmore (3 seats, 2 vacancies)</b>															
Jan. 2016	Richard Hashimoto	x	x			x	x	x	Pedestrian advocate	n/a	Vallejo, CA (part-time in W. Addition)	5	Western Addition	M	Asian
Mar. 2016 [member resigned]	Austin Spires	x		x	x					5	Fillmore	6	SOMA	M	
Sep. 2017	Benjamin Horne	x	x		x					5	Lower Pac Heights/ Upper Fillmore	3	Union Square/ Lower Pac Heights	M	
<b>Tenderloin/Downtown (2 seats)</b>															
Jul. 2017	Kevin Stull	x		x	x	x	x	x	Central City SRO Collaborative; Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee	6	Tenderloin	6	Tenderloin	M	Caucasian
Sep. 2017	Peter Gallotta	x			x	x			LGBT	6	Tenderloin	6	Civic Center	M	
<b>At-Large (5 seats)</b>															
Apr. 2016	Margie Hom Brown	x			x		x	x	Chinese speakers	1	Richmond			F	Chinese
Dec. 2016	Winston Parsons	x			x	x			Pedestrian and bicycle advocate	2	Inner Richmond/ Jordan Park	6	SOMA	M	
Sep. 2017	Jolsna M John	x			x				Pedestrian advocate	2	Lower Pac Heights			F	South Asian

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
Sep. 2017	Cyndi Bakir	x		x	x	x		x	Pedestrian and bicycling advocate	1	Inner Richmond	1	Richmond	F	Euro-American
Oct. 2017	Paul Chan	x	x		x					1	Richmond	1	Richmond	M	

Note: Dark shading denotes members with current term expirations.

**Attachment 2. Geary BRT Citizens Advisory Committee Applicants, January 2016**

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
<b>Japantown/Fillmore (3 seats, 2 vacancies)</b>															
Applicant	Lotus Yee Fong	x	x		x	x	x	x	Pedestrian advocate	5	Western Addition			F	Asian
Member, Seeking Reappointment	Richard Hashimoto	x	x			x	x	x	Pedestrian advocate	n/a	Vallejo, CA (part-time in W. Addition)	5	Western Addition	M	Asian
Applicant	William Newsom	x	x		x	x			Bicycling advocate	5	Western Addition	3	Financial District	M	NP



## San Francisco County Transportation Authority Application for Membership on the Geary Corridor Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Advisory Committee

<b>Lotus Yee</b>	<b>Fong</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Asian</b>
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	GENDER (OPTIONAL)	ETHNICITY (OPTIONAL)
<b>5</b>	<b>Western Addition Japantown</b>	<b>415-921-3009</b>	<b>lyfong@pacbell.net</b>
HOME SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT	NEIGHBORHOOD OF RESIDENCE	HOME PHONE	HOME EMAIL
<b>85 Western Shore Lane #4</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>CA</b>	<b>94115</b>
STREET ADDRESS OF HOME	CITY	STATE	ZIP
WORK SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT	NEIGHBORHOOD OF WORKPLACE	WORK PHONE	WORK EMAIL
STREET ADDRESS OF WORKPLACE	CITY	STATE	ZIP

### Statement of qualifications:

I have lived in St Francis Square Cooperative Inc for 31 years. I participated in the meetings which resulted in making the Geary/Laguna stop a limited, now rapid stop. I knew both seniors who were killed at that intersection before the no right turn sign 7 am - 8 pm was put up. I also participated in the MUNI MTA community session at the Japanese Cultural & Community Center when it was proposed to eliminate the Laguna and Webster stops and

put one in at Buchanan, which was roundly opposed by all present including Steve Nakajo who was not recognized by the staff at the meeting.

### Statement of objectives:

My husband and I are now both over 65 and we use MUNI much more frequently. My nieces and nephews also ride on a regular basis. I also was a caregiver to two elderly parents and disabled relatives. We go from the Buchanan Y to the Richmond Y almost daily. I am familiar with many of the small businesses on Geary including David Heller's wife's business. I also am watching the new Sutter CPMC hospital go up at Van Ness and Franklin.

I also attended the previous Geary BRT meetings with the first young African-American woman who was assigned to the project by MTA and saw the first proposed designs. I live one block from the Fillmore underpass. Many residents of St Francis Square simply cross Geary in the middle of the street from the Peace Plaza because the design was not well thought through in Justin Herman's days. And many pedestrians cross at Webster where the underpass is, which is very dangerous. I am also on the boards of Sierra Club and SF Tomorrow.

### Please select all categories of affiliation or interest that apply to you:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disabled
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor [TA CAC only]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neighborhood
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Policy [TA CAC only]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senior Citizen

**What is your relationship to the project area? [Project CACs only]**

	Bicycling advocate
	Business owner
X	Environmental advocate
X	Pedestrian advocate
X	Resident
	Student
X	Transit rider

**If you work in the project area, please provide a category below that applies to you (Business Owner/Manager/Employee):**

**Can you commit to attending regular meetings (about once a month for the Transportation Authority CAC, or once every two to three months for project CACs):**  Yes

By entering your name and date below, and submitting this form, you certify that all the information on this application is true and correct.

Lotus Yee Fong

NAME OF APPLICANT

6/24/2015

DATE





# San Francisco County Transportation Authority Application for Membership on the Geary Corridor Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Advisory Committee

<b>Richard</b>	<b>Hashimoto</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Asian</b>
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	GENDER (OPTIONAL)	ETHNICITY (OPTIONAL)
<b>5</b>	<b>Western Addition</b>	<b>REDACTED</b>	<b>REDACTED</b>
HOME SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT	NEIGHBORHOOD OF RESIDENCE	HOME PHONE	HOME EMAIL
<b>REDACTED</b>	<b>Vallejo and San Francisco</b>	<b>CA</b>	<b>94591</b>
STREET ADDRESS OF HOME	CITY	STATE	ZIP
<b>5</b>	<b>Western Addition</b>	<b>415-567-4573</b>	<b>rich.hashimoto@gmail.com</b>
WORK SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT	NEIGHBORHOOD OF WORKPLACE	WORK PHONE	WORK EMAIL
<b>1610 Geary Boulevard</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>CA</b>	<b>94115</b>
STREET ADDRESS OF WORKPLACE	CITY	STATE	ZIP

## Statement of qualifications:

Richard is currently the President of the Japantown Merchants Association and, is the Corporate Manager of the Japan Center Garage Corporation since 1977. He is also a board member on the San Francisco Japantown Foundation, board member of the Japantown Task Force, Inc. and the co-chair of the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival. Richard was appointed as one of the first Youth Commissioners to serve on the Delinquency Prevention Commission appointed by then, Mayor Diane Feinstein, and has served on numerous boards and committees working towards improving life in the Japanese American and African American communities in the Western Addition.

## Statement of objectives:

Improve Muni's on-time performance at the same time advocate pedestrian safety in the process.

## Please select all categories of affiliation or interest that apply to you:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Disabled
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor [TA CAC only]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neighborhood
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Policy [TA CAC only]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Senior Citizen

## What is your relationship to the project area? [Project CACs only]

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bicycling advocate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business owner
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental advocate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pedestrian advocate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resident
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Student
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transit rider

**If you work in the project area, please provide a category below that applies to you (Business Owner /Manager/Employee):**

**Can you commit to attending regular meetings (about once a month for the Transportation Authority CAC, or once every two to three months for project CACs):**

By entering your name and date below, and submitting this form, you certify that all the information on this application is true and correct.

Richard Hashimoto

11/20/2015

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NAME OF APPLICANT

DATE



# San Francisco County Transportation Authority

## Application for Membership on the

### Geary Corridor Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Advisory Committee

<b>William</b>	<b>Newsom</b>	<b>Male</b>	
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	GENDER (OPTIONAL)	ETHNICITY (OPTIONAL)
<b>5</b>	<b>Western Addition</b>	<b>REDACTED</b>	<b>REDACTED</b>
HOME SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT	NEIGHBORHOOD OF RESIDENCE	HOME PHONE	HOME EMAIL
<b>REDACTED</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>CA</b>	<b>94115</b>
STREET ADDRESS OF HOME	CITY	STATE	ZIP
<b>3</b>	<b>Financial District</b>	<b>650-843-5216</b>	<b>wnewsom@cooley.com</b>
WORK SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT	NEIGHBORHOOD OF WORKPLACE	WORK PHONE	WORK EMAIL
<b>101 California</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>CA</b>	<b>94111</b>
STREET ADDRESS OF WORKPLACE	CITY	STATE	ZIP

#### Statement of qualifications:

I have lived in San Francisco, one block south of Geary, for 10 years. I attended law school at U.C. Hastings in the Tenderloin from 2006-2009, and have worked as an attorney downtown from 2009 to the present (with a commute to Palo Alto a few days a week since September 2014). Before pursuing law, I was a mechanical engineer for a short time. Since moving to San Francisco, I have ridden the 38 Geary consistently to and from work and school, and have enjoyed its benefits and witnessed or experienced its problems many times. I am very interested in public transit and light rail projects, and have some experience reviewing and commenting on environmental impact reports. I would love to help improve rider experiences, make the roads more safe and friendly for bikes and public transit, and improve communication between SFMTA and the public it serves. In addition to my work as an attorney, I have been involved with several local charities, including currently sitting on the board of CommunityGrows, an organization dedicated to exposing youth in the Western Addition to healthy eating, garden education, and job readiness. I believe I would add a professional and considerate voice to the advisory committee, and I would represent the interests of both my neighborhood and business commuters.

#### Statement of objectives:

If elected, I would plan to advise and comment on environmental documentation, help to review finances, develop and improve BRT alternatives, analyze benefits and impacts for transit riders and residents on the corridor, and suggest mitigation strategies where needed.

#### Please select all categories of affiliation or interest that apply to you:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business
<input type="checkbox"/>	Disabled
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental
<input type="checkbox"/>	Labor [TA CAC only]
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neighborhood
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Policy [TA CAC only]
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior Citizen

#### What is your relationship to the project area? [Project CACs only]

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bicycling advocate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Business owner
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environmental advocate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pedestrian advocate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resident
<input type="checkbox"/>	Student
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Transit rider

**If you work in the project area, please provide a category below that applies to you (Business Owner/Manager/Employee):**

**Can you commit to attending regular meetings (about once a month for the Transportation Authority CAC, or once every two to three months for project CACs):**

By entering your name and date below, and submitting this form, you certify that all the information on this application is true and correct.

William James Newsom

6/17/2015

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NAME OF APPLICANT

DATE