

Link21 Equity Advisory Council

February 14, 2023

Committee Meeting Minutes

Link21 Equity Advisory Council (EAC) Meeting #1

February 14, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

A Zoom transcript of the meeting is included at the end of this document.

Presentation slides from this meeting can be found via BART Legistar found [here](#).

These minutes were updated to reflect EAC members' edits. Clarence R. Fischer moved to approve the minutes with edits, and David Sorrell seconded the motion on February 28, 2023. The minutes were then approved by the EAC at large.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Link21 Equity Advisory Council (EAC) was held Tuesday, February 14, 2023, convening at 1:01 PM via teleconference pursuant to the Link21 EAC Bylaws and consistent with Assembly Bill No. 361. This meeting was called to order by Tim Lohrentz, Equity Programs Administrator (Acting), BART Office of Civil Rights.

Tim Lohrentz gave instructions on the virtual meeting, accessing the presentation materials online, Public Comment, and Members' remarks.

II. Roll Call

Present Members		
Angela E. Herring	Elizabeth Madrigal	Samia Zuber
Beth Kenny	Fiona Yim	Taylor Booker
Clarence R. Fischer	Harun David	Vanessa Ross Aquino
David Sorrell	Landon Hill	
David Ying	Linda Braak	

Absent Members		
Ameerah Thomas	Gracyna Mohabir	Stevon Cook
Cory Mickels	Mica Amichai	

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. Meeting Topics

A. Welcome and Introductions

Link21 team members (Tim Lohrentz, Sadie Graham, Nicole Franklin, Camille Tsao) introduced themselves and gave overviews of their positions.

Facilitation team (Frank Ponciano and Ben Duncan) introduced themselves and provided an overview of their personal and professional background.

EAC members introduced themselves, each sharing a bit about their backgrounds, current location, lived experience related to public transportation, and professional backgrounds.

Sadie Graham introduced BART Director Robert Raburn, who then introduced himself and gave an overview of his position.

B. Presentation of BART’s Equity Strategy

Julian Chacon from BART’s Office of Civil Rights presented on BART’s Equity Strategy.

EAC Member David Sorrell commented that this approach seems non performative and effective for serving communities, and that he hopes that there is a push for both internal and outward racial equity.

Julian Chacon responded by clarifying that their current approach is only a start. Once executed, BART will re assess and execute again in a cyclical manner to push for progress.

Facilitator Ben Duncan mentioned that GARE has over 450 jurisdictions that have done similar work, and that EAC members were welcome to explore this work further by looking into what other jurisdictions have done.

Public comment from Aleta Dupree emphasized that equity work is not linear, and that other types of equity work must be done at the same time as racial equity work.

Public comment from Mari who asked for more information on BART’s internal practices on equity in terms of hiring, interpersonal conflict, etc.

C. Presentation of Link21 Overview

Sadie Graham and Camille Tsao presented on a Link21 program overview, the development of initial concepts, and Link21's commitment to equity and equitable engagement.

EAC Member David Sorrell asked about the upcoming fiscal cliff, and how the EAC can be leveraged to help support the mega region and ensuring that funding continues to flow.

Sadie Graham provided context to the EAC related to the fiscal cliff, explaining that all transit agencies in the Bay Area are facing a potential fiscal cliff because ridership has dropped since the pandemic hit and funding is tied to farebox recovery. Considering this reality, it's difficult to talk about generational improvements in the long term. The Link21 team can follow up with ways for people to advocate on behalf of public transit, for example related to upcoming legislation.

EAC Member Clarence R. Fischer asked for clarity around whether the Link21 team is a collaboration across all train services in the mega region. He also asked how EAC members can advocate for BART and Capitol Corridor to work together to make up for the decrease in daily round trips, specifically noting that getting rid of a very valuable 5:45 train has made it difficult for people who commute for work to use public transit.

Camille Tsao encouraged EAC members to provide comments at board meetings, write in, etc. She also stated that Capitol Corridor hopes to restore full service, but that it is dependent on a number of factors. She clarified that Link21 is a BART and Capitol Corridor effort. Link21 has the support of California State Transportation Agency, but on a day to day it is only two boards. She emphasized the importance of Caltrain in connecting the peninsula, and mentioned that they meet with Caltrain monthly and other agencies as well.

EAC Member David Ying asked when there would be a cost analysis for shared modes and alignments, and whether any other variations are being considered.

Camille Tsao stated that more detail will be shared at the next EAC meeting, but in terms of costs, it's early in the process and a ballpark understanding of costs is what they're working with currently. Analysis in the next year will be focused on potential ridership.

Sadie Graham clarified that at this high level, the uncertainty doesn't allow costs to be compared too much. She emphasized that the EAC is watching the process as it's being done.

EAC member Vanessa Ross Aquino asked for these slides to be made available. Sadie Graham confirmed we could share them with EAC members, and that they are posted on BART Legistar.

Public comment from Aleta Dupree suggesting that the second Transbay crossing should have a dual gage track similar to the Seikan Tunnel in Japan. Emphasized that planners have to be forward thinking. Expressed that "equity communities" is a good term to use as "communities of concern" has gotten less popular.

Public comment from Pamela Morris referenced Slide 34 to clarify that any building blocks of the program need to not only serve riders but the communities that live near this transit as well. Made it clear that any analysis needs to take impact on neighboring communities into account.

Public comment from Gerald Cauthen that expressed that there are a lot of early action opportunities to improve transit before all of the higher cost projects like a new Transbay crossing. Expressed interest in seeing these lower cost projects rolled out as long as it doesn't violate any equity standards, particularly in Hayward and Union City.

D. Link21 EAC Overview

This item was tabled from the agenda due to time constraints.

v. Next Meeting Date

Tim Lohrentz stated that the next EAC meeting is February 28, 2023.

VI. Adjournment

Tim Lohrentz asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. EAC Member Clarence R. Fischer moved to adjourn the meeting and EAC Member seconded the motion at 3:34 PM. The motion to adjourn the meeting was approved unanimously.