

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Tim Lohrentz, Equity Programs Administrator, Link21
TO: Equity Advisory Council (EAC)
CC: Link21 EAC Team (Staff and Consultants)
DATE: 03/19/2024

SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM B: FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS EAC FEEDBACK

This is a standing agenda item and accompanying memo entitled “Follow-Up to Previous EAC Feedback.” This memo documents questions and input from EAC members and demonstrates how that input is being considered in Link21 work. The goals of this memo are to:

- Confirm that EAC questions are responded to.
- Show transparency and accountability for incorporating EAC feedback into Link21 work.
- Demonstrate the value that EAC contributions have on Link21 work.
- Provide ongoing documentation of EAC input that can later be summarized into a report for Stage Gate 2 reviews.

This memo is not intended to be an exhaustive log of all feedback from and communications with EAC members. Rather, it focuses on input that is related to discussion prompts as well as select questions and input about Link21 or EAC logistics that were not previously or sufficiently responded to or were raised on multiple occasions.

Meeting Logistics

Feedback	Materials should be sent out earlier so EAC members have enough time to prepare for meetings.
Where Raised	January 16 EAC Meeting and February 6 Office Hours
Follow-up	The draft agenda for the EAC meeting should be sent to EAC members no later than ten days prior to the EAC meeting. All meeting materials will be sent to EAC members no later than four days before the EAC meeting (the Friday before a Tuesday meeting). Because of reviews of the material and the need to have timely information in the materials, it is not very practical to send to the EAC sooner than that

Feedback	When will the updated equity evaluation results be shared?
Where Raised	February 6 Office Hours
Follow-up	The Link21 Team originally planned to have the equity evaluation results as an agenda item at the March EAC meeting. To better align with the updated Stage Gate 2 schedule and April BART Board item, that item is now planned for the May 21 EAC meeting.

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EAC Input Report

Feedback	The key input themes from the EAC Input Report are accurate, but it seems like there is also a need to prioritize amongst them.
Where Raised	January 16 EAC Meeting
Follow-up	<p>As a first step, the Link21 Team was interested in confirming that the key input themes accurately reflected EAC contributions. When evaluation results are shared at the May meeting, content related to those key input themes will be a part of the discussion. EAC members will have the opportunity to discuss results, including whether they think findings related to any particular input themes are of increased importance for the Stage Gate 2 decision.</p> <p>As planning gets more advanced after Stage Gate 2, the Link21 Team anticipate that conversations with the EAC about prioritizing outcomes will be increasingly valuable for shaping the work.</p>

Feedback	Amtrak related services like Capitol Corridor and the San Joaquins require a government-issued ID to purchase a ticket, which presents a major barrier to riding.
Where Raised	January 16 EAC Meeting
Follow-up	<p>Routes like Capitol Corridor and the San Joaquins are required to follow the ticketing protocols of Amtrak. Amtrak’s regulations state that “passengers purchasing tickets onboard trains from conductors must provide photo identification and be at least 16 years old”. No ID is required to purchase a ticket online, through the Amtrak app, or from a ticket kiosk.</p> <p>If a Regional Rail crossing is recommended and approved at Stage Gate 2, the Link21 Team will work with partner agencies to determine the right governance for future operations. This could result in more local flexibility about ID regulations, potentially enabling operators like Capitol Corridor to adopt similar standards to BART (which does not require an ID to purchase a ticket by any method).</p>

Feedback	Is there any way for lower Pinole and North Richmond to be considered priority populations?
Where Raised	February 6 Office Hours
Follow-up	Under Link21’s current definition, all of North Richmond and about half of Pinole are considered priority populations. Neighboring parts of Western

	<p>Contra Costa like Tara Hills, Montalvin Manor, Bayview, and San Pablo are also priority population tracts.</p> <p>Although the Link21 Team considers the priority populations designation a valuable analytical tool for equity, it also recognizes the definition's limitations. Even when an area is not designated as a priority population tract, the Link21 Team endeavors to consider how local communities that have been marginalized could be affected by Link21 work.</p>
Feedback	<p>What is the strategy for serving communities that have historically lived in or been pushed to places that are isolated from station, food, jobs, schools, and opportunities? When will decisions about how those communities are served be made?</p>
Where Raised	<p>February 6 Office Hours</p>
Follow-up	<p>The upcoming Stage Gate 2 decision will be about the technology, BART or Regional Rail, for the new transbay crossing. At Stage Gate 2, the Boards will not be deciding on where stations associated with Link21 should be located.</p> <p>Between Stage Gate 2 and Stage Gate 3, currently anticipated in the end of 2025, the Link21 Team will develop a proposed project for entry into the environmental process. This will include identifying the location of new or renovated stations. The Link21 Team anticipates having robust discussion with the EAC, as well as other members of the public, about stations during this time. More detail about the Stage Gate 2 to Stage Gate 3 timeline will be available later in the year.</p> <p>Understanding the EAC's interest on seeing a clear analytical approach about how underserved communities are considered in the process, the Link21 Team also plans to develop a document outlining how underserved communities around Link21 work are considered in the station planning process and why. Work on that document could begin once a technology is confirmed at Stage Gate 2.</p>