

Link21 Equity Advisory Council Office Hours | Topic: Community Benefits Program

Office Hours Recap Link21 Equity Advisory Council Office Hours #13 Community Benefits Programs

April 9, 2024

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

I. Attendees

Present Members		
Ameerah Thomas	David Sorrell	Gracyna Mohabir
Clarence R. Fischer	Fiona Yim	

Staff

Iris Osorio-Villatoro, Link21 EAC Facilitation Team	Tim Lohrentz, Equity Programs Administrator, BART Office of Civil Rights
Santiago Vazquez Garcia, Link21 EAC Facilitation Team	

The Office Hours virtual meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

Tim Lohrentz (Equity Programs Administrator, BART Office of Civil Rights) welcomed everyone to the Community Benefits Program Office Hours meeting and proceeded to call the session to order.

II. Comments and Questions

- A. **Gracyna Mohabir** requested a refresher of the Community Benefits Program presentation from EAC meeting #9.
 - a. **Tim Lohrentz** gave a brief refresher of the Community Benefits Program presentation provided at EAC meeting #9.
- B. **David Sorrell** noted that the project has not yet reached Stage Gate 3. He stated that once the stops are determined, whether they are existing or new, the focus

will shift towards assessing the community benefits program for local opportunities.

- a. **Tim Lohrentz** added that the project details will become more concrete after Stage Gate 2 is finalized. While some station decisions may wait until Stage Gate 3, others, like Alameda, are already clear in two concepts.
- C. **Fiona Yim** raised the idea of incorporating community benefits related to tracks, citing the Ohlone Greenway near the North Berkeley BART station as an example.
 - a. **Tim Lohrentz** acknowledged this as a potential community benefit, particularly if it involves that creating a bike/pedestrian pathway linking multiple stations.
 - b. **Fiona Yim** then expanded on the concept, connecting it to the discussion from the previous EAC meeting about reparative stations, which should aim to be sustainable, regenerative, and promote greenification.
 - c. **Tim Lohrentz** agreed, and noted his efforts to research past harm caused by BART development in the Bay Area to identify stations that could be considered for reparative measures, although he mentioned the challenge of finding relevant literature.
- D. **Ameerah Thomas** highlighted the importance of aligning anti-displacement goals with proposed community benefit efforts, particularly in addressing the needs of displaced populations and emphasizing reparative opportunities.
 - a. **Tim Lohrentz** acknowledged the importance of aligning anti-displacement efforts with community benefits, extending beyond the creation of affordable housing to encompass a range of supportive measures. He emphasized the collaborative process with the EAC to gather input and ideas for achieving this alignment.
 - b. **Ameerah Thomas** emphasized the importance of starting with clearly defined goals and prioritizing efforts based on data regarding displaced populations.
 - c. **Iris Osorio-Villatoro** noted the upcoming update from the anti-displacement working group, highlighting the relevance of their goals and principles to the community benefits discussion.
- E. **Clarence R. Fischer** addressed the importance of continuity within the Link21 Equity Advisory Council, emphasizing the potential need for continued input from those not officially on the committee after membership turnover. Clarence also inquired about the upcoming Stage Gate 2 decision regarding Regional Rail versus BART rail, expressing a desire for early notification to allow for support during the board presentation.
 - a. **Tim Lohrentz** clarified that per the bylaws regarding membership continuity, members could extend their terms up to five years, but turnover would be voluntary. As for the Stage Gate 2 decision, Tim outlined the process, noting that the board presentation and

- recommendation would occur in June, with the presentation becoming publicly available a few days prior.
- b. **Clarence R. Fischer** emphasized the importance of providing positive reinforcement to the board, suggesting early notification to allow for coordinated support from the EAC.
 - c. **Iris Osorio-Villatoro** assured Clarence that his requests would be noted, confirming that the Link21 team will inform the EAC once the presentation materials are made public.
- F. **Clarence R. Fischer** raised a consideration regarding community benefits that could apply regardless of the technology chosen. He suggested discussing broader benefits like shelters that would benefit commuters in various scenarios.
- a. **Iris Osorio-Villatoro** reviewed the discussion questions from the last EAC meeting, which included supporting community involvement, determining the scope of community benefits at new and existing stations, and defining reparative stations.
 - b. **Tim Lohrentz** pointed out a crucial question brought up by Ameerah Thomas about aligning anti-displacement efforts with community benefits, suggesting it as a general consideration applicable to either technology choice. He proposed further exploration of these questions, potentially at the July meeting, without yet determining if subcommittees would be the best approach for discussion.
- G. **David Sorrell** emphasized the importance of highlighting the efforts being made by the group to address concerns about cost and return on investment, particularly regarding potential displacement of the community.
- a. **Tim Lohrentz** agreed that during the upcoming Board presentation, even with limited time, they should introduce the concept of community benefits to ensure it's on the Board's radar. He noted the challenge of condensing the discussion into a brief presentation but emphasized the value of raising awareness about community benefits.

Next EAC Meeting Date: May 14, 2024

The Office Hours virtual meeting ended at 6:55 p.m. Iris Osorio-Villatoro thanked everyone for attending. Tim Lohrentz closed the meeting.