# Link21 Equity Advisory Council Meeting 3 Office Hours

April 25, 2023

**Office Hours Recap**

**Link21 Equity Advisory Council (EAC) Meeting #3 Office Hours**

**Equity Metrics**

April 25, 2023

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

1. Attendees

**EAC Members Present**

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| Angela E. Hearring | Harun David |  |

**Staff**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Emily Alter, Equity & Inclusion Lead, Link21 Team | Sarah McMinimy, Business Case, Link21 Team | Tim Lohrentz, BART Office of Civil Rights |
| Frank Ponciano, Facilitator, Link21 Team | Iris Osorio-Villatoro, Link21 Tech Support |  |

1. Questions and Discussion

*Angela E. Hearring joins the virtual meeting at about 6:10 pm.*

1. Angela E. Hearring: Can EAC meetings be recorded for public access? I believe it's crucial to provide transparency. There are people unable to make the meeting time for many reasons including having to work, making it an equity issue. I dropped off the last EAC meeting before the equity metrics discussion and was not able to make it back in due to my connection, leaving me out of the conversation. It would’ve been great to be able to watch a recording afterwards to see what I missed.
	1. Frank Ponciano: Thank you, Angela, for raising this equity issue. The Link21 team has a mechanism for providing a formal response, which involves raising an equity flag. We can resend you the video that explains the process, or you can email the general address to request that an equity flag concern be raised. This will ensure that your question is formally addressed and that we can start recording the meetings. I’ll also bring this issue back to the team internally to discuss next steps.
2. Frank Ponciano: The focus of this conversation is regarding equity metrics. There have been several presentations about this over the last couple of meetings. Does the Link21 team want to provide further clarification on this?
	1. Emily Alter: I am a member of the equity team within the Steer consulting team responsible for the Link21 business case. Our focus is to evaluate project elements from an equity perspective, analyzing benefits, risks, and costs for priority populations and historically underserved communities. I previously worked as the equity program administrator at BART and understand the importance of community engagement and co-creation. The EAC members play an essential role in obtaining perspectives from diverse groups as we continue to engage with communities throughout the project's development.
	2. Sarah McMinimy: I'm a consultant at Steer, and I've been working for the program for the past three years. My work has included collaborating with Emily on defining priority populations and, more recently, focusing on equity values for the past month.
3. Angela E. Hearring: I am interested in learning more about your team's metrics and indicators for transportation projects. In the City of Sacramento, we use an equity metric system composed of five criteria to ensure projects provide access, improve safety, have equitable investment, improve air quality and climate, and maintain transportation systems. What metrics and indicators has your team been using?
	1. Emily Alter: We have included over 20 metrics in the slide deck and are happy to share them with you. To evaluate equity, we prioritized the metrics based on community input gathered through co-creation. Our priority populations are communities inequitably burdened throughout the megaregion, and we evaluate equity based on metrics such as travel time savings, job accessibility, community resource accessibility, station access, and number of new riders. We analyze these metrics on both the whole population and priority populations. Those are the original ones in the first round of evaluation and for the second one, we will add additional metrics and retrieve more data so that they’ll be more reliable.
4. Angela E. Hearring: Is co-creation a separate group that you're collaborating with?
	1. Emily Alter: Co-creation isn’t a group; it’s a method of partnering with the community. We're using co-creation to engage people early in the project by partnering with community organizations to recruit members for two-hour workshops and focus groups. This allows us to hear directly from community members and leaders about the issues and topics that matter most to them

*Harun David joins the call at about 6:27 pm.*

1. Angela E. Hearring: Will you still go through with co-creation for the second round?
	1. Tim Lohrentz: Currently, we have equitable engagement plans in place. We will engage in co-creation with community representatives once the concepts are defined and the station locations and infrastructure are determined. Until then, it is difficult to provide specific details to neighborhood or community organizations. This second round of co-creation is expected to take place in the middle of next year.
2. Angela E. Hearring: How do you initiate community involvement when doing something like deciding where to locate a station? When do you start equitable engagement to ensure the community is informed about the project?
	1. Tim Lohrentz: To increase community awareness, we plan to partner with local organizations, including faith communities, and inform them about our upcoming events. We will also issue a news release to reach a broader audience.
	2. Frank Ponciano: We reach out to various organizations to find partners who can help create the space for discussion. The specifics of our engagement and co-creation efforts depend on the project's stage and the specific area of focus.

*Harun David leaves the call at about 6:33 pm.*

* 1. Tim Lohrentz: We're currently only focused on the location and infrastructure components of the stations. Therefore, it's important to inform the community about our progress, particularly communities in the specific locations we're considering. This will help keep everyone in the loop and ensure transparency.
	2. Emily Alter: I can give Angela a quick presentation walkthrough and answer any questions you may have. Our presentation covered the equity approach being used in project development and included a recap of key terms presented at the February meeting. The Business Case identifies benefits, costs, and risks associated with the program, and our evaluation approach analyzes them for priority populations. We also introduced the business case metrics and discussed jobs accessibility and community resources from a regional perspective. The goal was to gather feedback on how we’re defining equitable access to jobs and resources. *Emily quickly goes through all the equity metric slides presented at the April EAC Meeting.* We recognize the risks associated with megaregional projects and the impact on community members. In the next EAC meeting, Sarah and her colleagues will discuss displacement risks and mitigations in more detail. Let me know if you need further information.
1. Angela E. Hearring: Please keep in mind prisons such as at San Quentin as important destinations for both families and workers, and Golden Gate Fields as a popular tourist attraction.
	1. Emily Alter: Thank you Angela, those are all important to keep in mind.
2. Angela E. Hearring: Please ensure the meetings are consistent and confirm the availability of EAC members prior to the meeting.
	1. Frank Ponciano: Thank you, Angela. We'll discuss the Stage Gate process during our next office hour session next week, and we'll send out all the necessary information beforehand.
3. Next Office Hours Date: May 2, 2023

*Angela E. Hearring leaves the call at about 6:50 p.m. The Office Hours virtual meeting ends.*