



# Environmental Community Investment Agreement (ECIA) Transit & Transportation Committee

## Monday, March 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Richmond City Hall – Richmond Conference Room | 450 Civic Center Plaza | Richmond,  
CA 94804

### ECIA Committee Members:

Steve Birnbaum – Member

Darlene Drapkin - Member

Richmond Johnson - Member

Vacant Seat (4) – ECIA Committee Member

Vacant Seat (5) – ECIA Committee Member

### City of Richmond:

Cesar Zepeda – City Council Liaison

Lori Reese-Brown – Staff Liaison, Project Manager II

LaShonda White – Deputy City Manager - Community Services

## MEETING AGENDA

### **1) Welcome and Introductions**

Lori Reese-Brown, Project Manager with the City of Richmond called the meeting to order at approximately 2:03pm. The following committee members were present which represented a quorum: Steven Birnbaum, Darlene Drapkin, Richard Johnson. City Councilmember and Committee Liaison Cesar Zepeda was also present.

### **2) Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda (2 mins max per speaker)**

There were no public speakers.

### **3) Discussion Item #1: Committee Bylaws – Council Adopted June 7, 2016**

Lori Reese-Brown, Transportation Project Manager, provided a brief overview regarding the creation of the ECIA Transportation Committee (Committee) by former Councilperson Jovanka Beckles. The purpose of the Committee was to ensure that the funds allocated for transportation services that supported the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were used for the purposes outlined in the Environment and Community Invest Agreement (Agreement). Ms. Reese introduced the bylaws, briefly reviewed sections, and mentioned the need to fill the two (2) vacant seats. LaShonda White, Deputy City Manager, provided a brief overview of the Agreement and discussed the various strategies that are included in the Agreement totaling \$80 million. Committee

Members had general questions regarding the Power and Duty Section of the bylaws and wanted to understand if the Committee had oversight over the other strategies listed in the Agreement. City staff provided clarity and confirmed that the Committee is only responsible for the Transportation-related strategies within the Agreement.

#### **4) Discussion Item #2: ECIA Transportation Budget presentation/update**

LaShonda White provided a high-level overview of the Agreement and associated budget stating that the City received \$80 million dollars over ten years to spend on specific GHG reduction programs (\$30 million) and community programs (\$50 million). A document was shared which covered the \$80 million ECIA budget; however, the focus of the budget discussion was centered around the \$20.75 million transportation budget. City staff reviewed some of the transportation projects that were funded through ECIA such as the Yellow Brick Road project or Greenway Gap Closure. These projects were focused on making spaces more walkable and bikeable and were managed by the City's Public Works Department.

Committee member asked for clarity regarding if the Agreement language suggests that the Committee should have oversight over other ECIA GHG Reduction strategies such as climate action plan and urban forestry. Ms. White confirmed that this Committee's oversight is for transportation-related strategies only.

Staff answered questions about programs such as the e-bike program and paratransit program. Staff also mentioned that ECIA funds were leveraged with outside grants and that staff were successful in getting grants to fully fund some GHG-reduction transportation programs that would have otherwise been funded with ECIA funds. Committee members asked if City staff could present the transportation budget to provide clarity on what projects are multi-year commitments and how much is remaining for the Committee to recommend for future allocation.

City staff reviewed the proposed projects included in the draft FY 24-25 budget and shared that the Committee could provide feedback at their next meeting prior to final budget adoption on or before June 30, 2024.

This was a discussion item. No action was taken.

#### **5) AGENDA Item #4: Proposed Future ECIA Committee Meeting Dates and Member Appointment**

There was discussion about setting a regular meeting date, possibly for the 2nd Monday of each month. City staff mentioned doing a poll to confirm if that date would work for the Committee.

#### **6) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:55pm.