



Environmental Community Investment Agreement (ECIA) Transit & Transportation Committee

Monday, July 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Richmond City Hall – City Manager’s Conference Room 450 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

ECIA Committee Members:

Steve Birnbaum – Committee Member
Darlene Drapkin – Vice Chair
Richard Johnson – Chair
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
Junne Garcia, Associate Administrative Analyst
Alexis Grace, Administrative Student Intern

MEETING AGENDA

1) Welcome and Introductions

The Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:25 PM by Chair Johnson. The following committee members were present, which represented a quorum: Steven Birnbaum, Darlene Drapkin, and Richard Johnson. Also in attendance were Councilmember and Committee Liaison Cesar Zepeda, and the City Staff Liaison team led by Deputy City Manager LaShonda White. During the meeting, LaShonda White introduced a new City Staff member, Junne Garcia, and briefly described Junne’s expected duties and responsibilities in relation to the Committee.

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

There were no public speakers.

3) Action Item #1: APPROVAL of the May 23, 2024 – Special ECIA Committee Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the previous special meeting was moved by Chair Johnson and seconded by Committee Member Birnbaum. With all members voting in favor of the motion, the Committee approved the minutes of the previous special ECIA Committee meeting held on May 23, 2024.

4) Discussion Item #2: RECEIVE a presentation from Glydways on plans for partnership with the City of Richmond

A representative from Glydways, a transportation technology company, presented their proposal to explore a potential partnership with the City of Richmond on a new mode of transportation. LaShonda White mentioned that a plan—funding included—has already been developed to hire consultants for a feasibility study on introducing this innovative transportation model to the city. LaShonda intends to complete the study during the City Council recess, though she will first verify whether similar feasibility studies have been conducted in San Jose and Antioch, two cities already collaborating with Glydways.

Additionally, the committee was informed that Glydways recently signed a lease for a portion of the Hilltop Mall, where they plan to relocate both their office and test track. Currently, Glydways operates from San Francisco and Concord, respectively. The company anticipates moving into the new Hilltop office early next year. This partnership not only has the potential to introduce an innovative transportation solution to the City of Richmond but also to stimulate economic growth in the Hilltop area.

5) Discussion Item #3: DISCUSS committee member vacancies

The members reviewed the existing vacancies within the committee, noting that two positions remain unfilled. City Staff were assigned the responsibility of creating flyers to support the recruitment of new committee members. These flyers will serve as a tool in the recruitment process to help ensure that the committee member vacancies are filled moving forward.

6) Discussion Item #4: DISCUSS Committee's request for data from Richmond Moves and Other Matters

The committee engaged in a discussion regarding VIA and Richmond Moves, during which members requested data on ridership trends and their connection to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The committee also addressed concerns regarding reports of long wait times for Richmond Moves riders. It was noted that these wait times are expected to decrease with additional funding to support the addition of more vehicles and drivers. The committee reached a consensus to revisit the possibility of allocating further funding to the Richmond Moves program in approximately 2 to 2.5 years, once the current grant and ECIA funds for the project have been fully expended.

In other matters, the committee expressed a desire for City liaisons to arrange additional presentations from vendors and service providers whose products and services may be eligible for funding through the ECIA Transit & Transportation Committee.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The committee meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.