TO: MAYORS OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

FROM: SUKHMANI S. PUREWAL, SECRETARY

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE CITY SELECTION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Sue Vaterlaus, Chairperson of the San Mateo County City Selection Committee called for a virtual meeting of the Committee at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, February 26, 2021.

City Selection Committee does not fall under Ralph M. Brown Act; however, on March 17, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Order N-29-20 suspending certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act in order to allow for local legislative bodies to conduct their meetings telephonically or by other electronic means. Thus, pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, local and statewide health orders, and the CDC’s social distancing guidelines which discourage large public gatherings, the regular meeting will not take place in San Carlos but instead will be held virtually via Zoom.

To join the Zoom meeting, please click the following link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89796678173. The meeting ID is 897 9667 8173. If joining via telephone, please dial +1-669-900-6833 and enter the meeting ID: 897 9667 8173, then press #.

AGENDA

1) Roll Call

2) Selection of one (1) Councilmember to serve on the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA) representing Northern Cities (Eligible cities: Brisbane, Colma, Daly City, Pacifica, San Bruno, and South San Francisco), fulfilling the remaining term of Rico Medina through December 31, 2021

   i. Mayor Pro-Tem Cliff Lentz, Brisbane is seeking appointment
   ii. Vice Mayor Mark Nagales, South San Francisco is seeking appointment

3) Oral Communications and Announcements

   i. Public Comment – Opportunity for the public to address the San Mateo County City Selection Committee.
   ii. Any subject not on the agenda may be presented at this time by members of the City Selection Committee. These topics cannot be acted upon or discussed, but may be agendized for a later meeting date.
If you have any questions or require additional information, contact Sukhmani S. Purewal at (650) 363-1802.
February 12, 2021

Dear Honorable Mayors and Council Members,

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I am seeking appointment to the Northern Cities Transportation Authority position because I believe transit in San Mateo County is at an important juncture in our history. I want to work with all our cities to find solutions that not only address local issues, but regional ones as well.

Today, we see many gray clouds over the transportation horizon with the future loss of institutional wisdom due to Executive Director Jim Hartnett’s retirement in April, political conflicts with our neighbors to the north and south, and of course the fallout from the pandemic. I want to take the experience I have gained serving on C/CAG, SFO Roundtable and Commute.org to bring us together and help forge a strategic position that gives us the foundation to continue to be leaders in regional transportation.

Only a year ago, ridership on our trains, buses, shuttles and ferries was robust. Investment to expand and modernize our transit system was a key County focus. We know that our transit agencies are hurting because of dismal ridership, but we need to continue to take the long view because the pandemic will eventually pass and our economy will once again need reliable transit in order to thrive in a manner that is equitable for everyone. The cities in our County have a strong tradition of coming together for the betterment of all – I want to help contribute to that endeavor.

One of President Biden’s top priorities is passing an infrastructure bill. San Mateo County needs to articulate our transportation infrastructure priorities so that we can be ready to receive those funds coming from the federal government. We do that by listening to all stakeholders, from up and down the transit corridor, on the coast and from our smaller cities inland, so that we can build a better transit infrastructure in the County and regionally.

We know that we have issues with our neighbors to the north and south of us. Sometimes they flex their muscles and make it difficult to work together in a collaborative effort. But for transportation to truly reach its regional potential, we must work together. I believe San Mateo County is strategically located and our elected officials have the right temperament and conviction to be the leader that takes the high road in moving our regional transit system in a direction that is more equitable, efficient, and accountable.

I have experience working on important issues with Supervisors from San Francisco and Santa Clara Counties, as well as Executive Directors and staff from transportation agencies in our region. I would like to apply that experience as a contributing member of the San Mateo County Transit Authority.

I would be honored to earn your support and vote.

Sincerely,

Cliff Lentz
Mayor Pro-Tem, City of Brisbane
650-219-0293
cliffordlentz@gmail.com
February 12, 2021

City Selection Committee
C/o Sukhmani Purewal
Secretary of City Selection Committee/Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

RE: Appointment to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) - Northern Judicial Cities Seat

Dear Honorable Mayors and Councilmembers,

I am writing to seek your support for an appointment to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) for the Northern Judicial Cities seat. We need to continue to have active and thoughtful representation on the TA to ensure our communities remain well represented and that San Mateo County continues to make the best investments possible to improve local and regional transit.

As one of the first Filipino Americans elected to the South San Francisco City Council, I understand how important it is to have a seat at the table. I am a member of the Peninsula Division of the League of California Cities where I have served as the San Mateo County Representative for the Peninsula Division and now on the Legislative Action Committee. As a former aide to Assemblymember Gene Mullin and to Congresswoman Jackie Speier, I have over 10 years of legislative experience and have worked on developing policy to address regional issues and challenges. I currently serve on the Board of HEART of San Mateo County, and I am a member of the REACH Coalition, which addresses issues of racial and social equity in San Mateo County.

In South San Francisco, I've seen firsthand how investment in transportation has improved the quality of life for our residents. We have a free shuttle that brings residents around South San Francisco, with an annual ridership of 50,000 pre-COVID, and recently added a second shuttle. The new and enhanced Caltrain Station in South San Francisco, scheduled to open later in 2021, will lead to greater walkability and connectivity to our Downtown area and enhance station access and ridership. In 2020, South San Francisco implemented capital improvement projects to address pedestrian and bicycle safety and we are currently updating our Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan to focus on safety and connectivity for non-automotive modes of transportation. We are also exploring a new autonomous, all-electric transportation system with a local company that would connect regional transportation hubs, such as Caltrain and the Ferry Terminal, to employers in the East of 101.
While I am running for the Northern district seat, I believe strongly in taking a regional approach to our County’s transportation challenges. I recognize that there’s no one-size-fits-all approach and that every community has its own unique needs. In seeking this appointment, I will be a representative for all cities in San Mateo County to voice your concerns, raise questions, and help set priorities for the entire TA Board. My door will always be open to anyone to share their thoughts and ideas. Whether it’s increasing Caltrain service, building grade separations for Caltrain tracks, expanding Ferry service, envisioning a more robust bicycle and pedestrian network, exploring new alternative modes of transportation, or improving our roadways, there are many opportunities ahead for San Mateo County to create a vital transportation network that serves us and our planet now and well into the future.

While the pandemic has greatly impacted ridership on public transportation, it is imperative that we plan for our economic recovery and the growing demand for transit when people return to work post-COVID. In the long-term, investing in public transit and improving mobility options will promote connectivity, reduce congestion and the resulting environmental impact.

We must continue to make investments locally and seek resources to support our efforts. With the passage of Measure W, San Mateo County is in a strong position to advance our common goals. As a TA board member, I will leverage my experience and relationships at the local, State, and Federal levels to strengthen the County’s transportation infrastructure, and be a passionate advocate for you while bringing people together to promote consensus on our shared priorities.

I thank you for your consideration and I humbly ask for your support.

All the best,

Mark Nagales
Vice Mayor
City of South San Francisco