

Community Advisory Committee
January 24, 2024 Meeting
Agenda Item 3

Dear Fellow CAC Members:

I am asking for you to consider me as Chair of the Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). I currently serve as the District 9 representative to the CTA CAC, and began my service on the CAC in November 2019, mere months before the pandemic hit.

As a San Francisco native born and raised in the city's Mission District, I am a child of public transit, having grown up a block from 16th Street BART station and now two blocks from a major transit commercial corridor. Never having owned a car, transportation has always been the connector, allowing me to explore, earn and visit the different regions of my city and the Bay Area. It's because of my lived experience on public transportation that I have a unique perspective understanding the necessity of strong transportation systems, walkable communities, and the opportunities we must take to improve our systems to serve all communities.

In my time serving on the CAC during the pandemic where transit operations and funding have been greatly impacted due to ridership declines, it also presents new opportunities to reimagine how we move around and use public transportation, and how we implement new and emerging mobility opportunities. The restoration of service coming out of the pandemic is one of the biggest challenges facing our city in decades, as well as identifying new funding opportunities to further advance both operations and long-term capital planning, particularly in historically marginalized communities left out of the discussion and decision making process.

My previous role as a Field Representative and Caseworker for a Senior Member of Democratic leadership in their district office has allowed me to directly grasp the inequities constituents have experienced on a variety of federal issues, equipped with direct skill of navigating impacted agencies to actively advocate for the services and resources residents need. As a result, I have closed over 300 cases in 2 years, returning over \$17 Million in money directly to constituents. Additionally, my role leading outreach with over 200 community-based organizations during our federal appropriations process, as well as with monitoring federal, state, and local legislation has prepared me to maintain relationships with a variety of transit agencies, as well as stakeholder groups and organizations. My outreach experience has been integral as I have worked to advance leadership with briefing materials through district events that have reflected Democratic leadership priorities.

Prior to my role as Field Representative, I worked as the Teen Programs Manager at the Jamestown Community Center. My role at Jamestown provided me the opportunity to manage 3 different teen programs (Workforce Development, Leadership, and College & Career Readiness), as well as recruitment, supervisory, and payroll experience. I led different leadership development initiatives on public health awareness campaigns with over 40 high school youth, as well as coordinated and facilitated meetings with community leaders and local officials on the topics of housing, transportation, healthy relationships, mental health, educational transition, leadership, and more. During this time, I was selected as a 2019 Board, Commissions, and Leadership Institute participant for San Francisco, where I honed my knowledge in land use, transportation, and housing issues with an equity analysis, as well as developing the skills to serve on a commission. My professional experience will serve me well as Chair of the CAC.

My goal as one of the youngest (if not the youngest) individuals to serve as Chair will be to empower historically underrepresented voices within the transportation planning process, as well as advocating for those voices to serve as representatives on the CAC. I bring a strong equity lens, as well as an experienced political acumen to understand engaging with the various needs and voices of different stakeholders across the city.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kevin Ortiz
District 9 CTA CAC Rep.

Dear fellow CAC members,

I respectfully ask that you consider me for a second term as Vice Chair of the Transportation Authority Community Advisory Committee (CAC). I have had the privilege of serving as CAC Vice Chair for the last year and as the District 5 CAC representative for two years, and I am grateful for your trust and support.

My goal as your Vice Chair has been, and will continue to be, to elevate your priorities, feedback, and concerns to the Transportation Authority staff and board, whether in the context of briefings, in delivering the CAC Chair's report, or when running our meetings in the Chair's absence. I will continue to strive to faithfully represent our meeting discussions to the Transportation Authority board and to anticipate CAC members' questions and concerns ahead of our meetings to make our time with staff as productive as possible.

I remain committed to ensuring that Transportation Authority funds are allocated judiciously and transparently as Bay Area transit agencies face continued operations and capital budget shortfalls. I will work to ensure that our limited transportation dollars and planning resources are distributed equitably and with particular attention to communities that have historically been poorly served by transit infrastructure. I will continue to advocate that projects funded or planned by the Transportation Authority center the City's most vulnerable road users - including pedestrians, transit riders, bicyclists, those with limited mobility, and those from marginalized communities. It is also a top priority for me in 2024 to address how far we remain from achieving Vision Zero and to hold our transportation agencies accountable for preventing further injury and death on our streets.

It would be an honor to serve as your Vice Chair again this year. I look forward to continuing to work with you all to make San Francisco more accessible, more sustainable, and more safe for all who travel in the City by any mode.

Kat Siegal
SFCTA CAC member, District 5