



**METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION**

**Agenda Item 2**

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***Memorandum***

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: June 3, 2011

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

WI: 1114

RE: Elections for 2011-2012 Policy Advisory Council Chair and Vice Chair

At your June 8, 2011 meeting, we will begin with election of a chair and vice chair for the 2011-2012 term. Following is the most recent list of nominees:

**Nominees for Chair:**

Dolly Sandoval

*(Note: Carlos Castellanos was also nominated for Chair, but he declined the nomination.)*

**Nominees for Vice Chair:**

Paul Branson

Carlos Castellanos

Egon Terplan

As a reminder of the candidates' backgrounds, attached is a copy of the biographies of the Policy Advisory Council. Should you have further nominations, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the June 8 meeting. Please bring the attached biographies document with you if you require candidate reference.

Attachment

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## 2010-2012 Policy Advisory Council Biographies

### Naomi Armenta – Representing the Disabled Community of Alameda County

*“I would like to see regional transportation decisions made in a pragmatic way to ensure equity.”*

**Naomi Armenta** has been an advocate for people with disabilities for over 20 years, relying totally on public transportation to navigate her electric wheelchair throughout the Bay Area since 1989. She is the paratransit coordinator for Alameda County, is chair of the San Leandro Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and previously served as vice chair of the BART Accessibility Task Force.



### Cathleen Baker – Representing the Low-Income Community of San Mateo County



*“I’m looking forward to representing the interests of low-income communities, which have traditionally borne a disproportionate share of the negative impacts from various industrial, transportation, and land-use policies – impacts which result in lower life-expectancies and higher rates of asthma, obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.”*

**Cathleen Baker’s** qualifications to represent low-income communities stem from her current work as a community health planner, as well as previous research and policy analysis conducted for a community redevelopment agency to respond to a growing population of homeless families. She frequently collaborates with communities to address public health and environmental and social justice issues, and provides technical

assistance on health impact assessments and local planning processes to benefit low-income and environmentally impacted communities in San Mateo County.

### Paul S. Branson – Representing the Senior Community of Marin County

*“I am focused on developing innovative mobility management solutions to the transportation gaps facing Marin’s rapidly aging population along with persons with disabilities and low-income residents.”*

**Paul Branson** has been involved in planning, coordinating, designing and managing transportation for seniors for nearly 10 years. A former transportation manager/senior mobility manager for Contra Costa County, he currently works at the Marin County Transit District as the



community mobility manager. Mr. Branson served as chair of MTC’s Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee and is a founding member and former chair of the Contra Costa Senior Transportation Forum. In addition, he is a former chair and vice chair of the Contra Costa County Paratransit Coordinating Council.

**Richard L. Burnett – Representing the Disabled Community of Solano County**

*"I am concerned about transportation decisions as well as policies that impact mobility management for Solano County and the Bay Area region."*

**Richard Burnett** is a member of Solano Transportation Authority’s Paratransit Coordinating Council and served as vice chairman from 2008-2009. He was a member of MTC’s Elderly and Disabled Committee, where he chaired the subcommittee on emergency response. Mr. Burnett is a member of the City of Vallejo Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee and serves as a member of the City of Vallejo Housing and Redevelopment Commission.



**Joanne Busenbark – Representing the Senior Community of Napa County**



*"The senior community is growing everywhere - Napa County has the seventh-largest senior population in the state of California. I would like to work to get people out of their cars."*

**Joanne Busenbark** has advocated for transit and social senior services for over 30 years in Napa County. She is currently serving as a member of the Napa Valley Board of Trustees and is a long-time member and former chair of the Napa County Paratransit Coordinating Council. Ms. Busenbark is a former vice mayor for the City of Napa, where she served for nine years as a Councilmember and nine years on the Planning Commission, and has been a part of the Alliance on Aging and various other groups supporting seniors.

**Carlos Castellanos – Economy Representative**

*"My professional accomplishments include involvement in both the transportation and economic development aspects of the Fruitvale BART transit village and management and oversight of several housing, commercial and mixed-use developments."*

**Carlos Castellanos** has worked in the Bay Area for the last 15 years in the fields of planning and housing. The director of real estate development for East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation, a community-based organization in Oakland, he has a Master’s degree



in city planning and transportation engineering. He is experienced in working with local jurisdictions, labor unions and businesses to promote and achieve local and disadvantaged population hiring goals. He was a member of MTC's Minority Citizens Advisory Committee, where he chaired the Regional Transportation Plan 2035 Equity Analysis subcommittee and served on the subsequent Equity Analysis subcommittee that supported inclusion of a snapshot analysis of data gathered on regular intervals between regional transportation plans.

**Bena Chang – Economy Representative**

*“MTC’s policies have a tremendous impact on the transportation infrastructure that employers depend on for moving goods and services and retaining and recruiting a world-class workforce to this region.”*

**Bena Chang** is the senior associate for transportation and housing at the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, which represents more than 300 of Silicon Valley's employers on issues and programs such as transportation, education, economic vitality and the environment. She has worked on projects such as BART to San Jose, high-speed rail, high-occupancy toll lanes, Bike to Work Day and commute-alternative benefits programs. Ms. Chang is a member of the Joint Lifeline Transportation Commission, Santa Clara County and the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning and is a board member of Neighborhood Housing Services of Silicon Valley, an organization that helps moderate and low-income families purchase homes.



**Wilbert Din – Representing the Minority Community of San Francisco**



*“I have worked to address affordability and service affecting the most transit-dependent segment of our community. We must find ways to make public transportation viable for low-income families/individuals that depend on it for jobs, school, etc. and to allow for upward mobility – to be able to live without a car.”*

**Wilbert Din** is a daily rider on the bus, subway and surface transportation. He is currently the co-chair of the Chinatown TRIP (Transportation Research Improvement Project), where he has been active for 27 years, addressing transit and related concerns of all communities of color coming into and out of San Francisco's Chinatown core area. He also served on the board of the San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency (SFMTA) for five years, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) for two terms, Third Street Light Rail Community Advisory Group (CAG), is currently a member of the SFMTA Central Subway Executive Committee and worked as a staff representative-engineering for 38 years with United Airlines. Mr. Din is also a former member of MTC's Minority Citizens Advisory Committee.

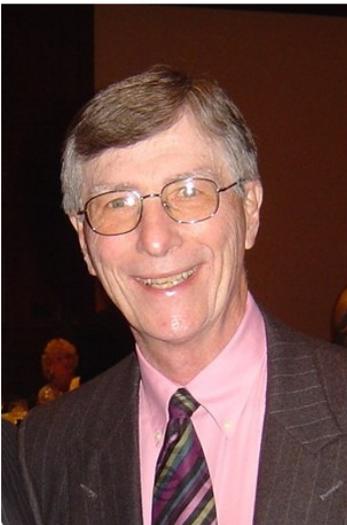
**Sandi E. Galvez – Environment Representative**



*“Where we live, what we breathe, the goods and services we have access to, the jobs we can secure, and the amount of time we spend commuting for our daily existence all impact our quality of life. I deeply care about improving the life chances for people in the Bay Area.”*

**Sandi E. Galvez** is a Senior Policy Associate with the Public Health Institute. With a focus on built environment issues, she has lead responsibility for creating organizational development strategies and procedures for the Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII), a collaborative of the 11 public health departments in the region. As part of Oakland’s seven-member Planning Commission since 2007, she guides land use and development, makes policy and zoning recommendations to the City Council and reviews major development proposals and redevelopment plans.

**Richard Hedges – Economy Representative**



*“I want to continue my efforts with MTC to create an efficient, sustainable and stable transportation network. I would like to be part of the stated goal of combining transit districts to create efficiency and improve service.”*

**Richard Hedges** has been involved in economic bargaining as an international representative and a local president of the United Food & Commercial Workers Union. He chaired San Mateo Together, a group that included the Building Trades Council, Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club and the San Mateo Central Labor Council. Mr. Hedges is a former field representative in the office of U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos, performing outreach to community groups and labor in San Mateo and San Francisco counties, and is a former member of MTC’s Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee and the MTC Advisory Council.

**Allison Hughes – Representing the Disabled Community of San Francisco**

*“I hope to graciously offer insight concerning the barriers and also the successes of public transit for the populations of senior, disabled and individuals with low income. I can offer firsthand experience and success stories of the consumers we are able to train, with which resources, on which transit services, and how to support continued ridership.”*

**Allison Hughes** is a Travel Trainer teaching individuals with physical and/or intellectual disabilities how to use public transportation systems



throughout their communities. She conducts assessments with each person to determine their cognitive skill sets, performs a route audit of their trip, assesses any environmental barriers and then travels the route with them multiple times, teaching them how to remember their trip and travel independently. She is currently working on a Master's degree in Special Education as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist and is a board member of the Northern California chapter of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

**Dolores Jaquez – Representing the Senior Community of Sonoma**



*“Having lived in Alameda County, I assumed that having public transportation meant access to regional transportation. That is not true. I would like to contribute to my county and the region to gain equity in transportation for all persons.”*

**Dolores Jaquez** is retired from her work in the areas of post-secondary education in low-income regions, staff development, and teacher support at the University of California. She is a former board member of the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency and AC Transit as well as a former member of the Oakland Planning Commission and the California Student Aid Commission. Ms. Jaquez is interested in improving inter-regional travel and access to public transit for Sonoma County residents, especially those who are unable to drive. She is a former member of MTC's Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee.

**Randi Kinman – Representing the Low-Income Community of Santa Clara County**

*“We have prioritized grass-roots organizational projects that, through self-help, will allow residents better access to resources while working with various agencies to prioritize funding of capital projects that reduce crime and blight while developing services for the community.”*

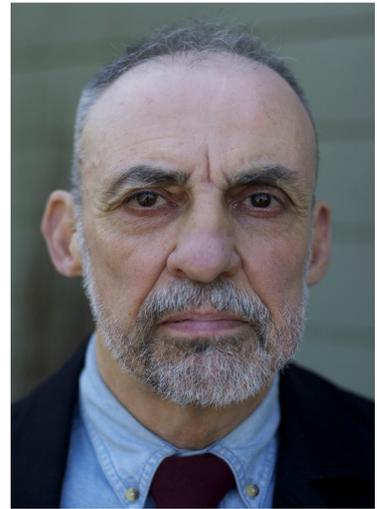
**Randi Kinman**, a former planning commissioner for the City of San Jose, has been working as a volunteer in the City of San Jose's Strong Neighborhoods Initiative program for ten years. She represents and works with communities of color and low income, developing residents' leadership skills while providing training and education. Ms. Kinman is a former member of MTC's Minority Citizens Advisory Committee, where she chaired the Equity Analysis subcommittee that supported inclusion of a snapshot analysis of data gathered on regular intervals between regional transportation plans.



**Federico Lopez – Representing the Disabled Community of Contra Costa County**

*“I am a public transit consumer – with lack of vision, I take transit or paratransit actively in the Bay Area and around the country.”*

**Federico Lopez** is a retired federal government attorney who worked as senior counsel for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms and served as attorney for the Office for Civil Rights, Health & Human Services. He retired from federal law enforcement due to loss of vision sustained in the line of duty. A member of the National Association of Blind Lawyers, Mr. Lopez also served on the board of Lions Center for the Blind and is a former member of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee. He regularly performs Pro Bono advocacy for adults with developmental disabilities, people who are blind and seniors with visual impairments.



**Marshall Loring – Representing the Senior Community of San Mateo County**



*“Four years as an EDAC member have added significantly to my understanding of the needs and concerns of elderly and disabled citizens. At the same time, I have gained considerable knowledge about the legal tools and support organizations that are available to assist in meeting the needs of the elderly and disabled.”*

**Marshall Loring** is a multi-generation Bay Area native and a retired electrical engineer. He has used transit all his life. He was chairman of the Phase 1 City of San Mateo Transit Corridor Plan Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. Loring is active in his church and his neighborhood residents association and regularly attends local Paratransit Coordinating Council and Commission on Aging meetings. He is a former member of MTC’s Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee.

**Yokia J. Mason – Representing the Low-Income Community of Alameda County**

*“I can personally identify with the day-to-day struggles attached to being low-income. I have lived and worked in the areas I serve in Alameda County. I have committed my life to uplift and mobilize the citizens in these areas.”*

Yokia Mason is a Community Health Outreach Worker for the Alameda County Public Health Department’s *Improving Pregnancy Outcomes Program*. She assists low-income, pregnant and parenting women with one-on-one case management services and advocacy.



She also facilitates health education and life skills workshops; works diligently to provide her clients with resources and referrals; and promotes improved access to health care, mental health services, affordable transportation and housing. She is also involved in studying how social injustice affects the health outcomes of low-income families over the life-span. She advocates at the state and national levels for continued funding of programs that address the needs of low-income men, women and children.

**Evelina Molina – Representing the Low-Income Community of Sonoma County**

*“I currently serve the very same population I grew up with in East Los Angeles, mainly working-class migrant, monolingual and bilingual Spanish-speaking communities...I have deep knowledge of the cultural norms, economic realities and everyday life challenges of those communities of color who utilize public transport daily.”*



**Evelina Molina** is a co-founder and board member of the North Bay Institute of Green Technology, which provides training and job placement and retention of low-income, unemployed or underemployed people for a career in green-collar jobs. A community organizer specializing in youth and workforce advocacy, Ms. Molina is active in Sonoma County as a board member of the Peace and Justice Center, Community Media Center of the North Bay and the Human Rights Commission. She is the founder of Alianza De Las Madres Activas por Justicia (Alliance of Mothers Active for Justice) and Promotores Verdes/Transition Roseland.

**Tanya Narath – Environment Representative**



*“I believe that an integrated, multi-modal transportation system is essential to the health of the Bay Area’s economy and quality of life. Since transportation contributes such a high percentage of our greenhouse gas emissions, it’s essential that we work together to find practical solutions to reducing vehicle miles traveled in the Bay Area.”*

**Tanya Narath** has been the Executive Director of the Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy since 2005. The Institute’s mission is to educate leaders to create public policy that is environmentally friendly and socially equitable for a healthy economy and sustainable community. She is active in Sonoma County’s local climate protection initiatives. In her role at the Leadership Institute, she works with local policymakers, environmental organizations and business groups on transportation-related issues and projects. A former Chair and Vice Chair of Friends of SMART, she holds a Master of Business Administration degree and an Executive Certificate in Sustainable Enterprise through Dominican University’s GreenMBA program.

**Tina King Neuhausel – Environment Representative**

*“I have spent the last 11 years of my professional and volunteer life promoting sustainable infrastructure, technologies and communities in the Bay Area. I am deeply committed to doing everything I can to make sure we build and support a clean, efficient transportation system.”*



**Tina King Neuhausel** has extensive experience in educating community groups and government officials on key issues that affect the Bay Area’s sustainability and quality of life, such as public transportation, modality and land-use planning and policies. She is the co-founder of Sustainable Contra Costa, currently serving as Board President & CEO, and former Education and Outreach Director of Sustainable San Mateo County. She is also a member of Citizens for a Sustainable Walnut Creek and formerly served as Citizen Institute Coordinator for SPUR (San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association). In addition, working in conjunction with the California Air Resources Board, she was a co-author and team leader for the California Hydrogen Highway Blueprint Plan.

**Cheryl O’Connor – Economy Representative**



*“My years of experience in development, planning and marketing new home communities in the Bay Area give me a unique perspective on how people really live and commute here. It’s important that market conditions and housing needs are considered in making transportation decisions so that the Bay Area stays a desirable place to live.”*

**Cheryl O’Connor** has been in the home-building business in Northern California for 35 years, developing, planning and marketing new home communities, including consulting for BRIDGE Housing in San Francisco. She is the former chair and current chief executive officer of the Home Builders Association of Northern California. She is a board member of the East Bay Economic Development Association, HomeAid and Jobs & Housing Coalition, and a member of the Urban Land Institute, California Building Industry Association and ABAG Regional Planning Committee.

**Kendal Oku – Representing the Minority Community of Marin County**

*“As a labor representative dealing with many disadvantaged communities in Marin, San Francisco and San Mateo counties, I can work with and represent their interests at MTC.”*

**Kendal Oku** is a representative for Operating Engineers Local Union #3, where he has worked closely with both public agencies and community-based organizations to ensure that local disadvantaged



residents are able to secure work in their communities, where they are able to utilize public transportation and/or carpool. He is a member of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Advisory Council, serves as a trustee for the local union and belongs to various labor and building and construction trade councils.

**Lori Reese-Brown – Representing the Minority Community of Solano County**



*“Some ways of ensuring needs are met include amending outdated policy and working with low-income residents in the community to hear and address their concerns in an efficient, effective and timely manner that produces results.”*

**Lori Reese-Brown** is a city planner of 20 years with experience in the public and private sectors. She has worked to bring citizens together, authoring policy for recommendation for initiatives pertaining to local economic development. She has also worked with nonprofit Environmental Justice groups to engage citizens and to hear and mitigate local community concerns. She regularly

engages communities of color in a broad range of projects and community initiatives. Serving as a City Planning Commissioner in Solano County, her goal is to ensure existing and proposed policy and goals present a framework for governing local and regional decisions around transportation and land use.

**Gerald Rico – Representing the Minority Community of Napa County**



*“I have concerns as we continue to experience gridlock associated with traffic and our government and hope that we can continue to improve and implement good traffic management.”*

**Gerald Rico**, a retired California Highway Patrol peace officer, has worked closely with the minority communities of the Bay Area throughout his career. He is a board member and former president of the Napa County Peace Officers Association and is currently serving as region president of the International Peace Officers Association. Mr. Rico is also a member of the Napa County Land Trust and is a former member of MTC’s Minority Citizens Advisory Committee.

**Frank Robertson – Representing the Minority Community of Contra Costa County**

*“I have made public service my calling. It brings me satisfaction when the end-users of various programs receive what they’re entitled to.”*



**Frank Robertson** is executive vice president of MMM Development Homes Corp., which develops communities with numerous amenities, including close proximity to public transportation. He worked for the Alameda County Social Services Agency for over 20 years, developing policy programs to help provide services to low-income communities and people with disabilities. Mr. Robertson is president of the Coalition for African Immigrants and Refugees and a board member of the International Institute of the East Bay and Contra Costa County's Economic Opportunity Council and Merit Board.

**Linda Jeffery Sailors – Economy Representative**

*“I served on Dublin’s first city council and participated in development of its first general plan. ABAG and MTC can work together so that land-use planning and transportation planning work together. I have experience in both.”*

**Linda Jeffery Sailors** was a founder of the Livermore Amador Valley Transportation Authority and served as its board president. She has worked for the Economic Development Alliance for Business doing economic development outreach and served as president of the Arroyo Vista Housing Authority. A former chairperson of the League of California Cities Revenue and Taxation Committee, she represented the Bay Area on the National League of Cities FAIR Committee, which dealt with revenue and taxation policies. Ms. Jeffery Sailors served as a Dublin city councilmember for ten years, including a stint as mayor.



**Dolly Sandoval – Representing the Senior Community of Santa Clara County**



*“When VTA bus cuts were imminent (in 2007), I worked feverishly on behalf of our senior citizen communities to maintain adequate services for those seniors no longer able to drive... While not every line utilized by our senior residents could be saved, I helped to coordinate the changes with our local paratransit operator.”*

**Dolly Sandoval** served on the Cupertino City Council from 2001-2009, including a term as mayor, and the Foothill DeAnza Community College Board from 1991-2001. During her four years on the Valley Transportation Authority's board of directors, she served as chair and vice chair and also chaired the agency's Transportation Planning & Operations committee, seeking public input from the senior community to improve services for riders and to learn directly the needs of Santa Clara County's older population and people with disabilities. Ms. Sandoval has been a teacher for

more than 20 years and attended the Senior Executives in State and Local Government program through the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard in 2008.

**Egon Terplan – Environment Representative**

*"In an era of climate change and limited public revenues, it is increasingly evident that the patterns of driving, stretched infrastructure and sprawling green-field developments are too costly. For many years I have been working to change these patterns – as an economic development consultant promoting more concentrated and competitive regional economies and as a policy director for a regional organization analyzing and advocating for smart economic development and planning policies, good transit and effective government."*

**Egon Terplan** is the regional planning director for SPUR (San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association), whose mission is to promote policy decisions and governance framework to achieve a better-planned region. He has 12 years of experience in economic development, industry analysis and strategy and labor and political organizing. He is the mayoral appointee to the Workforce Investment Board of the City and County of San Francisco and is inherently involved in regional planning and efforts to link transportation investments and land-use decisions.

