

Citizens Oversight Committee

Discussion of Citizens Oversight Committee Roles

June 23, 2022



Citizens Oversight Committee

- Requirement
- Civil Grand Jury Recommendations
- General Manager Recommendations
- Discussion

Citizens Oversight Committee

- “A Citizens Oversight Committee will be established by the SMART Board to provide input and review on the Strategic Plan and subsequent updates. The committee will be composed of citizens from the SMART District, appointed by the Board.”
- This is a Measure Q requirement
- Requirement currently met, but SMART received recommendations from the Sonoma County Civil Grand Jury.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendations

- R1. By January 31, 2023, the Board of Directors expand the role of the Citizens Oversight Committee beyond the minimal requirements of the Measure Q Expenditure Plan to achieve expectations of citizen oversight and accountability.
- R2. By January 31, 2023, the Board of Directors consider additional advisory committees to generate informed, independent advice on important matters under consideration, including but not limited to increasing ridership, building public trust, new lines of business, sale of assets, finance, and other significant decisions.
- R3. By January 31, 2023, the Board of Directors reassess the SMART organizational structure such that the Citizens Oversight Committee and any future advisory committees report directly to the Board.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendations

- R4. By January 31, 2023, the Board of Directors require Citizens Oversight Committee analysis and recommendations prior to all major strategic decisions whether or not incorporated in the five-year Strategic Plan.
- R5. The Board of Directors define and implement advisory committee bylaws for the Citizens Oversight Committee, by January 31, 2023.
- R6. The Board of Directors define the length of term for Citizen Oversight Committee members, by January 31, 2023
- R7. By January 31, 2023, the Board of Directors develop suitable training programs for new and existing members of the Citizens Oversight Committee regarding their newly defined role and proper public committee protocols, such as the Brown Act rules.

Civil Grand Jury Recommendations

- R8. By December 31, 2022, the Board of Directors direct the Citizens Oversight Committee to prepare written recommendation or reports to be presented at or entered into the record of the Board of Directors meetings.
- R9. The Board of Directors direct the General Manager to provide a timeline to evaluate the financial viability of freight services by March 31, 2023.
- R10. The Board of Directors and the General Manager establish separate bank accounts for the monies associated with passenger transit (Measure Q, et al.) and with freight or other future ventures, by December 31, 2022.
- R11. The Board of Directors direct advisory committees to develop and implement a policy to keep documents and information related to their advisory role centrally located and remotely accessible, by January 31, 2023.

Citizens Oversight Committee

General Manager Recommendations:

- Expand COC to review and input while still maintaining the focus on strategic planning and financial planning as originally intended
 - Review quarterly financial information
 - Provide feedback to SMART
 - Annual budget
 - Financial matters
 - Capital projects
 - SMART major strategic initiatives
- COC Chair reports to the SMART Board of Directors bi-annually or more often if appropriate on Financial, Capital or Strategic matters under review
- Establish and update Bylaws, terms and appointment criteria

DISCUSSION

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