



December 17, 2025

File Number 1500200

Memo to: Selection Committee for the TransNet Independent Taxpayer Oversight Committee (ITOC)

From: Technical Screening Committee

Subject: Recommendation of ITOC Candidates for Reappointment and Appointment

As required by the TransNet Extension Ordinance, the Technical Screening Committee was formed to recommend candidates to the Selection Committee for one reappointment and an appointment for an open position on the ITOC. The Technical Screening Committee was composed of the following members:

- Josh Kavanagh, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Transportation & Activation, UC San Diego
- Heather Adamson, Director of Planning, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
- Sharon Gookin, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, LA Metro

Request for Reappointment

Consistent with the TransNet Extension Ordinance, the ITOC member currently serving in the position below applied by the submittal deadline to continue as a member of the ITOC for Selection Committee approval as follows:

Francisco Rivera – a licensed architect, civil engineer, or traffic engineer with demonstrated experience of ten years or more in the fields of transportation and/or urban design in government or the private sector.

The Technical Screening Committee notes Mr. Rivera has strong qualifications and relevant expertise in his subject matter. The Committee considered Mr. Rivera's record and willingness to participate in various ITOC subcommittees. In addition, Technical Screening Committee members considered the benefits of having experienced members with institutional memory on the ITOC to provide meaningful input informed by their knowledge of the TransNet program over the years.

The Technical Screening Committee recommends the reappointment of Mr. Rivera for consideration by the Selection Committee.

Request for Appointment

Consistent with the TransNet Extension Ordinance, the Technical Screening Committee held a virtual meeting on December 17, 2025, to review and discuss candidate applications for the vacant ITOC position.

A total of four applications were received for the one open position, which requires a licensed engineer with appropriate credentials in the field of transportation project design or construction, and a minimum of ten years of experience in a relevant and senior decision-making position in the government or private sector. The Technical Screening Committee commented on the qualified applications received from all candidates. In its review, the Technical Screening Committee considered factors such as the applicant's quality of

responses to the application questions, the depth of each applicant's experience, the level of understanding of the role of ITOC, and the skills the applicant would bring to ITOC.

Consistent with the Ordinance provisions, the Technical Screening Committee recommends that the following two candidates be advanced for consideration by the Selection Committee based on their qualifications.

Recommended Candidates

- 1 Melanie Estes – The Technical Screening Committee considered Ms. Estes' substantial experience previously working for Anser Advisory Management as Chief Delivery Officer, overseeing large multidisciplinary project teams with multiple stakeholders, overseeing contracts with public sector clients, and having in-depth knowledge of various contract delivery methods.
- 2 Lima Saft – The Technical Screening Committee considered Ms. Saft's substantial experience previously working for Caltrans, delivering quality Transportation and ITS projects, and promoting and incorporating new technology into current and future projects.