

VIVEK SHARMA

The TSAC Committee is a legislative body for the purposes of the Brown Act. Accordingly, committee meetings are open public meetings subject to the noticing and meeting requirements under this law except in those proceedings where a closed session may be appropriate and required.

It is important that you complete all parts of the application. If your application is incomplete or does not clearly show the experience and/or training required, your application may not be accepted.

The application process will include two phases:

PHASE 1 – Application and Recommendation Review

All applications will be reviewed for all Membership Representation requirements and qualifications, letters of recommendation, and any supplemental documents.

PHASE 2 – BART Board of Directors Appointment

Selected candidates will be invited to appear before the Board of Directors to briefly explain their interest in serving on the committee, followed by a Board vote.

Tentative Board Meeting Date(s): Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 9:00 am (PST) or Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 9:00 am (PST).
Please note Board meeting Start Times May Vary.

I. Personal Information

Please consider my application for the following representation(s) on the TSAC:

Select a Representation: Check the Box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health/Disabilities: Must possess experience working with individuals with psychiatric, developmental, or other disabilities.		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth Advocate: Must possess experience as a youth advocate within the region of the BART system.		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement Must possess experience as a sworn peace officer within the region of the BART system.		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public at Large Preferably users of the BART system.		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alternate		
First, Last Name:	Vivek Sharma	Home/Mailing Address:	[REDACTED]
City & Zip:	[REDACTED]	County:	Santa Clara
Main Phone:	[REDACTED]	Alternate Phone:	
Email Address:	[REDACTED]	Occupation:	Student

II. **Recommendation Contact Information** (must provide **two** recommendations)

Please provide the contact information for the individuals recommending your appointment and attach their letters of recommendation to this application.

First Name:	Marina	Last Name:	Torres
Mailing Address	[REDACTED]	City & Zip:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]	Email Address:	[REDACTED]
First Name:	Mehak	Last Name:	Kapoor
Mailing Address	[REDACTED]	City & Zip:	[REDACTED]
Phone:	[REDACTED]	Email Address:	[REDACTED]

III. **Personal Statement of Interest**

Briefly explain your interest in serving on the TSAC. Please feel free to attach an additional page.

As someone born and raised in San Jose, BART has been my lifeline to opportunities across the Bay Area. Through high school and now in college, it connected me to youth leadership events, internships, and city halls. I want to serve on TSAC to uplift youth voices and help ensure that BART remains a safe, accessible, and just space for all riders, especially vulnerable and underserved communities.



IV. **Qualifications and Experience**

What qualifications/assets do you have that make you a strong candidate for service on the TSAC? Please feel free to attach a resume or an additional page.

As someone born and raised in San Jose, I've relied on BART to access youth events across the Bay. I now serve on SJECCD's Citizens Bond Oversight Committee, ensuring transparency for \$1 billion in funds, and on the Public Health Department's youth board, where I've advocated for vulnerable groups. My experience in policy analyzing policy for the Green Policy Initiative, oversight, and youth organizing gives me the perspective and drive to serve this committee with integrity.



V. **Organizations/Group Membership**

List any organizations or groups that you belong to or are involved with that you believe bear relevance to your candidacy for service on the TSAC:

Organization Name:	Student Senate for California Community College	Position:	Regional Affairs Director-elect
Organization Name:	Evergreen Valley College Associated Students	Position:	Governor for Campus Events and Activities
Organization Name:	San Jose-Evergreen Community College	Position:	Citizen member (Overnight)

Organization Name:	Santa Clara County Public Health Department, Community Advocates Teens of 1	Position:	
Organization Name:	Green Policy Initiative	Position:	Transportation policy specialist

Applicant Signature: _____ Signed by: Vivek Sharma Date: 6/4/2025
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Return this form and relevant attachments to the BART Office of the District Secretary:

2150 Webster Street, 10th Floor, Oakland, CA 94612 or email to

TransitSecurityAdvisory@bart.gov.

Please contact the District Secretary's Office at
(510) 464-6083 with any questions.

Thank you for your interest in serving on the Transit Security Advisory Committee (TSAC).



Vivek Sharma

Student, activist, politician, and nonprofit leader

Education

Evergreen Valley College

June 2023 - Present

Business, Economics, Math, and Political Science major

3.77 GPA, 3.89 GPA across all colleges

Member of the Honors program (38 Honors units)

Work experience

Green Policy Initiative

May 2025 - Present

Transportation policy specialist

- Analyzed California state-level transportation policy to advise the Green Policy Initiative board and lobbied in favor for transit policies at the state level

Community Advocate Teens of Today (CATT) coalition of Santa Clara County Public Health Department

October 2022 - Present

Policy Lead

- Worked with youth colleagues and staff at the Public Health Department to lobby for legislation at municipal & county levels to combat tobacco use
- Spoke at many city council meetings, advocating for legislation to combat tobacco usage, leading to the passing of ordinances like Campbell's city council **unanimously approving an ordinance** to pause on granting new tobacco retail licenses city-wide
- Led a team of youth advocates** and worked to meet with city councilmembers, **attend city council meetings**, and **host statewide anti-tobacco activism events**
- Led team to **table** at local high schools, sharing anti-tobacco information and cessation resources
- Hosted brainstorming sessions with CATT members

Santa Clara County Department of Public Health - Youth and Young Adult Advisory Board

September 2023 - May 2024

Board member

- Worked with the other board members to advise the Santa Clara County Department of Public Health on strategies to connect with the youth to combat the STD/HIV epidemic in the county
- Attended **monthly meetings** with department leaders and other board members, influencing department policies and voicing concerns

Evergreen Valley College Journalism Club

October 2023 - Present

President

- Recruited members and an officer team, hosted workshops on topics related to journalism, and connected members with professionals and opportunities in the journalism field
- Conducted outreach** and marketing to recruit members and increase readership
- Re-established the college's only student-run newspaper
- Worked individually and with other reporters to **cover school and local politics** and **provided political commentary** in the newspaper's opinion section
- Investigated** the college's student government for Brown Act violations

Evergreen Valley College Economics Club

October 2023 - Present

President

- Hosted workshops** on pressing economics topics, connected members with opportunities in economics and finance, **trained members** for the College Fed Challenge, and hosted speaker events with influential speakers in the economics field

- Worked with economics professionals, university professors, and researchers to provide mentorships and seminars to our students

ClosingTheDivide (CTD)

July 2024 - Present

Chief Financial Officer

- **Led all financial and fundraising efforts** the largest youth-led nonprofit dedicated to closing the digital divide, impacting 200K+ families and operating in 30+ regions globally
- Led the grants team to **secure \$100K+ in grants** to refurbish devices to distribute to underserved communities such as a rural education center of 10K+ people in rural Kenya and refurbish 1k PCs for them
- Established partnerships with various local companies and organizations, such as Google
- **Led financial transparency and disclosure efforts**

Mercatus Institute at George Mason University

August 2024 - December 2024

Don Lavoie fellow

- **Worked with noted economists** Peter J. Boettke and Lawrence H. White to learn about various economic theories and their role in statecraft
- Participated in small-group seminars with leading scholars in economics, including the authors of influential economics books
- Participated in debates and discussions with the other fellows, engaging in deep discussions on economic theory

Council for Economic Education (CEE)

August 2024 - Present

Associate Board member

- **Served on the executive committee**, leading the associate boards' efforts
- Served on the development committee, leading financial development and fundraising efforts for CEE, working closely with large finance firms, governments, and other nonprofits
- Attended associate board meetings, providing input and guidance to senior staff at CEE, the largest organization dedicated to economics education and responsible for the National Economics Challenge and National Personal Finance Challenge

Evergreen Valley College Associated Student Government (ASG)

August 2024 - May 2025

Representative-at-Large for Campus events and activities

- **Coordinated numerous events on campus** for the student body
- Associated Students (AS) representative for All College Curriculum Committee: worked to establish an LGBTQ+ studies program, advocated for transferability and distance education course offerings
- **Student representative** for Safety and Facilities Committee: replaced signage and road markings to make the roads safer and stop signs more visible
- Served as the **college's delegate to the Student Senate** for California Community Colleges
- Worked to **increase transparency, accountability, and outreach** throughout the ASG by creating and implementing various SOPs
- Ensured full Brown Act compliance
- Lobbied local public transit agencies to resume service during a labor strike

Evergreen Valley College Civic Engagement Organization

October 2024 - Present

Vice President

- **Hosted events with local politicians speaking to the college's students**, including a former high school district board president and a San Jose city councilmember
- **Led the officer team to manage the club's day-to-day operations**: organized speaker events, conducted marketing and outreach, and coordinated logistics and finances

SJECCD Citizens Bond Oversight Committee

January 2025 - Present

Student body representative

- Served as the sole **representative** for approximately 20,000 students, **overseeing the spending of approx. \$1 billion** in bonds
- **Scrutinized expenditure** to ensure maximum benefit for the student body, working closely with independent auditors and various contractors and consultants to ensure efficient and effective use of funds
- Met quarterly with the entire committee, **scrutinizing the work** various auditors, contractors, district staff, and fellow board members to ensure effective use of funds, transparency & accountability, and ensure max. benefit to the students

New Voters

January 2025 - May 2025

Outreach team intern

- **Reached out** to 100+ high schoolers, teachers, and principals to establish partnerships with high schools **to run voter registration drives** at high schools, targeting communities with low voter turnout
- New voters is a non-partisan non-profit dedicated to increasing voter turnout amongst young adults

Growing up in San Jose, BART wasn't just a transit system to me—it was my bridge to opportunity. As a high school student from a working-class immigrant family, I didn't have a car, and I couldn't afford rideshares. But I had BART. It carried me to student advocacy events in Oakland, climate action rallies in Berkeley, and policy summits in San Francisco. It helped me find my voice, and now, as a college student still relying on public transit to access educational and civic opportunities, I want to give back by helping make that experience safer, fairer, and more inclusive for others.

My interest in serving on the TSAC comes from both personal experience and community leadership. I've seen how youth, especially youth of color, low-income students, and those struggling with mental health or housing instability, are often treated unfairly in public spaces, including on transit. I've worked closely with these communities through my roles in public health, civic engagement, and youth coalitions. I've testified before city councils, helped pass public safety ordinances, and advised county departments on equitable outreach strategies. But BART has a unique role in the lives of youth like me. It's not just about getting from Point A to Point B. For many of us, it's about getting to our futures.

I believe youth voices belong at the table when it comes to transit safety, especially when policies like prohibition orders are involved. We must ensure that enforcement doesn't come at the cost of compassion. I want to help BART identify better training for staff, support alternatives to exclusionary practices, and create systems that protect both riders and employees while respecting the dignity of everyone involved. I am committed to fair-minded, community-centered solutions, and I would be honored to bring my lived experience and leadership to the committee.