



## Memorandum

**DATE:** OCTOBER 24, 2022

**TO:** TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BOARD: COMMISSIONERS MANDELMAN (CHAIR), CHAN, DORSEY, MAR, MELGAR, PESKIN, PRESTON, RONEN, SAFAI, STEFANI, AND WALTON

**FROM:** TILLY CHANG – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** 10/25/2022 BOARD MEETING: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – INFORMATION

### REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

**US DOT Reconnecting Communities Grant - Fillmore/Geary Underpass Community Planning Study.** The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established a new US Department of Transportation (DOT) Reconnecting Communities Pilot discretionary grant program, funded with \$1 billion over the next five years. This is the first-ever Federal program dedicated to reconnecting communities that were previously harmed by transportation infrastructure. Together with District 5 Commissioner Dean Preston’s office, we submitted an application for \$2.5 million for the Fillmore/Geary Underpass Community Planning Study (Study). This 1-mile stretch of Geary, between Gough to Divisadero, was constructed in 1961 as an “urban renewal” expressway which widened Geary Boulevard, displaced Black, Asian, and Jewish communities, and created a division between the Japantown and Fillmore neighborhoods. The Study would reimagine how this space could be redesigned to re-connect the Western Addition and Japantown through transportation improvements and urban design/land use changes. The Study would also fund community organizations to join city agencies (Transportation Authority in collaboration with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and San Francisco Planning Department) in the planning process to define a vision for the corridor, develop solutions, and conduct evaluation of alternatives. The US DOT will announce grant recipients in 2023.

**SFMTA’s Bayview Multimodal Community Corridor Poised to Receive \$12 Million in Active Transportation Program (ATP) Funds:** I am happy to share that late last week California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff recommended \$12.325 million from the State’s ATP for the SFMTA’s Bayview Multimodal Community Corridor to improve pedestrian safety and access to community destinations on and immediately east of Third Street. The project stems from a robust community-based planning process which identified community-supported transportation improvements and brings direct safety and accessibility benefits to an Equity Priority Community. Specifically, the project includes traffic calming improvements and enhancements to the African American Arts & Cultural District with pedestrian-friendly spaces for gathering and unique street markings. It also includes education programs to support the community’s understanding of, and ability to take advantage of, the project and project evaluation.

This large ATP grant award was possible in part, by the unprecedented amount of funds that State was able to direct to the ATP program from the state budget surplus. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission is anticipated to share recommendations for its \$55 million Regional ATP in January 2023.



## LOCAL ISSUES

**Ocean Avenue Mobility Action Plan - Outreach Underway:** The Ocean Avenue Mobility Action Plan will prioritize and identify funding for transportation, pedestrian safety, bike safety, and traffic circulation improvements for the Ocean Avenue corridor between Junipero Serra Boulevard and San Jose Avenue. The project team is seeking input from the public to help prioritize the relative importance of concepts that have advanced from the previous round of outreach. The survey is available at [sfcta.org/oceanavesurvey](https://sfcta.org/oceanavesurvey) through October 28th. The Task Force for the project will review the different project concepts for consideration along with public input to identify up to three small projects and two large projects to be featured recommendations in the final report. The project is expected to be complete in early 2023. More information about the Action Plan is located on the project website at [www.sfcta.org/projects/ocean-avenue-mobility-action-plan](http://www.sfcta.org/projects/ocean-avenue-mobility-action-plan).

**Board of Supervisors Hearing - Taxi Upfront Fare Pilot Program and Prop D.** This month, at the request of Commissioner Chan, Transportation Authority staff participated in the San Francisco Board of Supervisors' Government Audit and Oversight Committee meeting to discuss Supervisor Chan's resolution to remove the Third Party Dispatch Pilot from the Taxi Upfront Fare Pilot Program. The SFMTA Taxi Upfront Fare Pilot Program contains two primary elements: an "Upfront Fare" component where riders can lock in an upfront fare based on an estimated taxi meter rate; and a "Third-Party Dispatch" component that allows trip requests from third-party entities (such as TNCs like Uber) to be transferred and dispatched to SF taxis. The overall Taxi Upfront Pilot Program goals include improving taxi customer service, increasing taxi trips, increasing taxi drivers' income, increasing the number of permitted taxi drivers, and ensuring consistent levels of service for traditional taxi services. Supervisor Chan's resolution urges SFMTA's Board to remove the Third Party Dispatch element from the pilot due to concerns about potential impacts including on data transparency, Prop D (Congestion Mitigation Tax) revenues, and undermining of SFMTA's taxi meter rate setting authority. Transportation Authority staff suggested that a robust evaluation program should inform any decision to continue the Pilot, and that timely data provision and transparency of metrics proposed by SFMTA staff will be critical to assessing these risks and changes in the numbers of taxi trips, driver fare income, and level of service for taxi users. The committee voted to continue the resolution.

## PROJECT DELIVERY

**Sales Tax Supports Road Safety Projects: SFMTA Advances Evans Avenue and Sansome/Battery Quickbuild Projects.** SFMTA is making progress on delivery of Quickbuild projects in the southeast and SoMA neighborhoods. On Evans Avenue SFMTA began construction of a westbound protected bikeway, lane reduction, pedestrian crossing improvements, daylighting, and transit stop enhancements this past August and SFMTA expects to be done this fall. In September 2022, the SFMTA Board approved the Sansome/Battery project, which will construct a two-way protected bikeway, lane reduction, turn restrictions, curb management, advanced limit lines, daylighting, and continental crosswalks. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2022.

**SFMTA Completes New Safety Improvements at Kearny/Jackson.** SFMTA has completed a pair of projects that will enhance pedestrian safety at the intersection of Kearny and Jackson streets. The completed work includes a pedestrian bulbout at the northwest corner of the intersection, which is part of the John Yehall Chin Safe Routes to School Project, as well as traffic signal upgrades to allow for



installation of a pedestrian scramble at Kearny and Jackson. The signal improvements were funded by the Prop K Neighborhood Program at the request of Vice Chair Peskin and the bulbout was funded through a combination of Prop K and regional funds.

## **MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Carl Holmes Joins as Deputy Director for Capital Projects** - I am delighted to announce the arrival of Carl Holmes, our new Deputy Director for Capital Projects. Carl joins us from BART, where he was the Assistant General Manager for Planning, Design, and Construction. At BART, he led a multibillion-dollar capital portfolio and managed over 100 employees across several departments, including Project Management, Planning, Bart Extensions, Property Development and Real Estate, Transit-Oriented Development and Energy & Sustainability. Prior to joining BART, Carl worked for a contractor and a start-up construction management firm. He is active member of Construction Management Association of America and is Chair of the Owners' Committee in the Northern California Chapter. Carl is also President-Elect of the Alumni Board of the California Maritime Academy, one of his Alma Matters, in addition to UC Berkeley. Welcome aboard Carl!

**Transportation Authority's Finance and Administration Division - Recipient of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.** The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to our agency for the fifth consecutive year by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The award was given for our work on the Transportation Authority's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2020/21 (the annual financial audit report). This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Congratulations to Deputy Director Cynthia Fong and the rest of the Finance Division staff!