



Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM 3

DATE: February 27, 2024

TO: Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Mandelman (Chair), Melgar (Vice Chair), Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton

FROM: Tilly Chang - Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2/27/2024 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report – **INFORMATION**

REGIONAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL ISSUES

The Portal Project Favorably Rated by Federal Transit Administration - Key Step in Seeking Multi-Billion Dollar CIG Grant.

Earlier this month, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) completed its formal evaluation of The Portal/Downtown Rail Extension project, resulting in a "Medium-High" rating for the project under requirements of FTA's Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program. This positive news sets the stage for the anticipated advancement of the project into the FTA "Engineering" phase of the CIG process, expected in the coming weeks. These milestones are a key outcome of the multi-agency work program of the past 3+ years, through which we have led or co-led work activities including ridership forecasting, funding plan, and governance strategy. In the coming months, the integrated project team will be working to support the lead agency, the Transbay Joint Powers Authority, in developing an updated schedule for the project, to secure remaining funding and advance procurement activities.

SFMTA Awarded \$8 Million Federal Safe Streets 4 All Grant for Tenderloin - Prop L to Provide Local Match.

We wanted to belatedly congratulate San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) on receiving an \$8 million Federal Safe Streets 4 All grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The grant will fund a suite of projects in the Tenderloin, where every street is on the High Injury Network. The projects include signal improvements and other intersection upgrades at 11 intersections on Larkin Street; street reconfiguration to make way for the Golden Gate Greenway; and bikeway protected corners at six intersections on Turk Street, Golden Gate Avenue, and Polk Street. Prop L will provide more than \$2 million in matching funds for this grant - a great example of how we stretch our sales tax dollars to deliver the full Prop L expenditure plan envisioned by the voters.

BART Ridership Satisfaction Survey -Customer Satisfaction Highest in Over a Decade.

BART's overall customer satisfaction rating in the most recent Passenger Experience Survey reached 81%. It is the first time since the 2012 Customer Satisfaction Survey that BART has



seen a Customer Satisfaction rate in the 80% range. BART conducts the Customer Satisfaction survey every other year and the next survey will be fielded in fall of 2024. This improvement in ratings comes as BART has advanced the implementation of its Safe and Clean Plan, which focuses on boosting the visible safety presence in the system and increasing staffing to clean trains and stations. In addition to directing sales tax and federal One Bay Area Grant funds for capital improvements such as new elevators, escalators, faregates, and other station improvements like the Powell Station Modernization Project, the Transportation Authority also supports BART elevator attendants who help keep the downtown station elevators clean and available for those who need them to access BART and Muni.

LOCAL ISSUES

Eco-Friendly Downtown Deliveries Study - First Working Group Meeting Held. Last week, we held the first meeting of the working group for the Eco-Friendly Downtown Deliveries Study. Funded by a Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance grant, the study will identify emission reduction strategies associated with goods movement in the city's downtown core. The study emerged through recommendations in San Francisco's 2021 Climate Action Plan which found that transportation activities account for 47% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions. The study centers around a working group of representatives from local businesses, particularly small- and mid-sized businesses located in Equity Priority Communities, and other shipping- and receiving-industry stakeholders. Potential strategies could include bike delivery programs, digital curb management, and delivery hubs to increase the efficiency of goods movement; incentivizing reductions in vehicle emissions; and promoting zero carbon modes. The Eco-Friendly Downtown Deliveries Study is being coordinated with the e-bike food delivery pilot program led by the San Francisco Environment Department, which recently received grant funding from the California Energy Commission to expand to provide more delivery workers with e-cargo bikes free of charge. We expect recommendations from the working group in summer 2024.

District 1 Multimodal Transportation Study - Outreach Survey Launches. Later on today's agenda, staff will provide an update on the District 1 Multimodal Transportation Study, which is engaging the community to refine and prioritize near-term strategies to improve street safety and shift trips to transit, walking, biking, or other non-driving options. The study is seeking feedback on several multimodal street safety improvement concepts to improve transit reliability and pedestrian and bicycle safety, as well as several mid-term concepts to support mode shift and reduce emissions for trips that start and end within District 1. An in-person Town Hall is scheduled for March 21, 2024, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Golden Gate Park Senior Center at 6101 Fulton Street. The survey and more information about the study are available at sfcta.org/D1-study.



Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants - Applications Submitted.

In January, we submitted two applications, one for each category within the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)'s Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants. A total of \$53.4 million is available for transportation planning projects statewide. Our application for the Bayview Street Safety and Truck Relief Study (\$450,000) will be considered in the Community Based Transportation Planning category. We also partnered with Metropolitan Transportation Commission to seek Strategic Partnership category funding for a future phase of technical and outreach work on U.S 101/I-280 Transit and Carpool Lanes (\$500,000). Both applications are recommendations from the San Francisco Transportation Plan 2050's Streets and Freeways Study.

PROJECT DELIVERY

19th Avenue Signals Phase III Update - Safety Project Substantially Complete. I am pleased to report SFMTA completed Phase III construction of four traffic signal upgrades along 19th Avenue at Moraga, Wawona, Sloat and Winston in January 2024. SFMTA is monitoring the new signal timing and will make adjustments as needed. SFMTA completed Phases I and II of the corridor-wide signal upgrade project in 2010. This project is part of Caltrans' and the City's joint signal project to upgrade traffic signal infrastructure along the corridor as part of the larger 19th Avenue Combined City Project. The upgrades bring improved traffic signal visibility and include pole relocations, signal head upgrades, pull-box replacements, and new traffic signal installations. This project is funded by the Transportation Authority's half-cent transportation sales tax.

Quick-Build Update - Sales Tax, Prop AA and TNC Tax Support Safety Improvements.

We are glad to see SFMTA continue to make progress on implementing quick-build safety projects. Construction began on **Lincoln Way** from the Great Highway to Arguello Boulevard in January and SFMTA expects to complete the work by spring. Improvements will include new crosswalks, painted safety zones, left turn safety treatments, intersection daylighting, signal lens upgrades, and signal retiming upgrades. SFMTA hosted a virtual open house for the **3rd Street Quick-Build Project** for proposed designs for a new two-way protected bikeway connection on 3rd Street between Townsend Street and the Bay Trail. The SFMTA recently completed final improvements to the **5th Street** corridor between Market and Townsend Streets. SFMTA installed new roadway striping and separated bike signals to allow for vehicle travel lane reductions and a fully protected bikeway for the entire length of the street. The capital changes include four transit boarding islands, a protected corner, and a series of curb ramps. The traffic improvements on 5th Street created a safer street for pedestrians and provide a major north-south bike connection for the South of Market neighborhood. These projects are funded by sales tax, Prop AA, and TNC Tax funds. Learn more at sfmta.com/vision-zero-quick-build-projects.



Alemany Blvd/Theresa Street Traffic Signal Activation Event - Sales Tax Funds Vision Zero Project.

I was pleased to join Commissioner Safai, SFMTA staff Dessin Young and Bryant Woo, as well as community members to activate a set of new signal at the intersection of Alemany Boulevard and Theresa Street on February 23. The new traffic signals address a high priority safety need reflected in a recent spate of right-angle collisions at the intersection and on this High Injury Network corridor. by The Transportation Authority's half cent sales tax program provided 75% of the funding for the signals, which were part of the SFMTA's Contract 65 New Traffic Signals project. Sadly, another fatal crash occurred just this past weekend at nearby Alemany and Rousseau, which is also slated to be signalized under Contract 65.

BART Fare Gate Prototypes Deployed at West Oakland - Next 8 Stations for Installation Include 4 in San Francisco.

We are happy to report that BART is making progress on their \$90 million systemwide fare gates project. BART installed prototypes for testing at the West Oakland station in late December, and on January 11, BART announced the next eight stations to receive the new fare gates, including Civic Center, Montgomery, Powell, and 24th Street stations in San Francisco. The new fare gates are taller and stronger with modern equipment and advanced sensors including the ability to detect strollers and luggage. They will improve reliability and reduce system downtime, improve the customer experience, and will be compatible with the next generation of Clipper when it becomes available. The Transportation Authority allocated \$12.5 million sales tax funds in October 2023 to support the installation of the next generation of fare gates in San Francisco's eight BART stations.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

New Director of Communications, Stephen Chun - Welcome Stephen! I am pleased to introduce Stephen Chun, our new Director of Communications. Stephen is a native of San Francisco and comes to us from SFMTA, where he served as (acting) Chief Spokesperson and Media Relations Manager. Prior to that, he was the lead Public Information Officer for Caltrans District 4 Bay Area's U.S. 101 Alemany Deck Replacement Project, which received the California Transportation Foundation award for Public Outreach Program of the Year for 2022. As a former traffic reporter with iHeart Radio, KCBS, and KSBW radio stations, Stephen has nearly a decade of experience in media relations, specifically in the transportation industry. We are delighted to welcome Stephen to the Transportation Authority!