



Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM 3

DATE: March 26, 2024
TO: Transportation Authority Board
FROM: Tilly Chang - Executive Director
SUBJECT: 3/26/2024 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report

FEDERAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL ISSUES

Biden Administration Budget Proposal Recommends The Portal for \$500 Million - Vote of Confidence from Federal Transit Administration as Project Advances.

On March 11, federal Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced a recommendation for \$500 million for The Portal/Downtown Extension, as part of President Biden's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request to Congress. This funding recommendation follows the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) formal rating of the project last month as "Medium-High" under the FTA Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program. In the coming weeks, the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) expects to hear formal notification from FTA of the project's advancement into the Engineering phase of the CIG process, at which time the FTA funding share will be established. The FTA funding recommendation strengthens our multi-agency advocacy for the commitment of state and other funds to secure this critical federal investment in the regional and statewide rail network.

Fiscal Year 2024 Federal Community Project Funding for San Francisco Projects - Leveraging Prop AA and Prop L Funds.

On March 9, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi announced Fiscal Year 2024 grant awards, including three San Francisco projects with which the Transportation Authority has been involved. The TJPA is receiving \$1 million for Wayfinding Improvements at the Salesforce Transit Center to help visitors navigate the transit hub's four floors, entrances, and exits. We previously allocated \$300,000 in Prop AA funds to improve reliability and functionality of the Transit Center's wayfinding system by replacing 100 media players at interactive and non-interactive kiosks. BART will receive \$3 million for the 16th Street Mission Station Elevator Modernization Project which will upgrade an elevator originally built in 1973. BART anticipates leveraging the earmark with future Prop L funds. Finally, the City and County of San Francisco is receiving \$500,000 for the Harvey Milk



Plaza/Castro Street Station Redesign which will reimagine the station area to provide new public and park space for the neighborhood, as well as improve functionality and accessibility of the Castro Muni Station. The Transportation Authority had previously provided a small amount of sales tax funding for Castro station planning. We thank Speaker Emerita Pelosi for her tireless advocacy to enhance San Francisco's transportation system.

Fillmore-Geary Underpass Community Planning Study - U.S. Department of Transportation Awards \$2 Million Reconnecting Communities Grant to SFCTA.

This month, we were very happy to receive a \$2 million grant award from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program for the Geary-Fillmore Underpass Community Planning Study. The project will develop transportation and land use concept designs to better connect the Japantown and Fillmore/Western Addition neighborhoods that were divided when the underpass was constructed in the 1960s. . The study will engage neighborhoods through a community-led outreach process to rethink the urban renewal-era Geary Expressway and re-imagine adjacent land uses by establishing a Community Council with representatives of the Black, Japanese, and Jewish communities that were displaced when the underpass was constructed, as well as with newer community members.

We thank Commissioner Preston for his leadership in supporting the application as well as over a dozen community groups and Speaker Emerita Pelosi who wrote letters of support for the application. We will bring a Prop L request for matching funds to the Board this summer and expect the study to launch summer 2024. In the meantime, we will be forming the Community Council to guide the project and support -community engagement efforts. Organizations in the study area who are interested in participating in this effort are encouraged to reach out to the project team at Geary-Fillmore@sfcta.org.

Press Conference for Senate Bill 1031 - The Connect Bay Area Act. I was delighted to join Senators Scott Wiener and Aisha Wahab at a press conference last Monday at Powell Station to launch Senate Bill (SB) 1031, the Connect Bay Area Act. SB 1031 merges two bills that were on our watch list SB 925 (Wiener) and SB 926 (Wahab), and authorizes a Bay Area ballot measure to provide transportation funding on the 2026 ballot or later. The bill requires operational reforms and a transit agency consolidation assessment beginning next year. We thank Senators Wiener and Wahab for their work to support Bay Area transportation, and we will continue to participate in ongoing discussions around bill language with the Metropolitan



Transportation Commission, Bay Area transit agencies, and other stakeholders. We anticipate bringing a position to the Board for consideration at its April 16 meeting ahead of Senate hearings that are scheduled later in the month.

Bikeshare Expansion in District 7 and Daly City BART - Funded by MTC Climate Initiatives Program. We are excited to hear that a new Baywheels bikeshare station was installed at the Daly City BART station last week and that six more locations are under consideration in District 7. We thank Vice Chair Melgar for her advocacy on these new stations, which were made possible with support from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's One Bay Area Grant Climate Initiatives funding. , The proposed New District 7 station locations will increase mobility and connectivity within the district and beyond, and include 15th Avenue at Portola Drive, Lakewood Avenue at Ocean Avenue, Junipero Serra Boulevard at Ocean Avenue, Cambon Drive at Castelo Avenue, Charles Avenue at Alemany Boulevard, and Vicente Street at West Portal Avenue.

LOCAL ISSUES

Press Conference for Curbside Electric Vehicle Charging Study - Pilot Planned to Start in 2025. Chief Deputy Director Maria Lombardo joined Chair Mandelman, in his role as a member of the Board of Supervisors, leaders from the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and San Francisco Environment Department (SFE), and community members at a press conference last week to announce the Curbside Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Citywide Assessment. The assessment is intended to develop a framework for a curbside EV charging pilot program and support installation of future curbside chargers as part of a pilot demonstration project in 2025 to help achieve the City's goal of installing over 5,000 public chargers by 2030. San Francisco currently has almost 1,200 public EV charging stations, and the Transportation Authority is actively working to fund more across the city. Last month, we announced the opening of two new fast EV charging stations located in Inner and Outer Richmond which were funded with \$200,000 from the Transportation Fund for Clean Air. The Transportation Authority will continue supporting SFMTA, SFE, and other agencies in developing the assessment and launching the pilot program.

Brotherhood Way Safety and Circulation Plan - First Community Working Group Meeting Held. We completed the first round of outreach in support of the Brotherhood Way Safety and Circulation Plan, concluding with the inaugural meeting of the plan's Community Working Group. The Working Group will meet



approximately quarterly to advise staff during each step of the study process. The first meeting included a review of the findings from the first round of outreach and focused on confirming study goals and clarifying transportation needs, barriers, and challenges along the Brotherhood Way and Alemany Boulevard corridors. This spring, we will use what we learn to develop three long-range concepts and accompanying quick-build proposals which address community needs. Learn more at sfcta.org/brotherhood.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Transportation Authority Joins Arbor Day/District 5 Tree Planting Celebration - Sales Tax Funds Contribute to Urban Forest. We were pleased to join San Francisco Public Works, Mayor Breed and Commissioner Preston on March 9 for District 5's Neighborhood Beautification Day to celebrate the planting of approximately 100 trees and highlighting the benefits of expanding the city's urban forest. The Transportation Authority has a long history of funding tree planting in the public right-of-way via the sales tax program. Since the inception of the prior sales tax program (Prop K) in 2003, we have provided \$22.8 million for planting, establishing, and maintaining trees. Prop L continues the tradition but focusing solely on tree planting and establishment, with the city taking over maintenance with Prop E approved by voters in 2016.

Quick-Build Update - Sales Tax and Transportation Network Company (TNC) Tax Support Safety Improvements. SFMTA continues to make progress on implementing quick-build safety projects. Construction began on **3rd Street** between Townsend Street and the Bay Trail, and SFMTA expects to complete the project in time for the start of the major league baseball season in late March at Oracle Park. Improvements include a new two-way protected bikeway on 3rd Street. On March 5, the SFMTA Board approved the **17th Street Quick-Build Project** between Portero and Pennsylvania streets. The project team is now preparing to start construction of upgraded bike facilities to add more protection to this well-used bicycling corridor. The SFMTA recently held a virtual open house for the **Beach Street Quick-Build Project** from the Embarcadero to Van Ness Street to solicit input on proposed street design changes to create more pedestrian safety and protected bike improvements in the Fisherman's Wharf area. These projects are funded by sales tax and TNC Tax funds allocated by the Transportation Authority. Learn more at SFMTA.com/QuickBuild.



SFMTA Procures 28 New Paratransit Vehicles - Sales Tax Funds Support Accessibility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. SFMTA has finished procuring 28 new paratransit vehicles to replace vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life. The new paratransit vehicles, which will be in service soon, each provide seating for up to 14 passengers and four wheelchair positions. Project benefits include improved passenger comfort, service reliability, and reduced maintenance costs. This project was funded by the Prop K transportation sales tax.

Junipero Serra Boulevard Pavement Renovation Substantially Completed - Sales Tax Supports Smoother Streets, Improved Curb Ramps, and New Sidewalk. San Francisco Public Works is wrapping up its Junipero Serra Boulevard Pavement Renovation project, funded with nearly \$4.5 million in Prop K sales tax dollars. The project included pavement renovation of 17 blocks on Junipero Serra Boulevard, from Monterey Boulevard to 19th Avenue, along with curb ramp reconstruction and retrofit, and new sidewalk construction. The project is open for use by the public while San Francisco Public Works and the contractor complete the final construction items, including minor reworking of some curb ramps.

BART Next Generation Fare Gate installed for Testing at Civic Center - Installation at Remaining San Francisco Stations Scheduled to Start This Summer. BART installed one new fare gate at the Civic Center station this past weekend. The new gate is still under the commissioning and system connection phase at the moment. In response to BART fare gate project public comment at the February 27 Transportation Authority Board meeting, Transportation Authority staff scheduled a field visit with the BART project manager at West Oakland station to observe pilot operation of the new fare gates and learn about their performance. BART indicated that troubleshooting, testing, and monitoring are still in progress and as part of an expansion of the fare gate pilot program. BART decided to add one gate at Civic Center station which was installed and began testing this past weekend. In October 2023, the Transportation Authority Board allocated \$12.5 million in Prop L funds for installation of new fare gates in all eight San Francisco Stations. BART anticipates installations starting this summer, beginning with Civic Center, Montgomery, Powell Street, and 24th Street stations.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Celebrating Women's History Month with Mineta Transportation Institute. I was honored to be interviewed for Women's History Month by the Mineta Transportation



Institute (“Trailblazer Tuesday” webinar). During the webinar, I shared the progress we are making in diversifying the Transportation Authority’s staff (62% of management and 55% of all staff identify as female) and advancing racial equity in our practices, including in our recruiting, planning, funding, and procurement activities. As of December 2023, 50% of management and 58% of all staff identify as persons of color.