



Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM 3

DATE: April 23, 2024

TO: Transportation Authority Board

FROM: Tilly Chang - Executive Director

SUBJECT: 4/23/24 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report – **INFORMATION**

FEDERAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL ISSUES

Caltrain Electrification Project Reaches Major Milestone - Electrified Trains

Tested on Millbrae to San Francisco Segment. On April 14, Caltrain ran electrified trains on the Millbrae to San Francisco segment of the Peninsula Corridor. This segment was the final part of the corridor to be tested with live trains. End-to-end runs of the entire corridor are planned for April 27, with two trains operating at the maximum allowable speed at 79 miles per hour. These tests represent major milestones as the project advances through the Testing and Commissioning phase ahead of the scheduled launch of passenger service this fall. On May 11, Caltrain will host an electric train tour event in San Carlos, with this public event also celebrating the railroad's 160th anniversary. More information may be found at caltrain.com/electric-train-tour. The Transportation Authority has contributed \$41 million in funding for Caltrain Modernization from San Francisco's half-cent sales tax for transportation and the One Bay Area Grant program.

Senate Bill 1031 Connect Bay Area Act - Amended Language Released Prior to April 23 Senate Hearing.

Amendments for Senate Bill 1031 (Wiener, Wahab) were made public on April 16 following this Board's adoption of a "Support and Seek Amendments" position. The amendments include revised language around transit agency consolidation, new language providing financial guardrails for transit operators related to regional network management, and a detailed revenue expenditure framework that ensures a minimum return to source of 70 percent to counties while still funding most or all of the region's transit operating shortfall depending upon the eventual size of the revenue measure. These amendments largely align with the staff recommendations provided at the April 16 meeting. The bill will be considered later today at the Senate Transportation Committee meeting and tomorrow at the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee meeting. We have



indicated the Transportation Authority's support and seek amendments positions to the authors and to the Senate Committees and we will continue to provide updates on the bill to the Board over the coming months. We thank Senators Wiener and Wahab for their leadership on this issue and we will continue working with their offices, MTC staff, our MTC representatives including Commissioner Ronen, and stakeholders to craft a bill that benefits the entire region.

Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Legislation - Assembly Bill (AB) 1777 (Ting) and AB 3061 (Haney) Advance with Transportation Authority Support. At the April 15 Assembly Transportation Committee hearing, Transportation Authority staff (Jean Paul Velez) testified in support of AB 3061 (Haney), which seeks to improve transparency and accountability of AV operations by closing critical gaps in data reporting to state regulators. The bill will have a second hearing at the Assembly Communications and Conveyance Committee on April 24 and staff will also attend that meeting to support the bill, while our advocate in Sacramento Mark Watts will provide public comment in support of SB 915 (Cortese) at the Senate Transportation Committee later today. At the April 22 Assembly Transportation Committee hearing, I joined SF Fire Deputy Chief Darius Luttrup as a witness in support of another AV-related bill, AB 1777 (Ting). San Francisco government officials and industry representatives have been collaborating on the development of this bill, which would enable citations for traffic code violations, ensure safe interactions with emergency responders, and increase transparency. We will track these AV bills as they proceed to Appropriations Committees in May.

LOCAL ISSUES

District 2 Safety Study - Outreach to Launch by End of Month. The District 2 Safety Study, requested by Commissioner Stefani, is underway and will launch its first round of outreach by the end of this month. The study, part of the sales tax-funded Neighborhood Program, is being led by the Transportation Authority in partnership with San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to design and implement quick-build treatments for six locations throughout the district that disproportionately serve vulnerable travelers, such as seniors and children. The purpose of this first outreach round is to collect community input to identify the specific locations to receive improvements. The study team will hold pop-up engagement events at libraries, schools, places of worship, medical facilities, and senior centers throughout the month of May, as well as meeting with community-



based organizations and hosting a Town Hall. As dates and times for events are finalized, they will be posted at sfcta.org.

Geary Boulevard Improvement Project - Survey Seeking Input on Community Enhancements. On April 17, SFMTA held an open house on the Geary Boulevard Improvement project to share proposals and seek feedback on community enhancements that would foster a sense of identity along the project corridor. Community members weighed in on design features such as sidewalk pavers, decorative concrete, street trees, and neighborhood identity markers. The survey focuses on locations where there is opportunity to coordinate with future construction work, including where the sidewalk is planned to be expanded at 38R Geary Rapid bus stop locations. To learn more about the proposals and provide feedback via SFMTA's Community Enhancement Survey, please visit www.sfmta.com/project-updates/geary-boulevard-improvement-project-community-enhancement.

AV Deployment - Zoox Begins Driverless Testing in San Francisco. Zoox, Inc. an AV provider owned by Amazon, has been authorized by the DMV to expand their driverless testing operations to specific areas in San Francisco. Zoox has tested AVs with safety drivers since 2016, and obtained authority to test driverless AVs in Foster City since September 2020. Under this new April 2024 permit, Zoox will be allowed to conduct driverless operations in San Francisco, initially in the South of Market neighborhood, with their bi-directional purpose-built AV. We are seeking additional details about the Zoox's full "operational design domain" or permitted operations for San Francisco, but media reports indicate this authorization is only for weekend daytime operations.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Upper Market Street Project Wins Award - Transportation Sales Tax Supports Complete Streets Project. I am pleased to share that the California State Association of Counties has recognized the Prop K sales tax-funded Upper Market Corridor Safety Improvements Project with a the "Local Streets and Roads Complete Streets Award" for the streetscape enhancements made along Market Street between Octavia Boulevard and Castro Street. The project delivered numerous upgrades, including 31 new curb ramps, decorative crosswalks, high-visibility traffic signals, and new bike racks. Other noteworthy improvements include widened sidewalks, bulb-outs for pedestrian safety, and expanded Muni boarding islands with decorative railing. Collaboration was instrumental in this achievement, with contributions from San Francisco Public Works, SFMTA, the Transportation Authority, and other key



stakeholders. This successful partnership underscores San Francisco's commitment to creating safer, more accessible streets for all.

Richmond Residential Streets Pavement Renovation - Substantial Project Completion. I am excited to share that Public Works (SFPW) has wrapped up construction on the Prop AA-funded Richmond Residential Streets Pavement Renovation project. The project included pavement renovation of 18 blocks of residential streets throughout the Richmond, along with curb ramp construction and retrofit and new sidewalk construction. SFPW expects the project to be fully completed in the next few weeks. The Transportation Authority provided \$2 million in Prop AA vehicle registration fee funds toward the delivery of this project.

Quick-Build and MuniForward Update - Prop K Sales Tax and TNC Tax Support Safety Improvements. SFMTA continues to make progress on implementing quick-build safety projects at various locations citywide. The **Lincoln Way Quick-Build Project** (from Great Highway to Arguello Boulevard) reached substantial completion this month, bringing pedestrian safety treatments to nearly three miles of roadway alongside Golden Gate Park. Safety improvements include new crosswalks, painted safety zones, left turn safety treatments, daylighting, and refreshed bus stops. The **17th Street Quick-Build Project** (from Potrero Avenue to Pennsylvania Avenue) is scheduled to begin construction at the end of the month. This project will include upgrades such as a protected bikeway, daylighting, painted safety zones, and curb management. Last month, the SFMTA Board approved red lanes for the **K Ingleside light rail route**. This project will advance recommendations of the District 7 Ocean Avenue Mobility Action Plan, including extending transit islands and adding a transit lane (Junipero Serra to Lee), pedestrian bulbs, and pedestrian rapid flashing beacons. These projects are funded by sales tax and TNC Tax funds. Learn more at [SFMTA.com/QuickBuild](https://sfmta.com/QuickBuild).

Salesforce Transit Center Wayfinding Phase 1 - Replacement Work Started. This month Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) will start to replace media players at kiosks throughout the Salesforce Transit Center. The number of media players that will be replaced has increased from 100 to 200, based on the final low bidder. This work will greatly enhance the digital wayfinding at the Transit Center by improving the reliability and functionality of the wayfinding system and improving the commuter and visitor experiences by connecting them to their transit connections and to the public open space at the center's rooftop park. The Transportation Authority funded this project was funded with Prop AA vehicle registration fees.



MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Girls in Motion Spring 2024 Summit - Transportation Authority Hosts Event with ACEC and WTS.

Last week the Transportation Authority welcomed middle and high school students from San Francisco and the East Bay to the second “Girls in Motion” Spring 2024 Summit, an annual event introducing girls to careers in transportation. The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), California Bay Chapter and the Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS), San Francisco Bay Chapter organized the event to empower students to pursue careers in transportation as well as share scholarship and internship opportunities. The event featured several panel discussions, including insights at the executive level and career tracks in Engineering and Architecture, Program and Construction Management, and Planning and Community Engagement. During the hands-on team activity, students designed multi-modal intersections in teams and with professional mentors. Thank you to ACEC and WTS for organizing this special event, and to our many partners for your contributions and for helping to develop the next generation of transportation leaders.