



Memorandum

Date: 09.23.14

RE: Authority Board
September 23, 2014

To: Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Avalos (Chair), Wiener (Vice Chair), Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang and Yee

From: Tilly Chang – Executive Director 

Subject: **INFORMATION** – Executive Director's Report

REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

Federal Grant Awarded for Transit Analysis Tool – Collaboration with Puget Sound Regional Council and MTC: The Transportation Authority recently succeeded in winning a \$700,000 grant to support the development of better tools to analyze transit performance. This innovative grant is a partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and the Puget Sound Regional Council (the MTC equivalent for the Seattle region) to jointly develop this open-source tool with pooled resources and expertise. The tool, which was successfully tested at the Transportation Authority in Summer 2012, will provide transit planners with unique abilities to analyze transit reliability and crowding. The grant is part of the second Strategic Highway Research Program and is being administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

Transit Core Capacity Study Receives \$1 million Federal TIGER Planning Grant: I am delighted to report that the Bay Area Transit Core Capacity Study will receive \$1 million in funds from the highly competitive federal TIGER Planning grant program. I understand that this was the only TIGER grant awarded in the Bay Area this round. The Study will be led by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in partnership with the Transportation Authority, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), BART, and AC Transit. The transit system planning effort, identified as a high priority need in Plan Bay Area and the San Francisco Transportation Plan, will prioritize short- medium- and long-term strategies to accommodate the high levels of transit demand in the Transbay Corridor and the Muni Metro rail network. The prioritized projects will be identified in time to be reflected in the 2017 Regional Transportation Plan. The federal TIGER funds will leverage another \$1 million in local match from the partner agencies, including a contribution from Prop K that is the subject of a separate agenda item on today's Board agenda.

Assembly Bill (AB) 141 (Ammiano) Signed into Law – TIMMA Established as a New Agency: Following on the heels of the Board of Supervisors' designation of the Transportation Authority as the Treasure Island Mobility Management Agency (TIMMA), we sought help from our Sacramento delegation to establish TIMMA as a separate legal entity, in order to firewall our role as TIMMA from the Transportation Authority's everyday operations and resources, particular the voter-approved Prop K and Prop AA programs. We are delighted to announce that on September 19, Governor Brown signed AB 141 (Ammiano) into law, establishing TIMMA as a separate legal entity. As an urgency bill, it went into effect immediately which means you, as members of the Transportation Authority Board of Commissioners, have a new role as the Board of the new TIMMA. I would like to thank Assemblymember Ammiano and his staff as well as Mark Watts, our state legislative advocate, for all their hard work moving this bill through the legislative process. We will be working over the next few months to put the policies and procedures into

place to establish a new agency. We anticipate bringing key documents such as the administrative code, finance and procurement policies to the Board for approval before the end of the year.

California Cap and Trade – Comments Submitted Regarding the Definition of Disadvantaged Communities (DACs): By the September 15 deadline we submitted comments to the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and the California Air Resources Board (ARB) regarding 1) the State’s definition of what constitutes a DAC for the purposes of cap and trade revenue distribution and 2) what range of projects are defined as benefiting a DAC. These definitions are important because significant portions of cap and trade revenues (up to 50%) are prioritized for projects within or benefiting DACs. We have been working closely with the Mayor’s Office, MTC, the Air District, and the other Congestion Management Agencies on an advocacy strategy since CalEPA’s proposed definitions are not favorable to urban areas and in particular the Bay Area. In San Francisco, for instance, Bayview Hunters Point is excluded from consideration even though it is clearly a vulnerable community with respect to both social and environmental factors. We will keep you updated on any progress in changing the proposed definitions and guidelines resulting from our advocacy.

California Transportation Commission (CTC) Workshop – Road User Charges: On August 19 I attended a joint meeting of the CTC and the Washington State Transportation Commission. The main topic of discussion was road user charges, a concept where drivers are charged per mile traveled to better link the impacts of road usage to fees to mitigate them. Road user charges are increasingly being discussed by policymakers as a more equitable revenue option to help replace or complement fuel taxes and fees, which have not kept pace with costs, in part due to increases in fuel efficiency. The list of speakers included representatives from the Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation which shared their experience with pilot projects and legislative initiatives. State legislation was proposed this year to authorize Caltrans and the CTC to design and implement a pilot in California, so we will keep an eye on this topic as it gains momentum in Sacramento, as well as in Washington, D.C.

Governor Signs Three Feet for Safety Act – Improving Safety for Cyclists: Governor Brown very recently signed SB 1183 (DeSaulnier), approving the Three Feet for Safety Act, allowing California to join nearly 25 other states that have similar laws protecting cyclists. As of September 16, California drivers must maintain a distance of at least three feet when passing bicyclists. If a driver is not able to pass without granting three feet clearance due to roadway or traffic conditions, she or he must slow to a “reasonable and prudent” speed and pass only when safe. Violators can be fined \$35 for passing within three feet of bicyclists, and fined \$220 if a bicyclist is injured as a result of a violation of this law.

LOCAL ISSUES

Late Night Transportation Working Group-Survey Launched, Next Working Group Meeting on September 24: Since June, we have been supporting the Late Night Transportation Working group, led by the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) and the Entertainment Commission. As a part of the efforts Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment tasks, we’ve launched a survey to learn more about the needs and concerns of workers, visitors and others who travel in San Francisco during the late night and early morning hours, and to hear ideas and suggestions for improving conditions. The survey is available online at <http://nightlifesf.org/take-our-survey-about-late-night-and-early-morning-transportation/> (also available in Chinese, Spanish, and in paper format) and will be open until October 5. All respondents will be entered into a drawing to win one of three Clipper transit cards worth \$50. Interim survey results, as well as other draft findings from the effort’s Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment tasks will be presented at the next Working Group meeting on September 24, 3-4:30pm in City Hall Room 278. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact Ben Van Houten of OEWD at ben.vanhouten@sfgov.org or 415.554.7038.

Potrero Hill Neighborhood Transportation Plan - Pedestrian Safety Designs Advance, Lighting Project Receives Funding Recommendation: Over the last several months, the project team has developed a series of pedestrian safety improvements at five intersections throughout the Potrero Terrace and Annex public housing sites. The goal is to implement these safety and place-making projects in the near term to benefit residents ahead of the permanent site redevelopment as part of the Rebuild Potrero project. The Transportation Authority has added Fletcher Studio (designers of temporary improvements under construction in Persia Triangle) to the project team and is working with the interagency Pavement to Parks program to create designs that do not require significant infrastructure – and therefore would be quick and low cost to implement. In support of these improvements, the team met with community members on multiple occasions throughout the last month, and partner BRIDGE Housing will apply for a Community Challenge Grant through the City Administrator's Office to help fund capital and ongoing maintenance costs. The project also identified the need for lighting behind the Potrero Hill Recreation Center along the routes of the successful Walking School Bus. Last week, the Eastern Neighborhood Citizens Advisory Committee voted to recommend a list of Recreation and Parks Improvements to be funded through developer impact fees that included this lighting project. The funds are programmed for the current fiscal year, and the hope is to implement the project in a timely manner. For more information, contact Senior Transportation Planner Michael Schwartz, michael.schwartz@sfcta.org, 415-522-4823, www.sfcta.org/potrero.

Chinatown Neighborhood Transportation Plan - Outreach Meeting Held: On August 6, Transportation Authority staff and the Chinatown Community Development Center hosted a community meeting on the Chinatown Neighborhood Transportation Plan. At the meeting students from the Chinatown Urban Institute's Urban Fellows program presented results from their analysis of issues at three intersections along Kearny Street and highlighted conflicts between pedestrians and turning vehicles as well as inadequate crossing times for senior citizens. The group also provided input into a prioritization scheme that will be used as part of the study to evaluate various approaches to reducing traffic volumes on Broadway, another community priority. We expect to share the analysis results with the community in October. For more information, contact Senior Planner Ryan Greene-Roesel, ryan.greene-roesel@sfcta.org, 415-522-4808.

Geneva-Harney Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study - Upcoming Public Workshops and Community Roadshow: The Geneva-Harney Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Feasibility Study will hold two public workshops and present to community groups in late October. To request a community meeting, neighborhood and community organizations are invited to request a presentation from the Geneva-Harney BRT team. At the community workshops, we will introduce BRT concepts for the study corridor for public review, including potential alignments and design alternatives. Workshops will be held at Bret Harte Elementary School on Thursday, October 23 from 6pm to 8pm, and at Bayshore Community Center in Daly City on Saturday, October 25 from 11am-1pm. Following public feedback on these concepts, the Study team will focus on analysis and evaluation to be shared at a subsequent round of outreach at the beginning of next year. For more information, contact Sarah Fine at Sarah.Fine@sfcta.org or genevabrt@sfcta.org.

Treasure Island Mobility Management Study - Resident and Visitor Transportation Survey: This month, the TIMMA team is conducting a survey of Treasure Island residents and visitors about their transportation patterns on and off the Island. This survey is meant to help the Study team better understand current mode choices, identify transportation issues residents currently face, and gain a sense of what additional transportation choices residents might support in the future. In late September, trained surveyors will conduct door-to-door surveys on the Island to reach as many residents and employees as possible, including Spanish and Chinese speakers. Additionally, surveyors will be available on Tuesday afternoons in September at the Treasure Island Food Pantry in the Shipshape Building. All who complete the

survey are eligible to win \$25 in Clipper cash. The survey, also in Spanish and Chinese, is available online at www.timma.org. Survey results will help shape the policies of the Treasure Island Mobility Management Program, currently under development. We will bring an update on policy development to the Plans and Programs Committee in October. For more information contact Rachel Hiatt, Principal Transportation Planner, at rachel.hiatt@sfcta.org

Caltrain to Collect Public Feedback on New Electric Trains

There is an outreach meeting happening on Monday, September 29, 7:00 PM at Mountain View City Hall, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, CA 94041. Caltrain is asking the public to provide feedback and input on design details of its future fleet of Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) trains. These vehicles will determine the operational capacity and flexibility of future blended Caltrain-High Speed Rail service between the Transbay Terminal and Southbay.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Mayor Signs Muni Light-Rail Vehicle (LRV) Contract – Prop K to Provide Critical Local Match Support for Contract:

Last Friday, I was pleased to join Commissioner Breed and others attending the ceremonial signing of SFMTA's LRV contract by Mayor Lee. As Director Reiskin noted at the signing, this may just be the largest LRV procurement in the nation and is one of SFMTA's largest contracts ever. Earlier this month, the Board of Supervisors passed Commissioner Breed's legislation to approve the \$1.2 billion contract to procure up to 260 new Muni LRVs to replace and expand the Muni rail fleet over the next 25 years. We congratulate SFMTA Director Reiskin and head of Muni Transit Operations John Haley on this significant accomplishment. I would also like to thank Maria Lombardo and Anna LaForte who lead our Policy and Programming Division for working closely with SFMTA finance staff to take advantage of the flexibility of Prop K to support SFMTA's need to certify portions of the base contract (which includes the 24 Central Subway and 151 replacement LRVs) as soon as possible. We expect to bring a Strategic Plan amendment and allocation of Prop K funds in October 2014 to make this happen. The allocation is estimated to be over \$130 million and would be the largest single Prop K allocation made to date.

I-280 Hinge Replacement – Kudos to Caltrans for a Job Well Done: On behalf of the Transportation Authority, I'd like to thank Caltrans District 4 for a smooth implementation of the recent seismic retrofit of northbound Interstate 280 in San Francisco, and to recognize the project team's effort to minimize impact to our visitors and residents during the Labor Day holiday week-end. Thanks to the Caltrans project manager, Joon Kang and Public Information Officer, Steve Williams, the replacement of the two large sections of the roadway and the associated hinges during the Memorial Day, Fourth of July and the Labor day weekends were accomplished within schedule and without any incidents. The seismic retrofit of this segment of the I-280 is now complete. The lessons learned from the previous week-end closures helped the team accomplish a more aggressive scope of work for the same time frame. This was achieved through a comprehensive outreach effort to residents and motoring public to minimize construction interruptions and delays during the intense work program scheduled for the Labor Day week-end. We applaud our partners at Caltrans and California Highway Patrol for their great team work and effective regional coordination with other transit providers and agencies to ensure access to the City of San Francisco during I-280 Closure.

Folsom Off-Ramp Reconstruction and Closure Commences: Early this morning, our Folsom Street Off-Ramp Project commenced, closing the Folsom leg of the Folsom-Fremont I-80 Off-ramp and establishing two alternate routes via Fremont Street and Harrison Street ramps. The portion of the Fremont and Folsom Street Off-Ramp from westbound Interstate 80 leading to Folsom Street will be closed for approximately 6 months through March 2015. The ramp leading to northbound Fremont Street will

remain open throughout construction. Led by Project Manager and Senior Engineer Liz Rutman, we are reconstructing the Folsom Street ramp on behalf of the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure, the Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency (OCII). The purpose of the project is to improve pedestrian access and safety at the base of the ramp and to increase the developable area of the Folsom/Fremont parcel within the Transbay Redevelopment Project Area. I'd like to recognize Liz Rutman and Eric Young, our new Senior Communications Officer, for an outstanding job getting the word out via the media and other means. The ramp closure/detour flier that was distributed to motorists and others is attached for your reference. For more information, visit <http://www.sfcta.org/folsom-street-offramp-realignment-project>.

Bay Area Climate Initiative Program - Electric Vehicles Now Available for Car Sharing: In 2011, the Transportation Authority became the fiscal sponsor for City CarShare's eFleet project to pass through federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement funds to City CarShare, the Bay Area's only non-profit carsharing organization. Since then, we have been working closely with City CarShare, MTC, and Caltrans to administer this innovative project to increase the availability of electric cars through vehicle purchase and intensified marketing activities. After many years of work, we congratulate City CarShare on the arrival of their Ford C-MAX Energi Plug-in Hybrids— "super fuel-efficient, stylish... with lots of bells and whistles" as advertised in City CarShare's latest newsletter. I'd like to recognize Seon Joo Kim and Lily Yu of our staff, who with the support of funding partners at MTC and Caltrans and James O'Brian of our project management oversight consultant team, demonstrated incredible persistence and creativity while helping City CarShare to negotiate through the challenging task of securing federal funds for this non-traditional project.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Enterprise Resource Planning System Implemented – System Goes Live on Schedule: On September 19, 2014 the Transportation Authority went "live" with its new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012, a business management software that allows the use of a system of integrated applications to manage all facets of financial management and operational oversight. The ERP system enhances strategic decision making, reporting and forecasting, streamline access to relevant information and processes, reduce redundant data entry, and allows the Transportation Authority's accounts payable process to go paperless, in addition to many other benefits. The implementation was completed on-time and on an abbreviated schedule as compared to others entities similar in complexity and size to the Transportation Authority. I would be remiss if I didn't recognize our Deputy Director for Finance and Administration, Cynthia Fong, ERP Project Manager, Kalman Hui, ERP Implementation Team Members: Lily Yu, Bob Masys, and Kelley Beauchamp, and Tyler Technologies, Inc. who all played a major role in the success of the implementation. To all of them a heartfelt "thank you!"

Staff Transition – Elizabeth Sall Headed North: At the end of September, we will say goodbye to Elizabeth Sall, Deputy Director for Technology, Data, and Analysis. Elizabeth has served the Transportation Authority for over six years and is heading north to Seattle for a family move. During her tenure as Deputy Director, she has helped the city stay on the forefront of travel analysis technology and has been an integral and much appreciated member of the Transportation Authority's management team. Elizabeth led three major-release upgrades for SF-CHAMP, San Francisco's activity-based travel demand model, secured a federal grant for and managed the creation of the citywide dynamic traffic assignment model, published dozens of papers in peer-reviewed journals and conferences, served on national research panels, and locally led the Bay Area Regional Model Working group. She successfully cultivated relationships with local, regional, state, and national agency partners, highlighted by her role as a technical expert in SB743 implementation. Elizabeth is also a passionate educator and spends many

hours of her own time lecturing, mentoring and guiding student research. We wish Elizabeth the best in whatever she chooses to do next.

Welcome, Eric Youg – First Senior Communications Officer Hired and Hits the Ground Running: Please join me in welcoming our new Senior Communications Officer – Eric Young - to the Transportation Authority! Eric is a veteran journalist, with over 20 years of news media experience, reporting for the LA Times, Sacramento Bee, Industry Standard and, for the past 12 years, the San Francisco Business Times. At the Business Times, Eric covered transportation, economic development, government, law and the business of sports for the San Francisco Business Times. Eric is excited to join our team and to help us advance our mission. I can attest that Eric has literally hit the ground running, already contributing to expanded and improved communications for projects from the Folsom Off-Ramp Closure to the Quint Street Connector Road to Muni's LRV procurement contract.