



Memorandum

Date: 3.19.19

RE: Board
March 19, 2019

To: Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Peskin (Chair), Mandelman (Vice Chair), Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mar, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton, and Yee

From: Tilly Chang – Executive Director 

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

REGIONAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL ISSUES

Metropolitan Transportation Commission – Executive Director Therese McMillan Testifies to Congress:

We are pleased to welcome Therese McMillan back to the Bay Area as the new Executive Director for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), succeeding Steve Heminger who retired last month. Ms. McMillan previously served as MTC's deputy executive director prior to her appointment by President Obama to serve as deputy administrator of the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) for the U.S. Department of Transportation in 2009. She has already hit the ground running, testifying in front of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on the Administration's proposed FY20 budget and importance of an increase in federal investment in transit, in particular in the nation's metropolitan areas, in the upcoming reauthorization of the federal transportation bill. We look forward to working closely with Ms. McMillan, our local partners, and other advocacy organizations to seek additional federal transportation revenues and advance San Francisco's transportation priorities at the regional, state, and federal levels.

MTC's Horizon Planning - Public Event in San Bruno Tonight: As part of their Horizon planning effort, MTC is currently developing regional policies and strategies that may potentially be included in their upcoming regional transportation plan update, Plan Bay Area 2050. Transportation Authority staff, along with representatives from the SFMTA, SF Planning, other transit operators and regional advocates, attended a workshop last week to help identify strategies to be tested in MTC's scenario planning process. MTC is holding a series of public events on this topic, including one tonight in San Bruno at the Tanforan Mall from 6-8 PM. Members of the public are invited to provide additional comments on MTC's website, www.vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov/horizon. We anticipate providing an update to the Board and CAC in April on the Horizon and Plan Bay Area 2050 efforts.

Groundbreaking Held for San Mateo 101 Express Lanes – 22 miles of Express Lanes Will Extend North to I-380:

On March 8th, the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, the City and County Association of Governments of San Mateo, and Caltrans held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the beginning of construction of 22 miles of express lanes on U.S. 101 from Whipple Avenue in Redwood City to Interstate 380. The project – which expands highway lane capacity by 1 lane in each direction – encourages carpooling and transit use. Carpools of three or more persons and transit will always be free in the express lanes, and if there is sufficient remaining space, solo drivers can choose to pay a fee using Fastrak. The money collected can be used to finance local transportation projects. The project will cost \$567 million and received \$255 million in Senate Bill 1 Solutions for Congested Corridors funding, as well as \$50 million in funding from the private sector.

Climate Emergency Declaration - City Prepares to Respond to Call for Action: Yesterday, the Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee approved a resolution to officially declare a climate emergency and directed the City's Department of the Environment to produce a report on immediate actions for the City to take to reduce carbon emissions. We have been working over the past year with other city departments to identify strategies to accelerate deployment of electric vehicles and infrastructure, in addition to our everyday efforts to support low-carbon, zero-emissions modes of travel. Amber Crabbe, Public Policy Manager, will engage with the Department of the Environment and other city agencies to lend our support to the development of the near-term actions to combat climate change and its impacts on San Francisco. We will also ensure that San Francisco's long-range transportation planning efforts including ConnectSF and the San Francisco Transportation Plan help set the City on path to achieve its climate goals.

LOCAL ISSUES

Vision Zero - Vision Zero Committee Meets and Reaffirms Goals, Urges Accelerated and Enhanced Efforts: The Vision Zero Committee met on March 14th to hear the 2018 fatality report, the report on 2019 fatalities to date, communications and education campaign updates, and the newly released 2019 Action Strategy. The meeting followed a tragic spate of 8 traffic related fatalities. Commissioner Fewer joined the meeting and called on the city to be more proactive, particularly on California Street, in addition to adding more enforcement, traffic signals and paving improvements in District 1. The committee members, Chair Yee and Commissioners Stefani and Peskin also spoke about the necessity of additional enforcement and educating the public on how to drive safely in San Francisco. We are working with our partners to make necessary changes and will continue to help fund safety projects throughout the city to reach our Vision Zero goals.

Transportation Authority Joins SF Chamber City Hall Advocacy Day: I was pleased to join SFMTA Director Gwyneth Borden and the Bay Area Council's Gwen Litvak in a Transportation and Infrastructure session at the SF Chamber's City Hall Advocacy Day last week. We dialogued with the business community about transit core capacity, Downtown Rail extension for Caltrain and the importance of High Speed Rail, as well as congestion management strategies, including pricing and parking/curb management, particularly for deliveries.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Better Market Street - Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) Released: On February 27th, the San Francisco Planning Department published the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Better Market Street Project. The Better Market Street Project proposes improvements to 2.2 miles of Market Street, from Octavia Street to The Embarcadero, replacing and upgrading Market Street's aging infrastructure including streetlights, traffic signals, streetcar tracks, pavement, overhead wires and underground utilities. The project also proposes to create a new, fully separated cycletrack for the length of the project, and brings the sidewalk and Muni boarding islands up to compliance with modern ADA accessibility standards. The DEIR shows significant improvements to transit travel times on Market Street (up to 5 minutes on some routes), but also notes unavoidable impacts related to the permanent removal of the current landscape of Market Street and temporary but unavoidable impacts related to construction of the project. The Planning Department is accepting public comments on the DEIR through 5:00pm on April 15, 2019, and will hold a public hearing on the DEIR at the Planning Commission on April 4. A link to review the DEIR and submit comments can be found online at

<http://www.bettermarketstreetsf.org>. Cristina C. Olea, SFDPW's project manager, will present an update on the project to the Transportation Authority Board at our April 9 meeting.

Geary Rapid Project - San Francisco Breaks Ground on Geary: The Geary Rapid Project aims to improve one of San Francisco's busiest corridors, from Market to Stanyan streets, with much-needed safety improvements and more reliable bus service for the 54,000 daily customers who ride the 38 Geary and 38R Geary Rapid. On March 6, I was pleased to join Mayor Breed, Commissioner Brown, Director Reiskin, staff from the SFMTA, other city agencies, community representatives, and advocates to an event at the Buchanan YMCA to celebrate the project's groundbreaking. The approved changes on Geary and O'Farrell between Stanyan and Market streets include transit-only lanes, traffic signal upgrades, roadway repaving, new crosswalks and sidewalk extensions, improvements for cyclists crossing Geary, and more. The Transportation Authority has directed over \$12 million to this project to date. We look forward to delivering the full project together. Learn more at <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/geary-rapid-project>

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

DBE/LBE Opportunity Overview and Networking Event – Connecting the Business Community: On March 13, we hosted approximately 50 attendees from 50 companies and agencies at our annual Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Local Business Enterprise (LBE) Upcoming Opportunity Overview and Networking Event. This event brought together DBE/LBE firms with prime consultants and contractors to learn about upcoming contract opportunities with the Transportation Authority, Treasure Island Mobility Management Agency, Port of San Francisco, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco Public Works, and Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District in the fields of construction and professional services. Following the presentation, prime consultants and subconsultants discussed projects with staff from the various agencies as well as networked with other firms. Firms provided positive and helpful feedback to inform next year's event and we will continue our efforts to encourage participation and collaboration of small and large firms. For more information, visit: www.sfcta.org/contracting.