



Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM 3

DATE: July 28, 2020
TO: Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Peskin (Chair), Mandelman (Vice Chair) Fewer, Haney, Mar, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton, and Yee
FROM: Tilly Chang - Executive Director
SUBJECT: 7/28/2020 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report – **INFORMATION**

REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

Assembly & Senate Leaders Unveil Joint \$100 Billion Economic Stimulus Plan: This week, Assemblymember Phil Ting announced with fellow lawmakers a joint proposal for a \$100 billion stimulus plan to help support those most impacted by COVID and spur job creation to aid economic recovery. The stimulus plan aims to raise \$100 billion through a new tax voucher program and the acceleration of other existing revenue streams and would not raise taxes. Among other measures the plan would accelerate SB1 state transportation and state cap and trade funds for transportation maintenance and operations projects, green infrastructure and clean vehicle programs. We will monitor this program and coordinate San Francisco's input to the stimulus plan priorities.

State Housing Development Grant Awards - Five San Francisco Projects Receive over \$130 Million for Affordable Housing and Infrastructure: In June, San Francisco received \$80 million from the California Strategic Growth Council's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant program for the Balboa Park Upper Yard (\$30 million), 266 4th Street (\$20 million) and HOPE SF Potrero (\$30 million) projects. These grants fund affordable housing and related infrastructure that achieves greenhouse gas emission reductions. These awards went to. In other good news, the California Department of Housing and Community Development also announced \$195 million in awards for its Infill Infrastructure Grant (IIG) Program for large jurisdictions, including funds for the Balboa Park Upper Yard (\$3.5 million) and HOPE SF Potrero (\$11.7 million) projects, the Sunnydale HOPE SF project (\$6.5 million) and the Treasure Island Development (\$30 million for Hillcrest road and pedestrian/bicycle path improvements). Congratulations to all the recipients.

Clipper START - Regional Means-based Fare Program Kicked Off on July 15: Last week marked the start of the Clipper START program, an 18-month pilot that aims to reduce transportation costs for low-income Bay Area residents. Clipper START gives adult transit riders in households with incomes no more than twice the federal poverty level a discount on single-trip transit fares, via Clipper, on BART, Caltrain, Muni, and certain Golden Gate Transit and ferry routes. This is provided in addition to Muni's existing Lifeline transit pass, which is a discounted Muni-only monthly pass for qualified San Francisco residents. We look forward to reporting back on how the pilot program is performing.

Plan Bay Area (PBA) 2050 - MTC Approves San Francisco's Regionally Significant Projects for Inclusion in the Plan. On July 22, the MTC Commission approved draft recommendations for projects to include in Plan Bay Area 2050, and we are happy to report that all of San Francisco's



priority regionally-significant projects have been recommended for the Plan, and to be included in the first half of the plan period which positions us well to be competitive for state and federal funding sources. This is particularly important for the Downtown Caltrain Extension, which was originally recommended for the second half of the plan, but thanks to the coordinated efforts of our MTC Commissioners, our Chair and the Mayor, our staff team with the Transbay Joint Powers Authority and Caltrain staff, as well as support from our state and federal representatives and transit advocates, we were able to get MTC to bring the project forward to the first period of the Plan, and maintain its priority for state and Federal funds. MTC and ABAG will be hosting a webinar tomorrow evening specifically targeting for San Francisco stakeholders to solicit feedback on the findings to date. For more information and to sign up for the webinar please visit planbayarea.org.

Regional Measure 3 (RM3) - Bridge Tolls Clear Legal Hurdle at State Court of Appeal: On June 29 the State Court of Appeal affirmed findings from the San Francisco Superior Court in 2019, dismissing challenges to the RM3 bridge toll increase. RM3, approved by 55% of voters in June 2018, increased tolls on the region's state-owned toll bridges (all but the Golden Gate Bridge) by \$1 at the start of 2019 and will increase tolls by another dollar in 2022 and by a third dollar in 2025. The Howard Jarvis Association has indicated that they are still considering an additional petition to the state Supreme Court. The increased toll revenues continue to be held in escrow until all legal hurdles are resolved. We will continue to track RM3, which funds several important projects in San Francisco including Muni Fleet and Facilities and the Downtown Caltrain Extension.

Caltrain Considers Potential 1/8-cent sales tax - Key Agency Actions to Take Place This Week: As reported last month and in my prior reports, Senate Bill (SB) 797 gave Caltrain the authority to place a 1/8-cent sales tax on the ballot in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties to help fund its operations and capital needs. Lacking a dedicated local revenue source Caltrain has seen a precipitous loss of ridership and fare revenue as a result of COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders. SB 797 requires the local transit operators (SFMTA, Samtrans, VTA) and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in each of the three counties, and the Caltrain Board to approve putting the sales tax on the ballot. VTA, SFMTA and the BOS in Santa Clara and San Francisco have yet to take action on the sales tax. This afternoon the San Francisco Board of Supervisors (BOS) will hold a hearing and consider approval of a resolution sponsored by Supervisors Walton, Peskin and Haney that proposes some conditions and a timeline for Caltrain governance reform to accompany the approval of the ballot measure. My understanding is that the Santa Clara BOS and VTA will consider a similar resolution next week and the SFMTA will do so at a meeting this Friday. The San Mateo BOS and Caltrain would need to do the same by August 7, which is the deadline for Caltrain to place a measure on the November 2020 ballot.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Essential Worker Ride Home - Hours Expanding to Cover Commute Home at Any Time of Day: The Essential Worker Ride Home program provides taxi rides for workers whose normal transit commute has been eliminated due to the public health emergency. After assessing demand and capacity for this program, the San Francisco Department of the Environment will be expanding eligibility to essential workers commuting home at any time of day. Eligibility was initially restricted to trips between 9:00pm and 8:30am to ensure that the program had resources available to help those who needed it most. As of July 24, the program had received 424 applications, of which 146 were approved. Many of these applications were received in an initial



spike of interest, which has since leveled off. In addition to expanding eligibility, SFE will launch a multi-lingual marketing campaign in on August 3 targeted at communities of concern with limited access to transportation and essential workers who commute into San Francisco. The program is funded by a combination of Prop K sales tax and Transportation Fund for Clean Air funds programmed by the Transportation Authority.

Vision Zero - SFMTA Quick-Build Update: Last summer, the Board allocated \$5.2 million in Prop K funds to SFMTA to start their Vision Zero Quick-Build Program, which uses a toolkit of reversible and adjustable traffic controls, such as painted striping, signage, and signal timing to implement safety improvements much faster than traditional infrastructure projects. We're happy to report that SFMTA continues to make great progress implementing "quick-builds", with three new locations completed in July alone: California Street between Arguello and 18th Avenue, Mission Street between Trumbull and Geneva, and Geneva Avenue between Mission and Mission and Prague. We're also looking forward to a number of additional locations being completed later this summer, including: 7th Street: additional segments, including new concrete transit boarding islands; 3rd Street Bridge: protected bike lanes that will fill a gap between Mission Bay and SOMA; and The Embarcadero: Two-way protected bikeway between Mission and Folsom. SFMTA continues to refine the program by streamlining legislation, outreach, and evaluation to keep delivery going, even as the pandemic has required some staff to work in a limited capacity.

BART Powell Station Modernization Project - Construction Underway: Construction has started on BART's Powell Station Modernization project. BART installed construction barriers in May, and, in the next few weeks, they will begin constructing the public station restrooms. \$1,000,000 in Prop K funds have contributed to this comprehensive station reconfiguration and safety project which will open sightlines and will improve BART and MUNI passenger circulation. In addition to the restrooms, the project scope includes relocating the ticket vending machines, wayfinding, and transit maps updating the fare gates. BART anticipates that the project will be completed in Fall 2021.

San Francisco Lifeline Transportation Program Cycle 1 - Elevator Attendant Initiative Update: BART and the SFMTA continue to operate elevator attendant services at Powell Street, Civic Center, Montgomery and Embarcadero stations. The Board programmed \$2.6 million in Lifeline Transportation Program funds for attendants at Powell Street and Civic Center stations in April of last year; however, due to the financial impacts from COVID-19 which reduced the amount of matching funds available by BART and MUNI we worked with BART to become co-funders for all four stations. This agreement will enable BART and SFMTA to maintain the program by showing their financial contributions for all four stations as the local match for the Lifeline funds programmed last year. Costs are slightly lower than originally anticipated due to actual year 1 costs and some reduction in hours during the pandemic. BART is appreciative of our support saying that it will allow them to continue to provide much needed elevator attendant services in San Francisco.

Yerba Buena Island (YBI) Southgate Road Realignment Project - Groundbreaking Ceremony Held July 9: Congratulations to our staff and partners on the commencement of the YBI Southgate Road Realignment this past month. This \$64 million project provides a safer connection for bicyclists and pedestrians as well as east-bound motorists connecting to I-80/the San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge. We held a limited celebration event on July 9 to thank funding and implementation partners for their support including the Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA), Federal Highway Administration, Caltrans, BATA, United States



Coast Guard and One Treasure Island. We expect to complete construction by the Summer of 2022.

LOCAL ISSUES

District 3 Portsmouth Square Community Based Transportation Plan - Stakeholder Meeting to review improvements: As part of the Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Program (NTIP), we are conducting the District 3 Portsmouth Square Community Based Transportation Plan for Chair Peskin to improve access to the Portsmouth Square Park and Chinatown as a whole and improve pedestrian safety. In early August, we will be conducting a final meeting to review conceptual design solutions with neighborhood stakeholders convened by Chinatown TRIP. We anticipate bringing a final report to the Transportation Authority Citizens Advisory Committee and Board in September. For more information please visit <https://www.sfcta.org/projects/portsmouth-square-traffic-study>.

District 4 Mobility Study - Survey Out on Challenges in Choosing Transit, Walking and Biking: As part of the Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Program, we are conducting a study for Commissioner Mar to explore ways to increase the use of transit, walking and biking in the Outer Sunset and Parkside neighborhoods. Outreach began at the end of May with a presentation by staff and discussion with community members at a District 4 Virtual Town Hall Meeting. As a follow-up to that discussion, we have launched an online survey to get feedback from more District 4 residents about the challenges they face in taking transit, walking and biking. For more information, please visit www.sfcta.org/d4mobility.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

COVID Impacts - May Sales Tax Receipts are Higher Year-on-Year: We continue to closely monitor revenue streams and coordinate with the City and sister agencies to assess short, medium, and long-term financial impacts. Sales tax revenues of \$10.3 million received for May 2020 came in about 7% higher than the prior year and represented a significant increase over \$7.5 million in revenue received for April. Sales tax revenue received for May 2020 appears to be unaffected by COVID-19.