



# DRAFT MINUTES

## San Francisco County Transportation Authority

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

### 1. Roll Call

Chair Peskin called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Present at Roll Call:** Commissioners Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Stefani, Walton, and Yee (10)

**Absent at Roll Call:** Commissioner Safai (entered during Item 2)(1)

### 2. Citizens Advisory Committee Report - INFORMATION

John Larson, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), reported out from the June 24 CAC meeting, stating the CAC supported the allocation of Prop K and Prop AA funds for the three requests included on Item 6 on the agenda. He noted that the CAC has commented on the size and scaling of fonts proposed in the new street sign designs for Muni stops, with some of the mock-ups including information for routes that was not correct, and how they may cause confusion and decrease legibility (e.g. citing certain letters and numbers that were hard to distinguish). Staff in attendance said they would look into these issues. CAC members also Inquired about the prioritization process for which routes should receive new signage first and were advised that one of the considerations was prioritizing active route. With respect to Item 7 on the Board's agenda, the CAC recommended support, calling out the need to address the M line terminus in the middle of the block on San Jose Avenue which posed a safety hazard for passengers. The District 11 CAC member noted that planning for the Balboa Park station area seemed be more iterative as opposed to be part of a comprehensive plan that would integrate all the Muni lines in the vicinity, a point that was reiterated during public comment.

Mr. Larson said that the bulk of the meeting was spent on the presentation given by Director Tumlin and Dan Howard, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), on the state of SFMTA's transportation recovery plan. Mr. Larson said the news on completion of capital projects, such as the Central Subway and Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit that were of particular interest to the CAC, was not so bad. However, he reported that the reality that the SFMTA does not have a financial path to restore the 30% of service cut during the pandemic and the operator shortages compounded by impending retirements gave the CAC a clear view of the serious situation SFMTA is in. Director Tumlin explained that as service is restored, priority would go to areas most dependent on transit with equity strategies mean resources would be prioritized for denser and less affluent areas. This would mean that relatively low ridership bus lines such as the neighborhood lines in the center of the city and western neighborhoods would be last to return, but that micro mobility and the Essential Trip Card may provide some options and help keep people out of their cars. Mr. Larson continued by commenting that Slow Streets and Shared Streets were met with positive responses



by CAC members, with requests that they be retained post-pandemic and expanded. Director Tumlin was also encouraged to reach out to CAC members as another way to get out messages to the public and to receive feedback and he was encouraged to return to the CAC in the future to continue the conversation.

There was no public comment.

#### **Consent Agenda**

3. **Approve the Minutes of the June 23, 2020 Meeting - ACTION\***
4. **[Final Approval] Adopt the District 3 Pedestrian Safety Improvements Final Report [NTIP Planning] - ACTION\***

There was no public comment on the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Mandelman moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Preston.

The Consent Agenda was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Fewer, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton, and Yee (10)

Absent: Commissioner Haney (1)

#### **End of Consent Agenda**

5. **State and Federal Legislation Update - INFORMATION\***

Mark Watts, State Legislative Advocate, and Amber Crabbe, Public Policy Manager, presented the item.

Commissioner Yee expressed support for the watch stance on Senate Bill 288 (Wiener), noting some environmental streamlining is needed, but preferring to err on the side of being cautious about not eliminating people's opportunity to articulate and express concerns about projects.

Commissioner Preston requested that the federal Freedom To Move Act (Pressley/Markey) be added to the next legislation report, which would incentivize fair, free transit; provide provisions to approve safety and quality of transportation; and address equity gaps.

There was no public comment for this item.

6. **Allocate \$11,230,724 in Prop K Sales Tax Funds and \$1,043,898 in Prop AA Vehicle Registration Fee Funds, with Conditions, for Three Requests - ACTION\***

Anna LaForte, Deputy Director for Policy & Programming, presented the item.

Commissioner Yee asked if there had been any adjustments in regards to the reimbursement for passengers loading up like they used to. Anna LaForte answered that there would likely be cost savings for the program reflected in Prop K funds, due to lower ridership. Commissioner Yee clarified that his question was whether the payment would be adjusted for services per passenger because it would cost them more to move single passengers between locations rather than reduce the costs. Ms. LaForte responded that SFMTA staff would follow up with Commissioner Yee's office



before the next board meeting

Commissioner Preston thanked SFMTA for their efforts and consideration of Board recommendations specifically around the transit signage enhancement program and including equity lines like the 22 Fillmore and 38 Geary, which were important to his constituents

During public comment, a speaker expressed concern about lack of better Muni signage for more frequent routes and requested reallocating signage to bus routes like the 36 Teresita, which didn't have good signage for most of the route.

Commissioner Fewer moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Yee.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton, and Yee (11)

Absent: none

**7. Adopt the Geneva Avenue/San Jose Avenue Intersection Study Final Report [NTIP Planning] - ACTION\***

Dustin White, Senior Transportation Planner at SFMTA, presented the item.

Commissioner Safai thanked the SFMTA, Transportation Authority, Public Works, and community members for their efforts and contributions to the Balboa Park Station Area Plan, that was started by community members some 12 years ago. He commented that the subject project is complementary to other work in the area, noting the Geneva Car Barn is done, some station improvements have been made and that there will soon be a ground breaking on 130 units of affordable house units on the upper yard site. He commented that even when the plaza is moved and improved, there will likely be a need to encourage behavioral changes to passenger off-boarding habits (e.g. some people may still walk over to San Jose Avenue). Commissioner Safai expressed appreciation for the study, and thanked community members and agencies for their hard work on the project. He said this is consistent with his office's focus on improving pedestrian safety throughout the district. He noted Balboa Park is the busiest BART station outside of the urban core and this intersection is the confluence of many modes of transportation and transit lines. He concluded by observing there is \$1.7 million programmed in Prop K funds toward a roughly \$13 million project.

Commissioner Fewer asked about which funding sources would be tapped into for the project. Executive Director Tilly Chang reported that because this was a state of good repair project, SFMTA's transit formula funds, along with bond money and Prop K, could be applied, and as staff works on the Strategic Plan process, there might be an opportunity to reconsider where the project funding falls within the overall agency priority.

Mr. White commented that the \$10 million price tag was very conservative and based on a conceptual layout, and Public Works was already engaged to help more fully develop project cost estimates.

Ms. LaForte added that there would probably be a variety of different funding sources



for the project given its size, observing that Prop K is well positioned to leverage or match discretionary funds particularly for the upcoming design phase. She also gave Prop AA vehicle fees and Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities funding as two other possible fund sources.

There was no public comment for this item.

Commissioner Safai moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Mandelman.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton, and Yee (11)

Absent: none

**8. Approve the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program of Projects - ACTION\***

Mike Pickford, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the item.

During public comment, a caller expressed support for the recommended projects.

Commissioner Mandelman moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Mar.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Stefani, Walton, and Yee (10)

Absent: Commissioner Safai (1)

**9. Affirm the San Francisco County Transportation Authority's Commitment to Supporting Efforts to Improve Cost-Effectiveness and to Advance Equity in Project Development and Delivery for Certain San Francisco Projects Proposed for Plan Bay Area 2050 - ACTION\***

Michelle Beaulieu, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the item.

There was no public comment for this item.

Commissioner Mandelman moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Ronen.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton, and Yee (11)

Absent: none

**10. Authorize the Executive Director to Execute Master Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Cooperative Agreements, Fund Transfer Agreements and Any Amendments Thereto with the California Department of Transportation for Receipt of Federal and State Funds for the Yerba Buena Island Westside Bridges Seismic Retrofit Project in the Amount of \$382,500; Planning, Programming, and**



**Monitoring in the Amount of \$260,000; and the San Francisco School Access Plan in the Amount of \$164,500 - ACTION\***

Cynthia Fong, Deputy Director for Finance & Administration, presented the item.

Chair Peskin complimented staff and Commissioner Mar for their work on the item.

There was no public comment for this item.

Commissioner Mandelman moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Mar.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton, and Yee (11)

Absent: none

**Other Items**

**11. Introduction of New Items - INFORMATION**

There were no new items introduced.

**12. Public Comment**

There was no general public comment.

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.