



## Memorandum

### AGENDA ITEM 3

**DATE:** August 25, 2020

**TO:** Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Peskin (Chair), Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton, and Yee

**FROM:** Tilly Chang - Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** 08/25/2020 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report – **INFORMATION**

### REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

**Caltrain Sales Tax Measure Placed on November Ballot - 1/8-cent Sales Tax to Support Caltrain Operations and Capital Improvements:** I would like to thank the Board again for convening earlier this month during your recess to consider and pass the resolution approving placement of a Caltrain 1/8 cent sales tax on the November ballot to fund operating and capital needs for the railway. We are grateful for the leadership of Supervisors Walton, Peskin and Haney and thank President Yee for enabling the special meeting to join Santa Clara and San Mateo agencies to take the needed votes to support the consensus that was worked out to reform governance while seeking funds to secure the future of an electrified Caltrain. As a dedicated tax, the ballot measure will need 2/3 voter approval across San Francisco, Santa Clara, and San Mateo counties in order to pass in November.

**State Legislation - Session Ends August 31:** The statutory deadline for bills to be approved by the State Legislature is August 31. Given the limited session due to COVID-19, legislators were asked to limit the number of bills they were advancing to only top priorities. Of the bills that the Transportation Authority have taken a position, only a few are still active. Senate Bill (SB) 288 (Wiener), for which we currently have a watch position, passed out of Assembly Appropriations late last week and is now on the Assembly Floor. Recent amendments included narrowing the types of transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects that are eligible to receive statutory exemptions from the California Environmental Quality Act, adding certain requirements for public meetings before and during construction, and establishing a sunset date of January 1, 2023. We are also following a budget trailer bill (SB 815 \) which would allow SB 1 funding that is currently directed via formula to transit operators for state of good repair projects to be used on transit operations that prevent cuts in service. This bill would help agencies with operating budget shortfalls due to the COVID-19 crisis. We will provide a full update of state legislative outcomes from this session at the September 15 Board meeting, as well as a federal legislative update that includes information about Representative Ayanna Pressley's Freedom to Move Act as requested by Commissioner Preston.



**Active Transportation Program - Applications Due September 15:** Applications are due September 15 for the Active Transportation Program (ATP), California's competitive grant program for pedestrian and bicycle improvements. The ATP includes a \$220 million statewide program and a \$37 million regional program administered by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). The Transportation Authority will be submitting an application for the Yerba Buena Island Multi-use Pathway, which includes design of the portions of the Bay Skyway bike path on Yerba Buena Island. Other agency applications we're tracking are San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's (SFMTA's) Folsom/Howard Streetscape project, which will include long-term bicycle and pedestrian improvements along those streets to complement the near term work SFMTA has already done, and MTC's application with the Alameda County Transportation Commission on the West Oakland Link project that includes design of bikeway improvements connecting the Bay Bridge path to West Oakland.

## **PROJECT DELIVERY**

**Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal Expansion Open for Business - Prop K Sales Tax Supported Needed Ferry Expansion Project:** On August 13, WETA and the Port of San Francisco completed the Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal Expansion Project. This \$98 million project adds ferry gates, improves pedestrian circulation and ferry patron boarding, and enhances emergency response capabilities. Moreover, the project will accommodate anticipated increases in ferry ridership as new ferry services from downtown San Francisco to Treasure Island and many East Bay cities are introduced through 2030. The Transportation Authority contributed over \$2.7 million to completion of the Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal Expansion Concept Plan, project design and construction.

**SFMTA Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) Procurement - Progress Being Made, COVID Impacts:** The SFMTA has nearly completed the first phase of its LRV procurement program – a 68-vehicle expansion of the light rail fleet, in time for the resumption of Metro operations this past weekend. To meet COVID conditions and needs, SFMTA is working with the suppliers of the vehicles' HVAC systems to determine what modifications can be made to air flow and filtering that could allow additional passengers and improve overall health and safety. Procurement activities for the Phase 2 replacement of 151 existing LRVs began in Spring 2020. Delivery of the first vehicles is expected in September 2020.

**Downtown Rail Extension - Executive Steering Committee Holds Inaugural Meeting, Elects Chair and Vice-Chair:** The 6-agency Downtown Rail Extension Executive Steering Committee held its inaugural meeting in July at which I was elected Chair and Andrew Fremier of MTC was elected vice-chair. We also recommended appointment of the TJPA's Interim Project Director to the TJPA Board at its August 18 meeting and gave an update to the Board on progress toward establishing the project's schedule and workplan as well as with phasing studies. An early success was the team's advocacy for the project's placement in the earlier period of MTC's Plan Bay Area, for which we are grateful to many elected officials for their



support, including Speaker Pelosi, Mayor Breed and Chair Peskin, and Senator Wiener and Assemblymember Chiu, as well as our MTC representatives Commissioner Ronen, Nick Josefowitz and Eddie Ahn.

**Lifeline Transportation Program Cycle 6 - Muni and BART Submitted San Francisco Projects.**

Earlier this month, the MTC accepted applications for their Lifeline Transportation Program Cycle 6 to fund projects that improve mobility for low-income residents. About \$7 million has been made available by formula to transit operators, based on low-income ridership estimates and Community of Concern population shares. This cycle, SFMTA has \$1,127,350 available and applied for the Essential Trip Card to help seniors and people with disabilities make essential trips in taxis. BART has \$1,172,940 available and applied for the Embarcadero Station Platform Elevator Capacity and Redundancy Project, that the Board approved OBAG and Prop K funds for in 2018 and 2020, respectively. We will be involved in the application evaluation process to help ensure that the submitted applications are consistent with community planning efforts and inclusive engagement to low-income populations. MTC Commission approval of the program of projects is anticipated in September 2020.

**LOCAL ISSUES**

**Downtown Congestion Pricing Study - Major Round of Community Engagement Launched**

**Last Week with Multiple Ways to Participate:** We are seeking input from stakeholders and the public as we develop downtown congestion pricing policy alternatives. We are especially focused on reaching Communities of Concern, communities with low digital access, and people with low English proficiency. We invite everyone to:

- Visit [sfcta.org/downtown](https://sfcta.org/downtown) to play a multilingual online game (Unclog Fog City) to design your own congestion pricing program, request a presentation to a community group, or sign up for email updates;
- Participate in a text-based survey by texting TRAFFIC for English, TRAFICO for Spanish, 交通 for Chinese, or TRAPIK for Filipino to 415-449-4214; and
- Join [a virtual/telephone town hall with Manny's](#) on August 26 or a [workshop with SPUR](#) and the SF Bicycle Coalition on September 1st.

We will also be notifying people about opportunities to engage with the study via multilingual advertising, flyer distribution in underrepresented communities, partnerships with community groups, email, and social media. I'd like to thank Board members and staff for helping to get the word out about these engagement opportunities and reiterate our offer to brief interested Board members and aides.

**SFMTA Bayview Community Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) Receives California American Planning Association (APA) Award for Excellence in Opportunity and Empowerment -**

Congratulations to the SFMTA's Bayview CBTP team on receiving the California APA's "Excellence in Opportunity and Empowerment" award. The CBTP included a participatory budgeting component funded by MTC. In September, we are bringing to the Board a Prop K



allocation to fund some of the recommended investments. This month, the SFTMA will apply for California Air Resources Board (CARB) Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) grant funding to implement a key recommendation from the CBTP and the Transportation Authority's 2018 District 10 Mobility Study: a community shuttle. Applications are due August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Water Emergency Transit Authority (WETA) and Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA)**

**Executive Directors Announce Retirements:** The Executive Directors of WETA and TJPA recently announced their retirements with WETA Director Nina Rannells staying on until January 2021, but TJPA Director Mark Zabaneh departing on August 31, 2020. Both leave long-lasting transit legacies having served over 60 years between them. We thank Director Rannells for serving with WETA for the past 11 years and overseeing the agency's strategic growth plans and new services such as the Ferry Terminal and coming Mission Bay line in San Francisco. We also appreciate Director Zabaneh's delivery of the Transbay Transit Center and partnership to develop the Caltrain Downtown Rail Extension through the Federal environmental approval process. We wish both a very happy retirement and all the best in their future endeavors.

**MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Transportation Authority's Finance and Administration Division - Recipient of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting:**

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to us for the third consecutive year by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for our comprehensive annual financial report for fiscal year 2018-2019 (the annual financial audit report). This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Congratulations to Deputy Director Cynthia Fong, Controller Kalman Hui and the rest of the Finance Division staff!