



## Memorandum

### AGENDA ITEM 9

**DATE:** October 22, 2020

**TO:** Transportation Authority Board

**FROM:** Hugh Louch - Deputy Director for Policy and Programming

**SUBJECT:** 11/10/2020 Board Meeting: Adopt the Portsmouth Square Community Based Transportation Plan Final Report

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Allocation
Adopt the Portsmouth Square Community Based Transportation Plan (CBTP) Final Report.	<input type="checkbox"/> Fund Programming
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy/Legislation
In June 2018, with the support of Commissioner Peskin, the Transportation Authority Board appropriated \$50,000 in Prop K Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Plan (NTIP) capital funds to supplement \$30,000 in funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to develop the Portsmouth Square CBTP. The Transportation Authority used the funds to engage the community and develop recommendations for improved pedestrian safety, access, and circulation around Portsmouth Square. The enclosed final report describes the engagement conducted for this project and proposed improvements.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plan/Study
	<input type="checkbox"/> Capital Project Oversight/Delivery
	<input type="checkbox"/> Budget/Finance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Contract/Agreement
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

### BACKGROUND

The MTC's CBTP is intended to bring local residents, community organizations and transportation agencies together to identify low-income neighborhoods' most important transportation challenges and develop strategies to overcome them. MTC requires that local governing boards adopt the CBTP final reports. The purpose of the Transportation Authority's NTIP is to build community awareness of, and capacity to provide input to, the transportation planning process and to advance delivery of community-supported neighborhood-scale projects that can be funded by Prop K sales tax and/or other sources.

Portsmouth Square is the "community bedroom" and an anchoring point for San Francisco's Chinatown neighborhood. Chinatown's population is disproportionately elderly, disabled, low income, minority and/or do not own a vehicle, qualifying this neighborhood as a Community of Concern. San Francisco's Recreation and Parks Department (RecPark) recently



completed a multi-year community driven process to re-design the Portsmouth Square Park and increase community access (Portsmouth Square Improvement project). The Portsmouth Square CBTP analyzed circulation around the park and engaged community members to identify how to improve pedestrian safety and access to park and Chinatown as a whole.

## **DISCUSSION**

**Outreach.** The Transportation Authority partnered with the Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC) to convene an advisory committee and engage stakeholders throughout the planning process. Outreach activities included:

- An intercept survey was conducted to understand how visitors get to Portsmouth Square and their transportation needs.
- A business survey to understand similar questions for businesses and employees of businesses.
- A stakeholder meeting to identify transportation needs around the square, taking into account the findings of the surveys and a site walk conducted as part of the project.
- A second stakeholder meeting to review and prioritize potential improvements that were developed by the study team.

Outreach activities are documented in the final report.

**Recommendations.** The Portsmouth Square CBTP builds on the recommendations of the Portsmouth Square Improvement Project to redesign the square and prior planning studies to develop a prioritized set of recommendations that seek to improve pedestrian safety, access and circulation around Portsmouth Square. Specifically, these recommendations include:

Pedestrian safety improvements, which were the top priority from stakeholder outreach:

- Updating the entry to the Portsmouth Square garage to reduce pedestrian/auto conflicts
- Updating the Clay and Kearny signal to permit both scramble (now allowed) and two-stage crossings
- Improve space for and visibility of pedestrians on Kearny Street in front of the garage, which is currently impeded by the plaza wing walls

Pedestrian friendly streets improvements such as removing sidewalk pinch points and potentially adding pedestrian-scale lighting where not available. Many of the safety improvements also provide more space for pedestrians.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and modernization improvements such as:

- Adding directional curb ramps where missing at intersections around the square
- Addressing significant cross slope grades that do not meet ADA standards
- Removing pinch points on Water U Lum Place due to the placement of light posts

Curb use improvements include adding loading zones around the square and providing guidance and/or training around curb use for casino shuttles that pick up and drop off patrons nearby.



**Next Steps.** The November 2020 ballot includes a General Obligation Bond that would dedicate \$50 million to open space improvements in Chinatown that could be used for the proposed redesign of Portsmouth Square. Proposed solutions from this CBTP that are either within the curb line of the Portsmouth Square block or are curbs that connect to Portsmouth Square that can be incorporated into the Portsmouth Square Park Redesign project. The cost of these recommendations total \$3.4 million for design and construction. RecPark is currently leading environmental review for the square redesign project and the Department of Public Works is reviewing accessibility.

The remaining CBTP recommendations total just under \$200,000 for design and construction and could be incorporated into other proposed projects and implemented with a variety of funding sources including Prop K funds.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The recommended action would not have an impact on the adopted Fiscal Year 2020/21 budget.

### **CAC POSITION**

The CAC will consider this item at its October 28, 2020 meeting.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

Enclosure 1 - Portsmouth Square CBTP Final Report