RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE GOLDEN GATE PARK STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP AND ACTION FRAMEWORK FINAL REPORT [NTIP Planning]

WHEREAS, In September 2020, with the support of former Commissioner Fewer and Commissioner Mar, the Transportation Authority approved Resolution 21-09, appropriating $60,000 in Prop K sales tax Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Program (NTIP) funds to convene a working group of residents, businesses, and public and community organizations to identify ways to improve travel to and within Golden Gate Park; and

WHEREAS, The working group included 17 active members representing short distance and long-distance park visitors, citywide park interests, park institutions, modal advocacy organizations, and travelers with special needs such as people with disabilities and children; and

WHEREAS, The Working Group was led by the Transportation Authority in partnership with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and the Recreation and Park Department; and

WHEREAS, The Working Group’s findings are summarized in the enclosed final report and include nine identified access needs and an Action Framework which identifies 42 short- and long-term actions to address the needs articulated by the Working Group; and

WHEREAS, The values, needs, and priority actions identified through the Working Group process will be carried forward by the Recreation and Parks Department and the SFMTA into subsequent planning processes for Golden Gate Park and JFK Drive; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Transportation Authority hereby accepts the enclosed Golden Gate Park Stakeholder Working Group and Action Framework Final Report; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the Executive Director is hereby authorized to prepare the document for final publication and distribute the document to all relevant agencies and interested parties.

Enclosure:
   1. Golden Gate Park Stakeholder Working Group Final Report
Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM 8

DATE: May 7, 2021
To: Transportation Authority Board
From: Rachel Hiatt- Assistant Deputy Director for Planning

RECOMMENDATION ☐ Information ☒ Action


SUMMARY

In September 2020, with the support of former Commissioner Fewer and Commissioner Mar, the Transportation Authority appropriated $60,000 in Prop K sales tax Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Program (NTIP) funds to convene a working group of residents, businesses, and public and community organizations to identify ways to improve travel to and within Golden Gate Park. Over four meetings, the working group developed a set of shared values and park access needs which the Recreation and Park Department (RPD) and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) will carry forward into subsequent planning processes for Golden Gate Park and JFK Drive. The enclosed draft final report describes the working group process and findings. At the May 11 Board meeting, we will provide an overview of the working group’s contributions, and representatives of SFMTA and the RPD will outline their next steps.

BACKGROUND

The Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Program (NTIP), also known as the Neighborhood Program, is intended to strengthen project pipelines and advance the delivery of community-supported neighborhood-scale projects, especially in Communities of Concern and other underserved neighborhoods and areas with at-risk populations (e.g. seniors, children, and/or people with disabilities).

On April 28, 2020 Mayor Breed ordered that John F Kennedy Drive (JFK) through Golden Gate Park be designated car-free seven days per week in order to create more recreation space for San Franciscans and allow park users to physically distance during the COVID-19
pandemic. The same section of JFK Drive has been car-free on Sundays since 1967. A shorter section has also been car-free on Saturdays since 2007. The current car-free designation will expire 120 days after San Francisco’s COVID-19 emergency order is lifted.

**DISCUSSION**

The working group included 17 active members representing short distance and long-distance park visitors, citywide park interests, park institutions, modal advocacy organizations, and travelers with special needs such as people with disabilities and children. Working group invitees included representatives from the Chinatown Community Development Center and multiple District 10 groups including the Participatory Budgeting task force, the Southeast Community Facilities Commission, BMAGIC, and the Transportation Authority’s Citizens Advisory Committee representative, however none were able to participate.

The major contribution of this working group, documented in the Final Report, are a set of shared values and identified park access needs which can be carried forward into subsequent planning processes for Golden Gate Park and JFK Drive. The needs are assembled from statements contributed by Working Group members throughout the process, especially during meeting #2. The general areas of access needs identified by the working group are: access for key groups including youth, seniors, people with disabilities, people of color, and park volunteers; clear signage for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles; improved signage for the park shuttle; safe access from adjacent neighborhoods; safe and efficient transit; improved parking management; support for regional tourism; and clear communications and decision-making process.

Also included in the report is an Action Framework developed jointly by SFMTA and the Recreation and Parks Department. The Action Framework responds to the needs articulated by working group members and identifies completed, short term, and long-term actions necessary to support improved access and experience for all in Golden Gate Park.

The values, needs, priority actions identified through this process will be used as inputs to an upcoming public process jointly led by the Recreation and Parks Department and the SFMTA. This upcoming process will build on working group findings, conduct additional public outreach, and evaluate alternatives for JFK Drive operations.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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

**CAC POSITION**

This report is being brought straight to the Transportation Authority Board for acceptance to ensure implementing agencies can incorporate working group findings in subsequent processes in a timely manner. The report was not ready in time to present to the CAC at its April 28 meeting.
SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Enclosure 1 - Golden Gate Park Working Group and Action Framework Final Report