



## Memorandum

### AGENDA ITEM 3

**DATE:** October 26, 2021

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

**FROM:** Tilly Chang - Executive Director

**Subject:** Executive Director's Report – INFORMATION

### REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

#### **Federal Transportation - Congress Preparing a Continuing Resolution for Transportation Bill:**

As Democrats continue to look for agreement on a now smaller Build Back Better Act, reducing it from \$3.5 trillion to \$1.5 to \$2 trillion, House and Senate transportation leaders are drafting a third extension of federal surface transportation programs in the event that there is no agreement before the current extension expires on October 31, 2021. It has been reported that the extension may be through December 3, which is the deadline for funding the federal government and raising the debt limit. While those discussions continue, the Senate has released the Department of Transportation's (DOT's) Fiscal Year 2022 funding bill. Under it, the DOT would receive \$90.5 billion in total budgetary resources, which is \$3.8 billion more than the FY 2021 enacted level. We will continue to work with our federal legislative advocate to support increased funding, especially for discretionary programs that could support San Francisco's priorities.

**Federal Transit COVID Relief Funding - Metropolitan Transportation Commission Poised to Program Final Tranche of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Funds:** On October 24, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) will consider a resolution to divide up what is likely to be the last federal transit formula funds to support financial losses that transit operators have as a result of the COVID pandemic. We want to express our appreciation to San Francisco's MTC Commissioners, including Commissioner Ronen, for their advocacy on behalf of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to ensure a fair distribution that reflects the equity measures the agency has taken during the pandemic. MTC staff proposes programming \$29.7 million of the remaining hardship funds to SFMTA, which is before the Commission for approval tomorrow. At the same time, SFMTA and other Bay Area transit operators are preparing applications for a new one-time competitive federal funding program that could provide additional relief funding for operators.



**Plan Bay Area 2050 - Regional Transportation and Sustainable Communities Plan Adopted by MTC and ABAG.** On October 21 at a special joint meeting, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the MTC adopted Plan Bay Area 2050 as the region's long-range transportation and land-use plan. We want to thank our ABAG Executive Board members, Chair Mandelman, Commissioner Mar, and Planning Department Director Rich Hillis, and our MTC Commissioners, Commissioner Ronen, Nick Josefowitz, and Eddie Ahn, for their work supporting San Francisco's priorities throughout this process. There is a lot of work yet to be done to implement the plan, and we look forward to that collaboration with our regional agency partners on such actions as advancing the Bay Area Regional Rail Partnership including for the Downtown Caltrain Extension, supporting climate initiatives and equity policy development, and setting the region up for a potential future regional transportation funding measure.

## **LOCAL ISSUES**

**Muni Winter 2022 Service Plan Update:** SFMTA recently announced preliminary plans for a 10% service expansion in February 2022. According to the announcement, SFMTA will restore service on the 2, 6, 10, 21, and 28R. SFMTA also plans to extend the 31 along 5th Street to serve the 4th and King Caltrain Station and plans to extend the 43 to its pre-pandemic route. Additional changes to other Muni bus and light rail routes are under consideration. This announcement follows public outreach last month during which SFMTA sought public input on three alternatives for 2022 Muni service: a familiar network, a frequent network, and a hybrid alternative. SFMTA received over 4,500 survey responses and attended 30 stakeholder meetings, neighborhood festivals and pop-ups. SFMTA reports that public input prioritized restoring service to provide key connections for people with disabilities and seniors. The agency plans to release a network proposal next month and will seek SFMTA board approval in December.

**DMV Issues Autonomous Vehicle Deployment Permits to Cruise LLC and Waymo LLC.** In late September, the California Department of Motor Vehicles issued autonomous vehicle deployment permits to Cruise LLC and Waymo LLC. These deployment permits allow the companies to make their autonomous vehicle technology commercially available and is the next step in allowing the companies to deliver autonomous ridehail or delivery services to the public. Waymo received a "drivered deployment permit," which permits an operator to charge money while operating an AV, but requires a safety operator in the front seat. Waymo can now use its vehicles within parts of San Francisco and San Mateo counties, on public roads with a maximum speed limit of up to 65 miles per hour, including when there is rain and light fog. Cruise received a "driverless deployment permit," which permits an operator to charge money while operating an AV without a safety operator in the front seat. Cruise was granted permission to use its vehicles on public surface streets within designated parts of San Francisco with a maximum speed limit of up to 30 miles per hour, including when there is rain and light fog. However, the permitted hours of operation are only between 10 pm and 6 am.



We note that both companies still need to obtain a California Public Utilities Commission permit to operationalize their commercial services.

**Expenditure Plan Advisory Committee Targets December Recommendation - Survey and Other Outreach Underway:** The Expenditure Plan Advisory Committee continues to work toward bringing a recommendation to the Board in December for a new 30-year Expenditure Plan for the half-cent sales tax. The group's 4<sup>th</sup> meeting is later this week on October 28, when they will discuss transit enhancements like the Mission Bay Ferry Landing and a potential new Bayview Caltrain Station - which is the topic of another item on today's agenda, major transit projects like Muni train control and the BART Core Capacity Program, as well as some of the policies that shape how we administer the sales tax. All of the EPAC meetings are virtual and open to the public. We are also actively engaging with the broader community on this effort through multiple methods. We are partnering with local CBOs to hold focus groups in Spanish, Chinese and Russian this week and early next week. We will be hosting two English Town Halls in early November. And we have a survey live online now, for anyone to fill out. Folks can get details about our town halls, or visit our survey, on our website at [sfcta.org/expenditureplan](https://sfcta.org/expenditureplan).

**First Meeting of Ocean Avenue Task Force - Ocean Avenue Action Plan NTIP.** On October 13, we joined Commissioners Melgar and Safai for an initial meeting of the task force that will advise us on the development of the Ocean Avenue Corridor Action Plan. The Action Plan is an emerging effort under the Neighborhood Program requested by District 7 Commissioner Melgar. The Action Plan will document funding and implementation strategies for already identified improvements in the corridor and prioritize 4-5 transportation improvements to develop and advance for near-term delivery. Task force members include District 7 and 11 residents and representatives from corridor schools, businesses, and neighborhood organizations. At the first meeting, task force members provided feedback on the scope and outreach plan for which we are requesting Prop K funding on this week's Community Advisory Committee agenda in order to formally start the effort. We will bring this appropriation request to the Board for approval next month.

**Breaking New Ground: A Blueprint for Equity and Inclusion.** On October 21st we co-sponsored the Breaking New Ground annual fundraiser for One Treasure Island (OTI). For the last 25 years, OTI has provided job training and placement for people with barriers to employment and is building the first new affordable housing units on the Island. Mayor London Breed and Commissioner Haney provided keynote remarks. OTI has been a key partner to the Treasure Island Mobility Management Agency (TIMMA) in our outreach to the Island, helping to conduct outreach for policy proposals; and will be our key partner in the Supplemental Transportation Study NTIP appropriation that is on today's agenda for final approval. We look forward to an ongoing partnership with OTI as the TI Mobility Management Program launches in 2024.



## **PROJECT DELIVERY**

**Geary Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Ribbon Cutting.** On October 20, we joined Mayor London Breed, SFMTA leadership, public officials and community stakeholders to celebrate the completion of the Geary Rapid Project (Phase 1 of the Geary BRT project) in the Japantown Peace Plaza. This major civic improvement project has helped revitalize one of San Francisco's busiest corridors between Market and Stanyan streets with more reliable bus service, safer streets, upgraded utilities, and new trees. The Transportation Authority led this project through the environmental planning phase in partnership with the SFMTA and is providing funding through Prop K, Prop AA and One Bay Area Grant regional funds. The Transportation Authority has provided over \$13 million in half-cent sales tax funds to date, and will continue to provide project support and oversight as SFMTA prepares to advance Phase 2 side running designs.

**Jefferson Street Improvements Ribbon Cutting - Supported by Prop K Sales Tax and Local Partnership Program Funds.** On October 22 we joined Mayor London Breed, city agency leadership, public officials and community stakeholders to celebrate the completion of Phase 2 of the Jefferson Street Improvements Project which constructed 3 blocks of streetscape improvements between Powell and Jones Streets, completing the design developed from the 2010 Fisherman's Wharf Public Realm Plan. The project includes widened sidewalks, pedestrian-scale lighting, new landscaping, public seating and special pavement. The project will improve pedestrian safety along a street that sees more than 60,000 pedestrians per day on a typical summer weekend. The Transportation Authority was a significant contributor to this phase of the project, providing \$8 million from our half-cent sales tax for transportation and state gas tax funds through the Local Partnership Program.

## **MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **COVID Impacts - August Sales Tax Receipts Higher than July, but Pandemic Impacts**

**Continue:** Sales tax revenues of \$7.9 million received for August 2021 came in 18% higher than July 2021 revenues of \$6.7 million. However, collections continue to be affected by COVID-19 trends as August revenues are 23% lower compared to August 2019. We continue to closely monitor revenue streams and see an overall increasing trend in sales tax revenues which we hope will continue to rise with the increasing vaccination rates and reopening of the economy.

**Fall Networking Events for Disadvantaged and Small Businesses:** On October 21, we participated in a virtual "Meet the Primes" outreach event with members of the Business Outreach Committee to connect and introduce small businesses to prime consultants and public transportation agencies in the Bay Area. Nine prime consultants served as panelists in breakout rooms to answer questions so small businesses can understand how to do business with them and what they are doing to break barriers for new small and disadvantaged businesses. Approximately 90 people attended the event. The Business Outreach Committee is a multi-agency consortium of approximately 26 Bay Area transportation agencies with a



common goal to assist small, disadvantaged and local firms doing business with Bay Area transit and transportation agencies.

On November 17, we will host our own virtual DBE/LBE Upcoming Opportunity Overview event. DBE/LBE firms and consultant firms can learn about upcoming contract opportunities from the Transportation Authority and Treasure Island Mobility Management Agency in the fields of professional and transportation services. For more information and to register for the event, visit [www.sfcta.org/contracting](http://www.sfcta.org/contracting).

**Passing of Becky Hogue.** We are sorry to share the sad news that Becky Hogue passed away earlier this month on October 7th. Becky was highly involved in her community, especially Treasure Island, where she lived for many years. She served as the District 6 representative to the Transportation Authority's Community Advisory Committee as well as a resident representative to the Treasure Island Development Authority's Community Advisory Board and former Chair of the Board of Supervisor's Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee. Becky will be fondly remembered for her legacy of community service.