



Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM 4

DATE: November 16, 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

President Signs Historic Infrastructure Bill - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). I'm delighted to report that yesterday, President Biden signed the IIJA bill which will invest nearly \$1 trillion in transportation, water, broadband, and power infrastructure as well as resilience investments. Transportation infrastructure is by far the largest component of the bill, which combines a roughly \$475 billion five-year surface transportation reauthorization (a 56 percent increase above Congress's last five-year transportation bill) with approximately \$157 billion in supplemental one-time stimulus funding to be distributed to more than two dozen federal grant programs over five years. We will hear some initial details about the IIJA later on the agenda today and I look forward to bringing back a more focused update on what the bill will mean for California, the Bay Area and San Francisco as we and others dive into the details of the bill and its implementation. Meanwhile, we are very appreciative of the efforts undertaken by the President, Speaker Pelosi and the Congress to make this happen. This investment is much needed and will be transformative for our nation and state.

Yerba Buena Island (YBI) West Side Bridges Awarded Federal RAISE grant. This morning we were elated to receive news from Speaker Pelosi's and Senator Padilla's office about the US Department of Transportation DOT award of an \$18 million RAISE grant to our YBI West Side Bridges project, which will rebuild and seismically secure the set of structures and roadways connecting the SF-Oakland Bay Bridge to Treasure Island on the west side of the Islands. We are tremendously grateful to the US DOT for this award and want to express our deep appreciation to Speaker Pelosi and Senator Padilla for their support of the project, as well as Transportation Authority Chair Mandelman, TIMMA Chair Haney, Mayor Breed, Chair Fei Tsen (TIDA) and our funding partners at Caltrans and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). We will also be thanking myriad community, labor and industry organizations for their advocacy.

Self-Help Counties Coalition Annual Conference - Reimagining Transportation in the Post-COVID World. This week, I joined with the 24 other "Self-Help Counties" in California (i.e. counties with local voter approved sales tax measures for transportation) for the Focus on the Future 2021 conference. This annual conference provides a forum for Self-Help Counties and other transportation agencies, elected officials, and the private sector to share experiences



and highlight upcoming projects. Yesterday I participated in the CEO Roundtable, which brought out some common themes from across the state including a focus on transit recovery, continued fiscal responsibility, and how to best position California to leverage federal funds in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Other counties considering going to the ballot in 2022 to reauthorize sales tax Expenditure Plans include Fresno and Madera.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims - Global Event November 21, 2021.

This coming Sunday, many of us will gather at City Hall to remember the millions killed and injured on the world's roads. San Francisco will hold its seventh annual World Day of Remembrance on November 21, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. outside of City Hall. Join WalkSF and SF Bay Area Families for Safe Streets to observe this sad anniversary as we remember the victims and to recommit ourselves to Vision Zero and urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to develop a plan to lower speed limits and make necessary changes to street designs and traffic signals.

LOCAL ISSUES

Bayview Grant Awards: Air District Awards \$600,000 to Two Bayview Community

Organizations. Early this month, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) approved awards through its James Cary Smith Community Grant Program, which supports local air quality improvement and education efforts. I'm pleased to report that two San Francisco organizations will receive grants of \$100,000 annually for three years - the Bayview Hunters Point Community Advocates and Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice. With these funds, the groups will engage with neighborhood organizations and environmental justice professionals to build community capacity, address long standing health inequities, and develop air pollution mitigation strategies. We congratulate these two organizations and appreciate their work to engage residents in efforts to improve air quality in one of the most impacted communities in San Francisco.

Mayor London Breed Visits Treasure Island. On November 3, I was pleased to join Mayor London Breed, Commissioner Matt Haney, City Administrator Carmen Chu and other city officials at the Ferry building before Mayor Breed took a ferry tour of Treasure Island. Organized by developer Wilson Meany, we began our day with a 6-minute ferry ride from the Embarcadero to Treasure Island. During our time on Treasure Island we saw the nearly completed ferry dock and several new housing developments. The Transportation Authority is supporting the development on Treasure Island with our work on the Island's Transportation Program, construction of new freeway on- and off-ramps and roadways, and, coming next year, the testing of an autonomous shuttle on the island.

Developing a New Expenditure Plan for the Existing Sales Tax Program - Virtual Town Hall Tonight. The Expenditure Plan Advisory Committee (EPAC) 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 6th meeting is later this week on November 18 at 6 p.m., where members will discuss relative funding levels between different programs. All of the



EPAC meetings are virtual and open to the public. A virtual Town Hall is scheduled for tonight at 6 p.m. For details about the town halls, EPAC meetings or to take a survey to inform the new Expenditure Plan, visit our website at sfcta.org/expenditureplan.

How the Pandemic has Reshaped How We Travel - Upcoming SPUR Digital Discourse on November 17. Joe Castiglione, Deputy Director for Technology, Data & Analysis will be participating in SPUR's Digital Discourse "How the Pandemic has Reshaped How We Travel" on Wednesday, November 17th, from 12:30p-1:30pm. He'll be joined by Ted Egan, Chief Economist for the City & County of San Francisco Office of Economic Analysis and Gwen Litvak, Senior Vice President for Public Policy at the Bay Area Council. The panel will discuss the observed and anticipated effects of telecommuting during the pandemic-era, what businesses are saying about their return to office plans, and the actions San Francisco could take to support economic recovery as the region reopens.

Business and Labor Roundtables Discuss Economic Recovery and Funding. I was pleased to meet with two groups of leaders from the Business and Labor communities. We exchanged updates and collaboration ideas to support the city's economic recovery as well as funding topics such as the federal and state transportation bills and our sales tax renewal effort. Top business priorities were transit availability and traveler safety and security. Labor priorities remained advocating for infrastructure funding and full Muni service restoration.

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 (CAEFR) has been awarded to our agency 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 2019-2020 (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!