



## Memorandum

### AGENDA ITEM 4

**DATE:** December 14, 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 Transit Funding Freeze - Governor Newsom and Agencies across California Call for US Department of Labor to Release Billions of Dollars:** Last month, the US Department of Labor (DOL) notified California that it had determined that the 2013 Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) violates labor law and directed the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to stop certifying grants for California transit agencies subject to the PEPRA reforms. If this is withheld, it may put at risk the award of approximately \$1.5 billion in Bay Area FTA grants in Fiscal Years 2021 and 2022. COVID relief funding represents the largest proportion of grants at risk, which are, ironically, meant to sustain transit operators and prevent layoffs. The State of California has filed a motion to stay the implementation of the DOL's determination, and to allow FTA grant certification to continue. The Governor, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and many other agencies have submitted letters requesting a reversal of the determination and continue to build documentation of the drastic impacts to transit riders and workers if the FTA funding remains frozen. We are hopeful that these efforts, and the sustained advocacy by California's elected officials will see this issue quickly resolved.

We understand from San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) staff, that the SFMTA is not subject to PEPRA because the agency's employees contribute to the San Francisco Employees' Retirement system, which is independent of CalPERS and other statewide public pension programs. The US DOT has accepted the agency's standing and certified the SFMTA's \$248 million American Rescue Package grant on December 9, 2021. Based on precedent, the SFMTA does not expect PEPRA to hinder the agency's future grant approvals, but we remain concerned about the potential impacts on other public transit operators statewide.

**Transportation Authority Joins Federal Delegation at Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Event.** I was honored to join House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Representatives Jackie Speier and Mark DeSaulnier along with Chair Mandelman and Commissioner Melgar during a press event at Salesforce Transit Center on Saturday, December 11. Speaker Pelosi used the event to talk about how the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), signed by President Biden last November, will benefit our region and nation. Speaker Pelosi spoke at length about the long history of investment in the Transit Center, whose train facilities were paid for with \$400 million in federal funding in anticipation



of Caltrain service and future High-Speed Rail. We applaud the Bay Area's federal elected delegation, who continue to support funding for our region's transportation needs.

**UC Davis ITS Fall Meeting Series for State Legislative Transportation Policy Staff: Congestion Pricing Strategies for California.** Rachel Hiatt, Acting Deputy Director for Planning, participated in this event hosted by UC Davis ITS for state legislative staff who focus on transportation-related policy. This meeting provided an introduction to congestion pricing and highlighted the latest research on the potential benefits of congestion pricing as well as the challenges and solutions for equitably implementing pricing in California. Presentations and commentary from UC ITS researchers were followed by a public agency roundtable to provide perspective on the role of congestion pricing in the context of other congestion management strategies. Staff from LA Metro, which is also currently studying congestion pricing, participated as well.

## **LOCAL ISSUES**

**San Francisco Climate Action Plan - Pathway to Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2040:** On December 8, 2021, San Francisco's Department of the Environment released the 2021 San Francisco Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP charts a pathway to achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2040 and works toward addressing racial and social equity, public health, economic recovery, resilience, and providing safe and affordable housing to all. Transportation represents 47% of GHG emissions in San Francisco and the CAP sets transportation targets to achieve at least 80% low carbon mode trips by 2030. It also aims to increase electrification of private vehicles to at least 25% by 2030 and 100% by 2040. Transportation Authority staff supported development of the Transportation and Land Use Chapter of the CAP and provided the technical analysis to estimate the reduction in GHG emissions associated with the transportation and land use strategies including investments in public and active transportation projects; increased density and mixed-use land near transit; accelerate adoption of zero emission vehicles and expansion of public charging infrastructure, utilize pricing levers to reduce private vehicle use and minimize congestion; and implement and reform parking management programs. The report is available on the SFE website: <https://sfenvironment.org/sfclimateaction>

**San Francisco Transportation Plan 2050: Presentation to Board of Supervisors Land Use and Transportation Committee:** Staff from the Transportation Authority, Planning, and SFMTA presented at the Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee in November, with a focus on the coordination between future growth, transportation, and land use in our long-range planning. The item encompassed the ConnectSF Transit Strategy and Streets and Freeway Strategy, Plan Bay Area, the San Francisco Transportation Plan (SFTP), and resilience efforts. Staff presented the SFTP portion of the presentation at the December 7th Transportation Authority Board meeting as we prepare for outreach early next year.

**School Access Plan - Coordination with School District and Department of Children, Youth and Their Families.** Staff participated in several outreach events hosted by the San Francisco Unified School District to understand transportation issues raised by caregivers regarding the district's elementary school assignment policy update. Strong coordination with the District as well as ongoing initiatives led by the San Francisco's Department of Children Youth and Their Families will inform the development of transportation solutions for kindergarten through 5th grade students who travel long distances to school and afterschool activities. Work on the School Access Plan will be ramping up in the coming months with the formation of a



Technical Advisory Committee and outreach currently planned for the Spring. More information is available at <https://www.sfcta.org/projects/school-access-plan>.

**Golden Gate Park JFK Drive Equity Study - Data Collection Continues.** In January, the Transportation Authority project team will be collecting data around pre-COVID and current visitation to the eastern portion of the park, including areas along JFK. This data will be used to assess the equity impacts of the JFK Drive closure and support SFMTA and the Recreation and Parks Department in assessing alternative configurations for JFK Drive. The two agencies recently conducted a survey for their work that resulted in about 10,000 responses.

## **PROJECT DELIVERY**

**More Quick-Builds to Begin Construction - Half-Cent Sales Tax and TNC Tax Advance Vision Zero.** Two more Vision Zero Quick-Build projects are set to begin construction after recently completing community outreach and finalizing design. Embarcadero from Mission to Broadway will begin construction this month with bike signals with plans to install a protected bikeway in January. South Van Ness Avenue from 14th to Cesar Chavez will see a lane reduction and signal timing changes implemented in January. We are proud to support these quick-build projects with the half-cent sales tax and TNC Tax and are excited to continue supporting SFMTA's delivery of quick-build projects that use a toolbox of proven techniques to quickly deliver transportation safety improvements that can be adapted to each location.

**New SFSU Bike Cage Constructed - Supported by San Francisco's Transportation for Clean Air Program Funds.** This fall San Francisco State University completed a new secure bike parking facility at Thornton Hall, one of the campus' main academic buildings. The Transportation Authority funded construction of this bike cage, which has space for about 120 bikes, with the Transportation Fund for Clean Air or TFCA program that is a partnership with the Air District. We're excited to help students and other members of the SF State community choose sustainable commute modes as they return to campus and we look forward to construction of a second TFCA-funded bike cage at SF State in 2022.

**Downtown Rail Extension - Project Granted Entry to Federal Project Development Process.** On December 3, the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) was notified by the FTA that the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) had been granted entry into the FTA New Starts Capital Investment Grant Project Development pipeline. This a key milestone for DTX, reflecting the project momentum developed under the Peninsula Rail Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established in 2020 and the approval earlier this fall of a Transit Center Community Facilities District bond to fund the FTA Project Development phase of work. The Transportation Authority, TJPA, and other MOU partner agencies continue to work collaboratively to prepare DTX to formally request a multi-billion dollar New Starts grant in 2023. We are currently leading work to update the project's funding plan, and we supported TJPA last month in submitting a near-term grant request from the federal Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements or CRISI program to help fund further project development needs. Congratulations to the TJPA and all the funding partners!

## **MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

**DBE/LBE Upcoming Opportunity Overview Event.** On November 17, we hosted a virtual Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Local Business Enterprise (LBE) Upcoming Opportunity Overview Event. This event brought together approximately 80 attendees, including DBE/LBE firms and prime consultants, to learn about upcoming contract



opportunities with the Transportation Authority and Treasure Island Mobility Management Agency in the fields of professional and transportation services. Following the main presentation, prime consultants and subconsultants discussed projects in breakout rooms with various project managers and deputies. For more information, visit: [www.sfcta.org/contracting](http://www.sfcta.org/contracting).

**COVID Impacts - September Sales and TNC Tax Receipts Rise.** Sales tax revenues of \$9.9 million received for September 2021 came in 26% higher than August 2021 revenues of \$7.9 million, and just a bit higher than September 2019 revenues (3%) in pre-pandemic times. While we are delighted by this strong uptick, collections continue to be affected by COVID-19 trends as total Quarter 1 Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/2022 revenues are 15% lower compared to Quarter 1 FY 2019/20 revenues. We continue to closely monitor revenue streams and see an overall increasing trend in sales tax revenues which we hope will continue with the reopening of the economy. TNC tax revenues continue to rise more modestly with October total collections at \$974,774, up from \$904,098 in September.

**Community Advisory Committee (CAC) - Applicants Welcome to Join Our 11-Member CAC.** Last, but not least, as 2021 comes to an end I wanted to express our gratitude for our hard working Community Advisory Committee or CAC. The 11-members of the CAC meet monthly and weigh in on almost every item that goes before the Board and as the Board can tell from the monthly CAC Chair's report, their discussions are thoughtful and robust. We currently have 3 openings on the CAC due to two term expirations in Districts 5 and 9, one of whom is seeking reappointment, and a member relocation from District 6. We expect to bring an item to the Board in January to fill some of those vacancies. Meanwhile, we encourage any interested San Francisco resident to apply to join our CAC. Information can be found on our website at [www.sfcta.org](http://www.sfcta.org) under About Us. Best wishes to our CAC members past and present for a Happy 2023.

**Thank you to Commissioners, their Aides and our Partners.** On behalf of our staff, I want to express our gratitude for the Board's ongoing support and guidance, as well as to extend our appreciation to your hard-working aides. We also thank our Partners for their collaboration and look forward to continued partnership in the new year. Have safe and happy holidays!!