



Memorandum

RE: Board Meeting - May 10, 2022
DATE: May 10, 2022
TO: Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Mandelman (Chair), Chan, Dorsey, 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

Delegation Visit - Israel's Ministry of Transport and Road Safety: In April, Chair Mandelman and I hosted Israel's Transport and Road Safety Minister Merav Michaeli and Director General Michael Frank, along with staff, at the Transportation Authority's offices. The delegation sought an exchange on the topics of Bus Rapid Transit, managing emerging mobility and autonomous vehicles, the Treasure Island Mobility Management Program, and congestion pricing. Last fall, the Israeli Knesset approved a cordon-style weekday peak period congestion pricing program for the city of Tel Aviv. The twin goals of the program are to reduce congestion and invest in transit. The net revenues are to be used to help fund the Tel Aviv metro project, which has a construction cost of US\$46.5 billion.

CA High Speed Rail Authority Environmentally Clears Merced to San Jose Connection: In late April, the High Speed Rail Authority - approved the final Environmental Impact Report/Statement for the San Jose to Merced project section, also known as (Central) Valley to (Silicon) Valley - a critical step to progressing high-speed rail into the Bay Area. With this clearance complete, nearly 400 miles of alignment between the Bay Area and Northern Los Angeles County is now clear, as well as the section between Burbank and Los Angeles. The next environmental document to be considered by the Board will be San Francisco to San Jose this August.

Downtown Rail Extension - Project Development Advances: Congratulations to Chair Mandelman who was re-elected Vice Chair at last month's Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) Board meeting, as was TJPA Chair Jeff Gee. Guided by the Chair and Vice Chair the TJPA had several notable achievements last year including hiring the TJPA's new Executive Director Adam Van der Water and the Caltrain Downtown Rail Extension Program Manager. The team also obtained DTX's entry into the Federal New Starts program, completed the project's phasing study including \$400 million in savings and deferrals, and secured bond financing for the project. We continue to support TJPA's work, in partnership with multiple



state, local and regional agencies. Recently, the team presented project updates to Caltrain's Finance committee and successfully secured MTC's endorsement of the project for state and federal funds.

MTC Major Project Advancement Policy - Region Seeks to Set Priorities for Major

Competitive Funding Programs: The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is developing a Major Project Advancement Policy, or MAP, to help the region coalesce its support for a common set of major transportation projects across the region. This policy is intended to achieve regional consensus on capital project funding requests to improve the region's success rate in securing discretionary grants. San Francisco's priorities include the Caltrain Downtown Extension (DTX) and Muni Core Capacity/Metro Modernization projects. MTC is providing an update to its Programming & Allocations Committee tomorrow and the MAP will be the focus of the MTC Commission workshop at the end of the month, with the goal of adopting the MAP by this July. We appreciate Commissioner Ronen's input into this effort in her capacity as MTC Commissioner.

LOCAL ISSUES

San Francisco Caltrans Planning Grants Awards: In April, we received a Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant in the amount of \$642,000 for our Brotherhood Way Active Transportation and Open Space Plan. The study, supported by Commissioners Melgar and Safai, aims to improve active transportation connections through the Oceanview, Merced Heights, Ingleside neighborhood to the City's core active transportation network and regional transit. We will also engage community stakeholders to consider roadway changes to support the new Oceanview Branch Library and create an opportunity to re-envision up to 7 acres of land in an equity priority community adjacent to Brotherhood Way. The plan will kick off this fall and we anticipate completion in 2024. The MTC was also awarded two \$500,000 San Francisco-related grants, including the Regional Occupancy Verification Technology Implementation Plan to pilot technology to assist with compliance of high occupancy vehicle or carpool lanes and SFMTA's Muni Metro Core Capacity Planning Study, which will leverage \$1,150,000 in Prop K funds, approved by the Board last month, to identify a package of projects competitive for federal funds, to provide capacity and reliability improvements for the Muni Metro system.

Neighborhood Program Planning Study Outreach Underway - Districts 5, 6, and 7: Outreach takes place in May for three of the Transportation Authority-led Neighborhood Program planning study efforts: the Octavia Improvements Study; the Treasure Island Supplemental Transportation Study; and the Ocean Avenue Mobility Action Plan. The Octavia Improvements Study survey is live and a virtual town hall was held on May 3. Public surveys for the Treasure Island Supplemental Transportation Study and the Ocean Avenue Mobility Action Plan efforts are planned to go live in May, in parallel with other multilingual outreach efforts including town halls, community meetings, and social media engagement for each. The Octavia Improvements Study seeks a final round of input to prioritize recommendations



for implementation through Octavia Impact Fee funds. The Treasure Island Supplemental Transportation Study is launching initial outreach to understand Treasure Island resident and workers' unmet needs for on-off Island travel. The Ocean Avenue Mobility Action Plan outreach is a partnership with Task Force members to bring the project priorities of the broader community into the Task Force's deliberation process. Please visit sfcta.org to learn more about each study's outreach opportunities.

Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Commercial Services Advance and Expand: Waymo started fully autonomous vehicle operation without a back up driver behind the wheel in San Francisco last month, using their own employees, pending obtaining a permit from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to offer commercial services to the public. Cruise received its DMV permit to offer driverless services during overnight hours for a small portion of San Francisco in February, and recently expanded its free AV passenger services to over 70% of San Francisco in early May. Cruise is seeking a CPUC commercial passenger services permit that will allow it to charge members of the public for driverless services without a safety driver present, which could be granted by the CPUC as early as mid-June. The is seeking public comment on the proposal, and we are preparing our input in coordination with the SFMTA .

Uber and Taxis Collaborate on Ridehail Platform: In April the SFMTA approved an extension to a pilot program allowing taxi app Flywheel to partner with Uber for ridehail services. This arrangement allows Flywheel to dispatch taxi rides based on the Uber app which will set fare prices that could differentiate from the regulated taxi meter rate. It is reported that Uber users will soon have the option of riding with a taxi upon selecting an UberX ride. In addition, Flywheel taxis will join Uber's supply of drivers in San Francisco and can pick up passengers if their vehicle is nearby. The taxi driver will have the option to accept or deny rides connected through Uber. Such partnerships have begun to take place in London and New York City earlier this year.

Bike to Wherever Day is May 20th: San Francisco will once again be celebrating Bike to Wherever Day on May 20th, rather than the traditional Bike to Work Day. The Transportation Authority is sponsoring Bike to Wherever Day with energizer stations and neighborhood bike rides planned across the city, so whether you're back to commuting, running family errands, or just enjoying the outdoors, we hope you'll consider riding your bike wherever it is you're going. Please check the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition website for a map of locations and other details: <https://sfbike.org/bike-to-wherever-day/>.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Van Ness BRT Opens: - On April 1, the Transportation Authority joined State Senator Scott Wiener, Mayor London Breed, several Commissioners and officials from the SFMTA, Caltrans, and other agencies to formally unveil Van Ness BRT service. This marks the first bus rapid transit line in San Francisco and one of the first in the nation of its kind. The construction that resulted in new BRT service also upgraded two miles of Van Ness with new sidewalks,



repaved traffic lanes, and new sewer and water systems and overhead trolley wires, signals, and lighting. The Transportation Authority laid the groundwork for this project by leading the planning and environmental review phases as well as by providing nearly \$45 million - mostly in half-cent sales tax funds - to support every phase of this project from planning and environmental review to design and construction work.

Battery Bluffs Opens: On April 22, I joined Major London Breed, our former Executive Director José Luis Moscovich, and officials from the Presidio Trust and Caltrans in a celebration of the opening of Battery Bluffs. Made possible by the Presidio Parkway Project, which rebuilt the highway to the Golden Gate Bridge, Battery Bluff is one of several inspiring new Presidio sites to open to the public in 2022. The Transportation Authority is the co-sponsor of the Presidio Parkway Project, which was carefully designed to improve safety for motorists and to improve access to the Presidio and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The Transportation Authority directed local sales tax funds to the project, which matched major investments from the state, federal government, regional agencies and the private sector. More information about Battery Bluff can be found online at sfcta.org/projects/presidio-parkway.

Buchanan Mall Bulbouts Completed - Supported by the Prop K Neighborhood Program: We are happy to report that Public Works has completed new sidewalk bulbouts along the Buchanan Mall at Turk Street following another set of bulbouts at Buchanan and Golden Gate Avenue that were completed late last year. These bulbouts will enhance safety and connectivity for people walking to the mall and surrounding neighborhood and were a priority identified in the Western Addition Community Based Transportation Plan. The project was funded through a Prop K Neighborhood Program grant at the recommendation of Commissioner Preston.

Western Addition Pedestrian Lighting Project Completed - Supported by Prop AA Vehicle Registration Fee Program: We are also happy to report that Public Works also substantially completed the Western Addition Pedestrian Lighting project last week. All 14 new pedestrian lights on McAllister Street between Fillmore and Webster streets have been installed, as well as 13 additional lighting fixtures on Fillmore Street between Golden Gate Avenue and Turk Street. This project was identified as a priority in the Western Addition Community Based Transportation Plan. Design and construction phases were funded through Prop AA, the vehicle registration fee.

20mph Speed Limit Zone Implemented on Ocean Avenue - 46 More Corridors Planned for Implementation Starting Summer 2022: We wanted to congratulate Commissioner Melgar and SFMTA for implementing a speed limit reduction to 20mph on Ocean Avenue that will promote safety on the corridor. This is the seventh 20mph zone that SFMTA has implemented this year and while this first group of locations were not funded by Prop K, they are a preview of the 46 corridors that SFMTA expects to implement starting this summer with Prop K funding that was approved in March. We are working with SFMTA to agendize an update on



this work as part of a Vision Zero update at an upcoming Transportation Authority Board meeting.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Deputy Director for Capital Projects Eric Cordoba Retires: After nearly three decades of service as our Deputy for Capital Projects and Project Management Oversight Consultant, our colleague Eric Cordoba is retiring from the Transportation Authority and pursuing his next chapter. Eric has been a valued colleague and tremendous leader for our agency, assembling hundreds of millions of dollars of funding to deliver 3 major freeway ramp safety projects including the I-80 Folsom off-ramp, I-80 YBI East Side Ramps, and I-80 Southgate Interchange on top of Yerba Buena Island, all on-time and on-budget. Eric's success reflected his decades of experience as a trusted partner for local, regional and state agencies and industry alike. We will miss his steady leadership, mentorship, love of all things San Francisco as a native son, and infectious good humor and fandom for the Giants, Niners and Warriors. Thank you for your dedication and service to the Transportation Authority, and buena suerte Eric!