



Memorandum

DATE: July 26, 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: 07/26/2022 Board Meeting: Executive Director’s Report – **INFORMATION**

REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

State Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) Grants - San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and San Francisco Water Emergency Transit Authority (WETA) Awarded Funding. On July 7, the California State Transportation Agency announced the award of nearly \$800 million in transit grants statewide. SFMTA received \$116 million, one of the largest grants, for three projects. The Core Capacity project will implement the Muni Forward program on three key corridors: K Ingleside, N Judah, and 38R Geary. Early phases of the SFMTA Train Control Upgrade Project will implement train control from Embarcadero and Third Street and Muni Metro East. Lastly, the Muni Metro Modernization Planning Study will identify the next package of investments needed to provide additional capacity and reliability improvements for the Muni Metro. WETA was also awarded nearly \$15 million to acquire two new all-electric ferry vessels and related shoreside charging infrastructure to connect downtown San Francisco to Mission Bay and Treasure Island. We congratulate these two agencies and thank the state for their investment in these important projects.

Housing Incentive Pool (HIP) Program - San Francisco On Track to Receive a Significant Share of Regional Transportation Funds: Established in 2018, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s (MTC) HIP program ties the allocation of \$71 million in federal and state transportation funds to the fifteen Bay Area jurisdictions that produce or preserve the greatest number of affordable housing units near transit between 2018 and 2022. Funds will be awarded based on the share of total housing units produced or preserved. In early



July, MTC released housing production data for the first three years of the program (2018-2020). San Francisco's share is currently 2,668 eligible units, or 47% of the regional total. Funding will be distributed after the full five years of data is available, but if trends continue, San Francisco stands to receive a significant amount of the \$71 million in available funding.

Regional Major Project Advancement Policy (MAP) - Strong Show of Support for the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) Project at MTC Committee Meeting. MTC is nearing the end of its MAP development process, which will serve as its endorsement and advocacy framework for the region's high priority major capital projects and programs at the state and federal level. At the July 13 Programming and Allocations Committee, MTC staff presented a preliminary project endorsement table for discussion. Despite its status as a long-standing regional priority, the DTX project was not included in the draft list of projects that MTC would support for near-term funding opportunities, such as the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Investment Program Augmentation round which will allocate recently passed state budget funds. MTC's support is critical for the project to secure the state and federal funding needed over the next 13 months to meet the federal milestones that would make it eligible for up to \$2.5 billion in Capital Investment Grant funding. We would like to thank MTC Commissioner Nick Josefowitz and the over forty members of the public who attended the committee meeting to speak in support of the project. We will continue to work with San Francisco's MTC Commissioners, the Transbay Joint Powers Authority and the Mayor's Office to seek the necessary revisions to the MAP before its approval in September.

LOCAL ISSUES

School Access Plan Update. We have completed the first round of outreach for the School Access Plan, with a focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged youth. This round concluded in May with a series of focus groups in English, Spanish, and Cantonese to hear from caregivers about key challenges of the school commute. A wide variety of challenges were identified, but common barriers discussed included threats to personal safety when riding public transportation and the difficulty of coordinating transportation for children at multiple schools. We are in the process of developing draft strategies to address the challenges we heard and will be asking caregivers for help refining strategies in September through in-language co-creation sessions and an online survey. Ultimately, the plan will make



recommendations about how to improve transportation for kindergarten through 5th grade students who travel long distances to school and afterschool activities. We'd like to thank the San Francisco Unified School District, the Department of Children, Youth and their Families, and SFMTA for their close coordination on this effort. For more information about the School Access Plan or to sign up for notifications, please visit

<https://www.sfcta.org/projects/school-access-plan>.

Treasure Island Outreach Continues -Virtual Town Hall on July 28th at 5:30 p.m. We want to thank the Treasure Island residents who joined Supervisor Matt Dorsey and Transportation Authority staff on July 25 at our in-person Town Hall to discuss the proposed Toll and Affordability Plan. We will be presenting the same material during a virtual Town Hall on Zoom on Thursday, July 28th at 5:30 p.m. (visit www.sfcta.org/events for meeting information). After this outreach round we will incorporate what we hear into updated proposals for the Toll and Affordability Program that we plan to present to the TIMMA Board for approval in early 2023. For more information about the outreach we're conducting or the Treasure Island Transportation Plan, please go to www.sfcta.org/projects/treasure-island-transportation-program.

San Francisco Transportation Plan (SFTP) Outreach Findings. The first round of public outreach for the San Francisco Transportation Plan or SFTP was completed this past spring. The feedback we heard from people across the city helped shape a draft investment plan for our transportation revenues. Top desired investments include: transit service reliability and street safety and top policy priorities include equity and affordability as well as accountability in project delivery. The Transportation Authority will conduct another round of outreach later this summer to share how feedback was used to shape the draft plan. We anticipate presenting the draft plan to the Board as an informational item in September. For more information, please visit: www.sfcta.org/sftp.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Presidio Tunnel Tops Opens. On July 16, Chair Rafael Mandelman and our former Executive Director José Luis Moscovich joined with Speaker Pelosi, Mayor London Breed, and officials from the Presidio Trust and Caltrans in a celebration of the opening of Presidio Tunnel Tops.



Made possible by the Presidio Parkway Project which rebuilt Doyle Drive, Presidio Tunnel Tops features 14 acres of parkland with trails, gardens, playgrounds, and views of the Golden Gate for visitors to discover and enjoy. Presidio Tunnel Tops opened to the public on July 17th. The Transportation Authority is the cosponsor of the Presidio Parkway Project with Caltrans, 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 over \$200 million in local sales tax and other funds to the project, which matched major investments from the state, federal government, regional agencies and the private sector. More information about Presidio Tunnel Tops can be found online at <https://www.presidiotunneltops.gov/>.

Central Subway - Opening Date Delayed to Late 2022. On July 20, the SFMTA announced a six-to-eight week delay to the opening of the Central Subway due to a small fire at the Yerba Buena Station, which will require the replacement of a number of pieces of electrical equipment at this station. SFMTA estimates the opening of the project will take place before year's end. Other ongoing work includes addressing water intrusion issues at the stations and testing and commissioning activities with live trains. We are tracking this work as well as the project team's work to address California Public Utilities Commission comments as part of the project certification process. .

Geneva Signal Timing - Status/Update. The I-280 Northbound Geneva Avenue Feasibility Study project team has been actively working with Caltrans and SFMTA to improve the traffic circulation at the ramp intersections. After carefully analyzing the existing signal timing, we proposed changes to the traffic signals operated by Caltrans at the Geneva Avenue bridge's northbound and southbound ramp intersections in order to streamline vehicle movements entering and exiting the freeway and address a hazardous pedestrian crossing conflict at the southbound on-ramp crosswalk. We want to thank Caltrans for implementing the new signal changes in late May. We are now working with Caltrans and SFMTA to evaluate the results and will present the findings in the Feasibility Study, slated for completion this fall.

Alemany Interchange Multi-use Path Starting Construction. San Francisco Public Works (SFPW) began construction of a new pathway for bicyclists and pedestrians connecting the Alemany Farmers Market across the interchange to San Bruno Avenue with a new signalized



crossing on Alemany Boulevard. Commissioner Ronen prioritized District 9 Prop K Neighborhood Program funds for planning and design of this project, which helped set the project up to successfully apply for a \$2 million construction grant from the state Active Transportation Program. SFPW expects to open the path for public use in January 2023.

Evans Avenue Quick Build Implementation in August. SFMTA will implement Quick Build safety improvements on Evans Avenue between Cesar Chavez and 3rd Street starting in August. The project includes a westbound protected bikeway, road diet, transit stop relocations, and pedestrian crossing enhancements. SFMTA will keep the community updated about the project through mailers, posters, and postcards on vehicles before construction. This project was funded by the Prop K sales tax and the TNC Tax (also known as Prop D). We are glad that SFMTA's Quick Build program continues to deliver safety improvements around the city and we look forward to more projects like this in the near future.

Potrero Yard Modernization Project - Procurement Process Advances. SFMTA's Potrero Yard Modernization Project continues to move forward, through the ongoing process to select a team to develop and deliver a new integrated transit facility to replace the 107-year old Potrero Yard. A modern Potrero Yard will provide space for additional buses and will support electrification of the Muni fleet, with the project also planned to include a housing component with a significant level of affordable units. SFMTA has received three proposals and is currently in the process of proposal revisions, with a target to select a developer team by this coming fall. Implementation and funding of the project remain a priority for SFMTA, despite the outcome of the June 7 Prop A Muni bond measure. As requested by Chair Mandelman at a recent Board meeting, we will agendaize an update on this project at the Board this fall.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Welcome to Two New Hires - Suany Chough and Elijah Saunders. Last, but not least, I am delighted to announce two new hires. Elijah Saunders is our new Clerk of the Transportation Authority, as well as Clerk of the Treasure Island Mobility Management Agency. We are delighted to have Elijah, a native San Franciscan on board and are very



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appreciative of Angela Tsao, our Assistant Clerk, stepping in during recruitment. I'd also like to extend a warm belated welcome to Suany Chough, our Assistant Deputy Director for Planning. Suany had recently been working for us in a consultant capacity supporting TIMMA work and prior to a tour of duty in New York, has worked for SFMTA in service planning.