



# DRAFT MINUTES

## SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

### 1. Roll Call

Chair Mandelman called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

**Present at Roll Call:** Commissioners Chan, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Stefani, and Walton (9)

**Absent at Roll Call:** Commissioners Dorsey (excused) and Safai (entered during item 4) (2)

### 2. [Final Approval on First Appearance] Approve the Resolution Making Findings to Allow Teleconferenced Meetings under California Government Code Section 54953(e) - ACTION\*

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Mar moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Stefani.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Stefani, and Walton (9)

Absent: Commissioners Dorsey (excused) and Safai (2)

### 3. Approve the Minutes of the July 12, 2022 Meeting – ACTION\*

There was no public comment.

Vice Chair Peskin moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Preston.

The minutes were approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Stefani, and Walton (9)

Absent: Commissioners Dorsey (excused) and Safai (2)

### 4. Community Advisory Committee Report – INFORMATION\*

John Larson, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair, reported on the June 22 meeting at which the CAC adopted a motion of support for Prop K allocations. As part of the discussion on this item, CAC Chair Larson noted that San Francisco Public Works (SFPW) staff were asked about hairline cracks on sidewalks and whether the quality of materials used to make the repairs were leading to flaws in construction. Mr. Larson said that SFPW staff responded that it may have been cosmetic rather than structural but committed to further examination of the issue.

Mr. Larson reported that the CAC also adopted a motion of support for the Pennsylvania Avenue Extension Project Initiation Report, with CAC members raising concerns about the resiliency of underground tunnels to rising sea levels and flooding. He noted that staff assured that issue would be included as part of the environmental evaluation in the next phase of work and that this project, along with the Downtown Rail Extension and Southeast Rail Station Study, were coordinated through a technical advisory group comprised of all the stakeholders associated with these projects to help ensure seamless service in this transportation corridor.

Mr. Larson also reported on the legislation item presented at the CAC and appreciated that the CAC members were able to learn more about how the process worked for established positions on different types of legislation.

Mr. Larson announced it would be his last Board meeting with the Transportation Authority and said he greatly valued the eight plus years he served on the CAC, with four years of serving as Chair. He added he was constantly impressed by the knowledge and caliber of the community members who had served on the committee, having also received compliments from outside parties regarding the depth of questioning and thoughtful discussion on transportation issues, keeping funding requestors and project sponsors on their toes. He thanked former Commissioner Norman Yee for originally nominating him to the CAC, as well as Commissioner Melgar recently. He also thanked the Transportation Authority staff for the preparation, expertise, and responsiveness they brought to the CAC and the work of the agency in general. Mr. Larson concluded his remarks by noting that the Board would continue to be well-served by their CAC.

Chair Mandelman extended his thanks and on behalf of the Board to Mr. Larson for his years of service on the CAC and as CAC Chair. He noted that Mr. Larson had been a constant CAC presence from the beginning of his own time on the Board. The Chair continued that the agency was lucky to have such smart and dedicated people willing to do such demanding and unpaid work, giving thoughtful consideration to each topic presented to the CAC.

Commissioner Melgar thanked ensured that with all things transit Mr. Larson for ably and professionally representing District 7 and his own neighborhood, representing with in-depth technical knowledge, and knowing the materials well, along with running respectful meetings with grace and heart, and noticing issues that others did not. She continued that Mr. Larson also advocated that underserved District 7 got what they needed.

Commissioner Ronen echoed the previous Commissioner appreciation for his eight years of services and noted that the CAC seats were volunteer positions. She said it was a pleasure to hear Mr. Larson's reports and the feedback he brought from the public and other CAC representatives.

Commissioner Walton extended his thanks to Mr. Larson. He continued that positions like these were sometimes difficult to fill because they were time-consuming for volunteers who had lives to take care of. Commissioner Walton commended Mr. Larson for his longtime volunteer service, which he performed with enthusiasm and attention to detail.

Director Tilly Chang thanked Mr. Larson on behalf of staff for being the longest serving CAC Chair at the Transportation Authority. She continued that everyone appreciated Mr. Larson for thoughtfully handling meeting items, balancing requests from his colleagues, and still running the CAC meeting efficiently. She noted that the Board relied upon Mr. Larson's report every month and listened carefully to the input he brought back from the CAC and said he would be missed by staff, as well.

The Board presented Mr. Larson with a certificate of recognition for his service on the CAC.

During public comment, Roland Lebrun echoed the comments of the Board and Director Chang to Mr. Larson.

#### **5. Appoint One Member to the Community Advisory Committee - ACTION\***

Mike Pickford, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the item.

Clerk Angela Tsao noted there was one written public comment received on the item and it had been posted to the agency's website.

Sarah Barz, CAC candidate for District 7, spoke to her interests and qualifications.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Melgar recommended Ms. Barz because of her efforts on Slow Hearst and transportation issues in the Sunnyside neighborhood. She said that Ms. Barz impressed her not just because of her technical knowledge and commitment to safe streets but also because she listened to her neighbors even when they disagreed with her. She noted Ms. Barz advocacy around pedestrian safety and bicycling, as well as her commitment to the Ocean Avenue transit study led by the Transportation Authority. Commissioner Melgar also noted the letter of support from San Francisco Transit Riders Policy and Community Investment Director Zack Deutsch-Gross that had been shared with the Board.

Commissioner Melgar motioned to appoint Sara Barz as a CAC member for District 7, seconded by Commissioner Ronen.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioner Dorsey (1)

#### **6. State and Federal Legislation Update - ACTION\***

##### **Support: Assembly Bill 1938 (Friedman)**

Mark Watts, State Legislative Consultant, and Amber Crabbe, Public Policy Manager, presented the item.

Commissioner Melgar asked if beside the funding to the individual agencies there were any other incentives for collaboration in Senate Bill 917 (Becker). She said often funding wasn't the only issue to consider when implementing these types of measures, and that it could also be about mission, vision, and values.

Ms. Crabbe answered that the formation of the Regional Transit Coordination Council (RTCC) was key to collaboration because it would include transit operators from around the region as well as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. She noted the RTCC would be charged with planning collaboratively for how to distribute additional funds. She added that the funding already approved provided an incentive because it was paying for the cost of early implementation to move the region toward the mutual goal of a more connected transportation system. She said that the provisions that would allow operators to opt out of the various requirements if they would result in service cuts. She said it wasn't necessarily a carrot, but would provide a safety net for operators.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Mar moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Safai.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioner Dorsey (1)

**7. Allocate \$17,739,152 in Prop K Funds, with Conditions, and Appropriate \$307,000 for Seven Requests – ACTION\***

**Projects:** BART: BART Tunnel Water Intrusion Mitigation (\$1,269, 471). SFMTA: Paratransit (\$13,300,000). SFPW: Street Repair and Cleaning Equipment (\$983,021), Public Sidewalk and Curb Repair (\$637,680), and Tree Planting and Establishment (\$1,548,980). SFCTA: Duboce Triangle Neighborhood [NTIP Capital] (\$7, 000) and District 1 Multimodal Transportation Study [NTIP Planning] (\$300,000).

Anna LaForte, Deputy Director for Programs & Policy, presented the item.

Commissioner Chan thanked the Transportation Authority staff for their work with her office and constituents on the District 1 Multimodal Transportation Study. She said the District 1 Multimodal Study was based on feedback from constituents and the goal was to increase public transit, bike connectivity, and electric transportation options, particularly in District 1 and neighborhood corridors.

Commissioner Peskin stated that last year he held two hearings with three supervisors on state of urban forest canopy and tree planting goals. He expressed concern with planting of new trees that didn't receive proper watering during the first three years and then died. He said he was troubled that Clean City Coalition's watering regimen resulted in higher levels of tree mortality. He requested that tree planting and watering be completed by San Francisco Public Works and Friends of the Urban Forest only, based on past performance.

Commissioner Melgar thanked the Transportation Authority staff for the inclusion of the increase in the Paratransit allocation. She said she had been in conversation with Joanie van Rihn and other concerned citizens who had pushed for this. She appreciated the Transportation Authority staff foresight to see that other funding sources were dwindling and to make up for it through Prop K funds.

Commissioner Safai, in response to Vice Chair Peskin's comments, stated that he supported the work of the Clean City Coalition, which was the main watering contractor in District 11. He said that District 11 had planted over 2,000 trees in the last few years and he commended the owner of the

Clean City Coalition (a woman-owned business) on their work. He said he was happy to work with Commissioner Peskin and Transportation Authority staff if improvement was needed and would like to have further conversations about this issue.

Chair Mandelman stated he would like to sever the tree planting item out of the grouped allocation request for further discussion.

During public comment, Brian Haagsman, Walk SF Advocacy and Policy Manager, stated his support for two requests: the D1 Multimodal Transportation Study and Public Sidewalk and Curb Repair. He said that Walk SF supported planning efforts that addressed pedestrian safety improvements in high injury corridors. He said that the California Street Safety Project brought down injury crashes by 64%, according to a report from last week. He stated that safe streets must be coupled with reliable and fast transit. He also expressed support for sidewalk repair. He said that all locations listed in the request could become impassable to disabled pedestrians and pose trip hazards. He thanked the Community Living Campaign for pushing this issue. He asked the Board to support Prop K funding for these two allocation requests.

After public comment, Chair Mandelman severed the Tree Planting and Establishment request from the Prop K allocation and appropriation request and asked that Transportation Authority staff bring this item back at the next Board meeting.

Chair Mandelman moved to approve the item, seconded by Vice Chair Peskin.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioner Dorsey (1)

## **8. Accept the Pennsylvania Avenue Extension Project Initiation Report - ACTION\***

Yana Waldman, Assistant Deputy Director for Capital Projects, presented the item.

Angela Tsao, Clerk, noted one public comment had been received and posted to the website.

During public comment, Roland Lebrun expounded on his written public comment. He highlighted potential design issues in enacting the timely evacuation of mobility-impaired passengers in an emergency for Alternatives A1 and B1. He noted a recommendation to drop Alternatives A1, B1, and C, and introduced a new Alternative B3, which is a hybrid between Alternatives B1 and B2 and introduced economies of scale at a maximum of \$1 billion. Mr. Lebrun hoped the Transportation Authority Board and staff would consider adding the proposed alternative to the evaluation matrix and select the best alternative for the project.

Vice Chair Peskin moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Mar.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Mandelman, Mar, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioner Dorsey (1)

## **Other Items**

### **9. Introduction of New Items – INFORMATION\***

There were no new items introduced.

### **10. Public Comment**

There was no general public comment.

### **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.