



Memorandum

DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 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: 9/27/2022 BOARD MEETING: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – INFORMATION

REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

SFMTA Awarded \$23 Million Federal RAISE Grant for Howard Street. We are tremendously excited that the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) was awarded \$23 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program to support the Howard Streetscape Improvement Project. The Transportation Authority supported planning for this project through the half-cent sales tax-funded Neighborhood Program. Together with parallel improvements on Folsom Street, the Howard Streetscape project will improve mobility for visitors and residents, including safer neighborhood access via transit, walking, and biking through this busy area. We join SFMTA in thanking Speaker Pelosi, Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg, and the U.S. Department of Transportation for their leadership in advancing this funding.

Federal Earmarks - Senators Recommend More Than \$12 Million for San Francisco Projects.

Earlier this month, the Senate released its Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development appropriations bill that included funding directed to community-based projects. The bill included \$10 million for Caltrain Electrification and \$2.2 million for the Transportation Authority's Yerba Buena Island West Side Bridges Retrofit project. We join Caltrain in thanking Senators Dianne Feinstein and Alex Padilla for their continued support to secure funding for these projects and for transportation infrastructure throughout the Bay Area and California. We are hopeful these investments will be included in the final version of the bill as part of the federal budget for the next fiscal year.

Clean Air Vehicles - New State Rule Sets California's Path Toward a Zero-Emission Future.

On August 25 the California Air Resources Board approved the Advanced Clean Cars II rule that established a year-by-year roadmap for 100% of new cars and light trucks sold in California to be zero-emission by 2035. The regulation also includes provisions that enhance equity in the transition to zero-emission vehicles (e.g., offering additional compliance opportunities to improve access to zero-emission vehicles in overburdened and low-income communities such as providing reduced price zero-emission vehicles for community mobility programs, producing affordable zero-emission vehicles and retaining those used vehicles in California to support the state's complimentary policies and incentives) and provides consumers certainty about the long-term emission benefits, quality, and durability of these clean cars and trucks and the batteries they run on. The Biden administration must



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still approve the new requirements before the plan can take effect. Seventeen other states have agreed to adopt California's tailpipe emissions rules and fifteen have backed its zero-emission vehicle requirements, so the rule will not only expedite California's transition to clean vehicles but will impact standards throughout the nation.

California High-Speed Rail - Environmental Review Completed for Key Project Section. On August 18, 2022, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) certified the Final Environmental Impact Report/Statement (FEIR/S) for the 43-mile segment between San Jose and San Francisco. Within the Peninsula Corridor, High-Speed Rail will share the electrified Caltrain corridor in a blended arrangement, connecting to Salesforce Transit Center via the Downtown Rail Extension. With certification of the FEIR/S, the high-speed rail system is now environmentally cleared from San Francisco to northern Los Angeles County. In July, we submitted a joint letter of support on the FEIR/S to CHSRA, together with SFMTA and SF Planning. Our letter expressed support for continued advancement of CHSRA's program and highlighted the need to continue to work with our rail partner agencies to advance the Pennsylvania Avenue Extension project, which will enable grade separation of the Caltrain/High-Speed Rail corridor in San Francisco.

BART Celebrates 50 Years of Connecting the Bay Area. On September 10, we joined Chair Mandelman, other elected officials, members of the BART Board, General Manager Bob Powers, and thousands from the community to celebrate BART's 50th birthday at Lake Merritt Station and Plaza. Speakers noted the critical role BART has played in keeping San Francisco and the Bay Area connected to work, major events, venues and seeing family and friends, helping the city become a regional job hub, and now supporting the region to recover from the pandemic. BART also plays a key role in the environment and turning a corner on climate change: BART is now running on 100 percent greenhouse gas-free electricity.

Clipper BayPass -Pilot of Bay Area's First Multi-Agency Transit Pass Underway. In August, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), in conjunction with BART and other transit agencies participating in the Clipper system, launched a two-year pilot program to provide our region's first multi-agency transit pass called the BayPass. The BayPass gives participants unlimited travel on most systems in the Bay Area with the exception of special event services to or from Oracle Park in San Francisco operated by San Francisco Bay Ferry or Golden Gate Ferry. This pilot is available to randomly selected students at Santa Rosa Junior College, UC Berkeley, San Jose State University, and San Francisco State University; and to residents of select affordable housing communities managed by MidPen Housing. We are tracking this pilot closely, as it serves as a model for our 3-agency Treasure Island transit pass with Muni, AC Transit, and Water Emergency Transportation Authority.

LOCAL ISSUES

State Budget - Assemblymember Ting Secures Additional Funds for Portsmouth Square. In addition to obtaining state funds for the SF Rec/Park's rebuild of Portsmouth Square, Assemblymember Phil Ting has secured an additional \$1 million to implement safety improvements on Walter U. Lum Place, on the western edge of the park. Improvements include wider sidewalks and pedestrian lighting, which were identified through community outreach for the Transportation



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Authority's 2020 Portsmouth Square Community-Based Transportation Plan, requested by Vice Chair Peskin.

Transit Month Kicked Off With Ride Along And Rally. On Wednesday, September 7, [San Francisco Transit Riders](#) kicked off Transit Month with a Ride Along & Rally. San Francisco city leaders, Transit Rider members and other riders met at various Muni stops throughout the city to ride together to City Hall. On the steps of City Hall, speakers talked about the need to continually improve public transit, support for free Muni for Youth, and that transit remains essential for many residents and visitors so they can get to work, school and elsewhere. After pandemic-induced cutbacks, Muni continues to restore service with some lines like the 22-Fillmore recording higher ridership than before the pandemic.

School Access Plan - In-Language Workshops Underway; On-line Survey Coming Soon. The Transportation Authority's School Access Plan has begun a series of in-language workshops in English, Spanish and Chinese and will soon launch a survey asking caregivers of kindergarten-5th grade students for input on ways to improve their school commute. Earlier in the year, we convened focus groups to hear about key challenges to the school trip, then drafted strategies to address those challenges. We are now asking caregivers how programs can best be designed to meet their needs. The online survey will be available through October for parents and caregivers to provide input. We also anticipate bringing an update on the School Access Plan to the Transportation Authority Board and Community Advisory Committee in October. Sign up for email updates at sfcta.org/schoolaccess.

Treasure Island Autonomous Shuttle Pilot Outreach Begins. A key element of the Treasure Island Transportation Plan is an on-island shuttle that enables people to move around the neighborhood without relying on an automobile. We plan to pilot an autonomous vehicle shuttle service on Treasure Island to better understand how it could meet the needs of people traveling around the island. To support that effort, we are seeking the community's input on when and where the autonomous shuttle pilot should operate and other service attributes. Treasure Island residents and businesses can take our survey at sfcta.org/treasure-island-shuttle.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Caltrain Electrification Continues to Progress - First Electric Train Celebration Held at the Caltrain Depot. On Saturday September 24, I joined Commissioner Melgar at the Caltrain 4th and King streets station where Caltrain held a First Electric Train celebration with the participation of federal, state, and local dignitaries, who had the opportunity to tour the new electric train. Once the full project is completed in 2024, these new electric vehicles will replace the diesel locomotives that have been running up and down the Peninsula for 150 years. The Transportation Authority has contributed \$41 million in half-cent transportation sales tax and other state and federal projects toward Caltrain's electrification and positive train control projects. Thank you to Commissioner Walton for serving on the Caltrain Joint Powers board - we look forward to bringing more service to the whole corridor including new access for the Bayview in the coming years.



Better Market Street - Phase 1 Construction Contract Awarded Covering 5th to 8th Streets. The Better Market Street Project is getting ready to start Phase 1 construction and upgrade Market Street between 5th and 8th streets. New street improvements include bulb-outs, ADA curb ramps, trees, benches, bike racks, and traffic signal upgrade. SF Public Works (SFPW) awarded the construction contract to Esquivel Grading and Paving in May and issued the notice to proceed in August. The project is now in a pre-construction preparation period that includes construction planning, submittals, potholing, and mobilization. SFPW is also closely coordinating the project with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development to provide business support, and with SFMTA to provide transit planning and bicycle detour support. Look for the project to start construction in late 2022. We plan to bring an update on the project to the Board this fall.

Transbay Corridor Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan Outreach Underway. The Transportation Authority and MTC are jointly conducting outreach on the Transbay Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan, which is considering ways to reduce congestion, achieve climate goals, and expand travel choices across San Francisco Bay between Alameda and San Francisco counties, including via Treasure Island. This corridor has some of the highest vehicle congestion and transit crowding in northern California. There are already efforts underway that focus on expanding transit and creating more efficient use of the freeway and BART. The current study focuses on additional travel modes - such as walking, biking, micromobility, and ferry - that can help reduce crowding, improve travelers' experiences, and reduce our climate impact. Inclusion in the completed plan helps set up projects to be more competitive for certain Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) grants. The outreach team is offering a survey (tinyurl.com/TransbaySurvey) to collect feedback. Community groups wanting a presentation can send an email to Gavin Lohry, BATA Project Manager, at glohry@bayareametro.gov.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Sales Tax Receipts, COVID Impacts - Total Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22 Sales Tax Revenues Higher than Budgeted. Through the end of FY 2021/22, we have collected \$104.8 million which is 21% higher than FY 2020/21 total revenues and exceeds the Budget Amendment revenue forecast of \$92.9 million by 13%. However, FY 2021/22 total revenues are still about 9% lower than pre-pandemic FY 2018/19 total revenues of \$115.7 million. We continue to closely monitor revenue streams and see an overall increasing trend in sales tax revenues which we hope will continue to rise as the economy continues to recover.

TNC Tax Revenue Collection On the Rise - TNC overall tax revenues continue to increase with FY 2021/22 total collections at \$12.08 million up from \$5.7 million in FY 2020/21. The revenue graph below shows monthly revenue collected in July 2022 reached \$2,074,820, the highest reported revenue since the program's inception. Variations in collections have been affected by COVID-19 trends, including two dips in December 2021 and March 2022, which appear to be strongly correlated with increased infections from the Delta and Omicron COVID-19 variants.



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