



Memorandum

Date: February 28, 2023

TO: Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Mandelman (Chair), Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, And Walton

FROM: Tilly Chang - Executive Director

SUBJECT: 2/28/2023 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report – **INFORMATION**

REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

Federal Safe Streets and Roads for All Program: San Francisco Awarded Two Grants in Inaugural Grant Cycle. On February 1, U.S. Transportation Secretary Buttigieg announced \$800 million in grant awards for 510 projects nationwide through the first round of funding for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the SS4A discretionary program with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over the next 5 years. The SS4A program funds both planning and capital initiatives to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The first of two awards to San Francisco is a \$17 million grant to SFMTA to implement the Western Addition Community-Based Transportation Plan (CBTP). The Western Addition CBTP project was funded through the Transportation Authority's Prop K Neighborhood Program and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's CBTP Grant Program. The second award is to the Transportation Authority for our Streets and Freeways Strategy Vision Zero Freeway Ramp Intersection Safety Study Phase 3 for \$360,000 in Federal funding. We anticipate bringing a request for Prop L local matching funds following the adoption of the Prop L Strategic Plan and 5YPPs this summer/fall. The SS4A Program fiscal year 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity is expected to open in April for the second round of planning and implementation grants.

Caltrain Electrification and BART Core Capacity Projects Benefit from State TIRCP Funding Awards. We wish to thank the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) for awarding Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funding to two important projects for San Francisco and the Bay Area. Caltrain was awarded \$367 million to complete the electrification of its corridor between San Jose and San Francisco. The TIRCP completes the funding plan for this project, which includes \$41 million from the Transportation Authority in Prop K and OBAG funds. The grant award also helps to slightly delay Caltrain's anticipated operating budget deficit by reducing the pressure on Caltrain's Measure RR 1/8-cent sales tax (to finance the electrification project) - an additional positive outcome of this grant. BART was awarded \$250 million for its Core Capacity program of projects to boost service frequencies through the Transbay Tube. The project includes additional railcars, a new train control system, power upgrades and maintenance facility improvements. The Prop L Expenditure Plan includes \$100 million for this important project.



**San Francisco
County Transportation
Authority**

1455 Market Street, 22ND Floor, San Francisco, California 94103 415-522-4800 info@sfcta.org www.sfcta.org

Regional Measure 3 Upheld Enabling \$4.5 billion to Support Improvements to Toll Bridges and Their Approach Routes. I am happy to report that late last month, the state Supreme Court dismissed legal challenges to Regional Measure 3 (RM3), the regional toll measure that was approved by Bay Area voters in 2018. Thanks to this ruling, the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) (which shares a governing board with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission), anticipates releasing RM3 bridge toll funding soon to support many transportation projects around the Bay Area. These tolls will be used to finance \$4.45 billion in highway and transit improvements in the toll bridge corridors and their approach routes. Major projects include new BART cars (\$500 million), Downtown Rail Extension (\$325 million) and Muni fleet expansion and facilities (\$150 million). We also look forward to working with our project partners on the competitive programs in RM3 such as Safe Routes to Transit. More information on RM3 is available at mtc.ca.gov/funding/regional-funding/regional-measure-3.

SFCTA and SFMTA Weigh in on Cruise and Waymo Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Services Expansion permits. Last month, the Transportation Authority and SFMTA jointly filed comment letters to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) protesting permit requests by both Cruise and Waymo to offer Autonomous Vehicle Passenger Services (AVPS) in all of San Francisco, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and with no restrictions on the size of their vehicle fleet. Currently, Cruise is permitted to offer AVPS in a limited geography, from 10:00 pm to 5:30 am, and with a fleet of only 30 vehicles. Waymo is currently in testing and is seeking an unlimited deployment permit in San Francisco. Our comment letters allude to the 92 reported incidents between May and December 2022 in which Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) have failed to respond appropriately to conditions on the right-of-way, compromising the safety of emergency responders, creating road safety hazards, and blocking transit and general traffic operations. Our letters advocate the linking of AV permit expansion permits to actual on-street performance. We will continue collaborating with SFMTA to weigh in and monitor this important topic.

SFCTA testifies at CA DMV Autonomous Vehicle Regulations Workshop. Last month, the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) held a public workshop regarding new and updated regulations for heavy and light duty AVs, the first such hearing since AV regs were first promulgated in 2015. The workshop mainly focused on regulations for testing and deployment of Heavy-Duty AVs, which are currently prohibited. The agenda also included an item on Light-Duty AV regulations during which Transportation Authority staff provided testimony, with a focus on 3 items: 1) Calling for more data to be reported under testing and deployment permits; 2) advocacy for new permits and service expansions to be awarded incrementally, based on demonstrated on-street performance; and 3) Encouraging partnerships between State agencies and local governments to better document, monitor and manage AV deployments.

Clean Miles Standard - CPUC Issues Phase 1 Staff Proposal. The Clean Miles Standard and Incentive Program, established by Senate Bill 1014 (2018), ordered the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the CPUC to develop and implement new requirements to curb greenhouse gas emissions from new mobility providers, such as Transportation Network Companies or TNCs. In May 2021, CARB adopted a regulation to require electrification of TNCs starting in 2023 with annual targets requiring



**San Francisco
County Transportation
Authority**

1455 Market Street, 22ND Floor, San Francisco, California 94103 415-522-4800 info@sfcta.org www.sfcta.org

zero grams of greenhouse gas emissions and 90 percent of passenger miles traveled to be fully electric by 2030. In December 2022, the CPUC published the Phase 1 Staff Proposal for implementation of the Clean Miles Standard regulation. Last month, the Transportation Authority filed comments on the CPUC staff proposal, noting various inadequacies in the design of the Driver Assistance Program - a central element of the Staff Proposal, aiming to provide financial aid to low- and moderate-income drivers to convert to electric vehicles. Comment letters from Uber and Lyft, agreed with our assessment. We will continue to monitor and update the Board on this important work.

LOCAL ISSUES

Ocean Avenue Safety and Circulation Action Plan - Task Force Holds its Fifth Meeting. The Ocean Avenue Mobility Action Plan had its fifth Task Force meeting on February 23, 2023. In this meeting, the Task Force considered two small projects to advance in this study: Bike Connectivity Improvements to create an alternate east-west bike connection between Balboa BART station and Junipero Serra and Multimodal (transit, walk, bike) Improvements on Geneva between I-280 and Ocean Ave. The Task Force voted to advance the Bike Connectivity concept. Building on the outcomes from Task Force meeting 4 in November 2021, the projects determined to advance by the Task Force include: Pedestrian Safety Improvements on Ocean Ave., Speed Management Improvements on Ocean Ave, Bike Connectivity Improvements via Holloway, K Ingleside Muni Forward, and a Shared Pedestrian and Bike Path, with Removal of the Pedestrian Bridge. We expect to complete the plan in Spring 2023. More information on the project is available at: www.sfcta.org/projects/ocean-avenue-mobility-action-plan.

Transportation Authority Joins District 7 Town Hall. Our staff and I were pleased to join Vice Chair Melgar, SFMTA Director Jeff Tumlin and other panelists at a District 7 Transportation Town Hall yesterday in the Inner Sunset. Community members raised several questions and issues, advocating for more pedestrian safety, transit reliability and parking enforcement efforts, among other needs.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Downtown Rail Extension - Key Submittal to FTA, Requesting Authorization to Enter Engineering Phase. This month, the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX or The Portal) project team achieved a key milestone on the path toward securing a more than \$3 billion New Starts grant from the Federal Transit Administration or FTA. On February 9, the TJPA Board authorized requesting FTA's approval to advance the project into the Engineering phase of the FTA grant process. The TJPA Board also considered the project's updated capital cost estimate and financial plan. This milestone keeps the project on track to formally request the New Starts grant in August 2023. The Transportation Authority is one of six agencies working together to develop the project under the Peninsula Rail Program Memorandum of Understanding. Next month, we will bring forward a recommendation for allocation of remaining Prop K funds for the project, along with description of upcoming steps to bring forward governance recommendations for the delivery phase of the project.



**San Francisco
County Transportation
Authority**

1455 Market Street, 22ND Floor, San Francisco, California 94103 415-522-4800 info@sfcta.org www.sfcta.org

Franklin Street Quick-build Open for Use, Sales Tax and TNC Tax Support Vision Zero Safety

Improvements. We are happy to see SFMTA continue to make progress on implementing quick-build safety projects in support of our commitment to Vision Zero. SFMTA started construction on Franklin Street between Lombard and Broadway in December 2022 and the project is now open for use. This section of Franklin Street is heavily residential, and there are two nearby schools: Saint Brigid School and Sherman Elementary School. Safety improvements are aimed at reducing vehicle speeds and the number of conflicts between people who drive and people who walk to create a safer experience for all roadway users. The features included painted safety zones, slow-turn wedges, daylighting, and right turn on red restrictions. The Transportation Authority contributed Prop K sales tax and TNC funds toward the project.

Better Market Street Phase 1 - Construction Starting Between 5th and 8th Streets. The Better Market Street Project is ramping up construction of Phase 1 along Market between 5th and 8th streets. Construction will upgrade traffic signals, repave curb lanes, install ADA-compliant curb ramps, and provide new streetscape improvements. The contractor, Esquivel Grading and Paving, installed protective fencing around 90 trees in January, and started construction on February 6 with exploratory potholes to confirm the location of underground utilities. Esquivel is currently working on surface improvements at the northeast corner of Market and 5th streets. Bicycle lanes will remain open in the peak direction during peak hours, but bicycle detours will be in effect during regular construction hours to ensure the safety of bicyclists. The construction team has installed signage throughout the area to guide bicyclists and flyers are posted with more information for pedestrians, residents, and businesses. More information can be found at bettermarketstreetsf.org/.

Presidio GO Shuttle - TFCA Supports Battery-Electric Shuttle to Improve Air Quality. The Presidio Trust unveiled its first battery-electric bus, which will join the Presidio GO shuttle fleet, offering riders free connections to and from downtown BART, and on the Southern Hills Route around the park. The bus will go into operation beginning late February. The Transportation Authority provided \$250,000 from our share of Bay Area Air Quality Management District Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) funds for the shuttle in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration and Presidio Trust. This project marks an important milestone in electrifying the entire Presidio GO fleet promoting clean transportation throughout the city. A second battery-electric bus will arrive in 2024 and more shuttles will roll out in coming years as funding becomes available.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Joint meeting of the TRB AV Forum and ITS America's AV committee. Jean Paul Velez, Project Management Consultant, and I attended a meeting of key stakeholders in the Automated Vehicle (AV) space to discuss issues related to a national regulatory framework for AVs. It may take the federal government ~8 years to enact federal regulations to assess, validate and set standards for the safe use of AVs. Important questions remain unanswered about what that the final regulatory framework should encompass, what should be left to states and cities to regulate, and how to handle the interim period. San Francisco was the only city represented at the meeting in person. I shared some of San Francisco's



**San Francisco
County Transportation
Authority**

1455 Market Street, 22ND Floor, San Francisco, California 94103 415-522-4800 info@sfcta.org www.sfcta.org

experiences with testing and deployment of passenger services, and underscored the need for providers and other levels of government to collaborate with cities to develop regulations that support the growth of the industry, while protecting public good goals like safety, climate, equity, and efficient urban mobility. We will continue engaging with this forum in 2023.

Procurement Series Outreach Events - Focus on Small Businesses. On February 7 and 16, we participated in two virtual outreach events, titled "Procurement Series", with members of the Business Outreach Committee to provide an overview of government agency procurements to small businesses. Representatives from Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit and the Transportation Authority co-hosted workshops reviewing common mistakes and provided tips to submitting a successful proposal package. Approximately 80 people attended the February 7 - Professional Services event and approximately 40 people attended the February 16 - Construction event. Topics included understanding insurance and bonding requirements; common mistakes; how to review a bid; cost estimating; tips and tricks; teaming readiness; financial requirements and certification requirements. The Business Outreach Committee is a multi-agency consortium of approximately 26 Bay Area transportation agencies with a common goal to assist small, disadvantaged and local firms doing business with Bay Area transit and transportation agencies.

Congratulations to Andrew Fremier, Newly Appointed Executive Director of MTC and ABAG.

Last week the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) named Andrew B. Fremier as its new Executive Director. This position also serves as the top executive for the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Our staff, myself included, have had a years-long working relationship with Director Fremier, most recently centering on work on the Downtown Extension and Bay Area Express Lanes related work. On behalf of the Transportation Authority, we offer Andy our hearty congratulations and look forward to working with him in his new role.