



# DRAFT MINUTES

## **San Francisco County Transportation Authority**

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

### **1. Roll Call**

Chair Mandelman called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

**Present at Roll Call:** Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton (11)

**Absent at Roll Call:** (0)

### **2. Chair's Report - INFORMATION**

Chair Mandelman referenced recent big events for the transportation sector including the Central Subway full opening and an event celebrating with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, United States Department of Transportation Secretary Buttigieg, Mayor Breed, and many Board members celebrating \$400 million for seismic retrofit of the Golden Gate Bridge. He thanked the Federal delegation and the Biden Administration for securing funding for San Francisco transportation projects from the 2022 bi-partisan appropriations package and thanked Senators Padilla and Feinstein for advocating for the Yerba Buena West Side Bridges grant from the Federal Highway Administration. The Chair noted the recent storm damage and thanked President Biden and Governor Newsom for their emergency declarations that would help the city rebuild and repair its infrastructure.

Chair Mandelman referenced the Governor's recent proposals to trim state transit and active transportation capital funding programs in response to lower budget estimates, and acknowledged Senator Weiner for advocating to maintain transit investment and find solutions to the impending transit operating fiscal cliff. Concurrently, the Chair thanked the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), including Commissioner Ronen, as well as regional transit leaders as they all collaborate to face this issue. Finally, the Chair recognized MTC's departing Executive Director Therese McMillan who is retiring after decades of distinguished public service.

There was no public comment.

### **3. Approve the Minutes of the January 10, 2023 Meeting - ACTION**

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Melgar moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Dorsey.

The minutes were approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton (11)



Absent: (0)

## Consent Agenda

4. **[FINAL APPROVAL] Accept the Audit Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022 – ACTION\***
5. **[FINAL APPROVAL] Award a Two-Year Consultant Contract to CGI Technologies and Solutions, Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$350,000 for Migration and Maintenance Services and a One-Year Consultant Contract to Fix Your ERP LLC in an Amount Not to Exceed \$200,000 for Project Management Services for Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance & Operations Services - ACTION\***
6. **[FINAL APPROVAL] Authorize the Executive Director to Execute Master Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Cooperative Agreements, Fund Transfer Agreements and Any Amendments Thereto with the California Department of Transportation for Receipt of Federal and State Funds for the Westside Bridges Seismic Retrofit Project in the Amount of \$95,496,378 – ACTION\***

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Preston moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Ronen.

The Consent Agenda was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton (11)

Absent: (0)

## End of Consent Agenda

7. **[FINAL APPROVAL ON FIRST APPEARANCE] Allocate \$190,000 in Prop K Funds, with Conditions, to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency for Sloat and Skyline Intersection Improvements – ACTION\***

Mike Pickford, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the item per the staff memorandum..

Vice Chair Melgar said that she was concerned that the proposed signals would be the only improvements to the intersection and that there would be no further reconfigurations given the way the scope had just been presented. She said that she had been working with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) for more than two years on previously proposed options to reconfigure the intersection as a roundabout or a T-shaped intersection. She said that this intersection would be very stressed with traffic once the Great Highway extension between Sloat and Skyline is closed for the Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation project. She said that SFMTA staff had assured her that the signalization work under consideration would be an interim step and that planning would continue for full reconfiguration of the intersection in the future. Vice Chair Melgar asked to hear from SFMTA and said



that some of the benefits of reconfiguring the intersection could include freeing up land for other uses including potential housing.

Bryant Woo, signals manager with SFMTA, affirmed that the intersection would be stressed with the Great Highway extension closure and that implementing signals quickly was urgent, and that Commissioner Melgar was correct that SFMTA would continue to look at making improvements to the intersection. He also mentioned two quick-build projects that SFMTA would be implementing in the area to improve pedestrian and bicycle connections.

Vice Chair Melgar said that she was reassured by Mr. Woo's comment, but that she wanted to confirm that Transportation Authority and SFMTA staff were in alignment.

Carl Holmes, Deputy Director for Capital Projects, said that staff at the two agencies were aligned.

Commissioner Engardio said that when he was presented with the situation it was explained to him that we needed the signals in place as soon as possible to mitigate the Great Highway extension closure, but that this wasn't the end of the story. He thanked Commissioner Melgar for raising this issue.

Chair Mandelman said that the Board would look forward to hearing more about work that would be done at the intersection.

During public comment, Maggie Dong said that she was a concerned citizen who travels through the Sloat Skyline intersection. She said she supports the proposed project because she had had so many almost near death experiences just crossing the street there. She said that there were a lot of families and elderly people who travel through the area who would benefit from the project.

Commissioner Melgar moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Dorsey.

The motion was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton (11)

Absent: (0)

**8. [FINAL APPROVAL ON FIRST APPEARANCE] Adopt 2022 Annual Report – ACTION\***

Tilly Chang, Executive Director, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Vice Chair Melgar thanked Director Chang for her humility, competence, and leadership. She extended her thanks to Transportation Authority staff and stated that their accomplishments were well deserved.

Chair Mandelman thanked Director Chang and Transportation Authority staff.

During public comment, Aleta Dupree said that they hoped there would be more adoption of autonomous vehicles. She then stated her support for the Downtown Extension project and compared it to the Grand Central Madison project that opened recently in New York. She closed by stating her support for other transportation projects, including the Central Subway.



Barry Toronto expressed concern that ramp taxis were not mentioned during the presentation and stated that Prop L funds should be allocated to increased subsidies for ramp taxi drivers to buy new vehicles. Mr. Toronto said that autonomous vehicles have become a major problem because they block traffic.

Commissioner Walton moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Dorsey.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton (11)

Absent: (0)

**9. Portsmouth Square Community Based Transportation Plan Update - INFORMATION\***

Jielin Pan, Senior Engineer, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Peskin thanked Transportation Authority staff for their work on this project and the Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Program (NTIP) report that was completed a few years ago. He acknowledged the members of the Chinatown community, including the Chinatown Transportation Research and Improvement Project (TRIP), who worked with Transportation Authority staff, Recreation and Park Department (RPD) staff, and his office staff to lead these improvements. He also thanked and acknowledged Assembly Member Ting's successful efforts that provided more funding to finance the complicated project.

Commissioner Peskin asked Mr. Noah Levy, RPD Project Manager, about the status of Walter U Lum Place improvements cost breakdown. Mr. Levy responded that RPD has completed some preliminary estimates for the improvements included in Ms. Pan's presentation at around \$ 1 million. He stated that RPD will not have the final cost breakdown numbers until the project goes out to construction bidding.

Commissioner Peskin asked Mr. Levy where the online park renderings were from.

Mr. Levy responded that those renderings were exhibits included in the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) adopted in January 2022. He stated that the renderings were preliminary schematic plans that the San Francisco Planning Department approved but were not the final plans. He stated that the bridge is Hilton's property and RPD was working closely with Hilton to develop the final plan for final permit approval associated with bridge removal.

Commissioner Peskin stated for the record that there would be no public, state, nor city funds to spend on any improvements on the private property. He stated that he would continue working with RPD, San Francisco Public Works, and the city attorney's office to resolve the bridge removal matter soon.

Commissioner Peskin commented that it would be helpful for the viewer if all the plans were orientated in the same direction in the staff presentation.

During public comment, Ms. Maggie Dong, on behalf of Chinatown TRIP, expressed support for the Portsmouth Square transportation improvements. She stated that it was very important to implement the improvements since there was a lot of foot traffic



in Chinatown, particularly in the historic Portsmouth Square.

Ms. Amy Zhou, senior planner at Chinatown Community Development Center, spoke on behalf of the Committee for Better Parks and Recreation in Chinatown (CBPRC). She supported the transportation safety improvements suggested by the Transportation Authority and the broader improvement project led by RPD created by, supported by, and designed for residents of the Chinatown community. She stated that the vision is the result of nearly a decade's worth of community engagement, capital assessment, new studies, planning, and design. She continued by stating that both the park improvements and transportation improvements are related to the broader improvement of the general Portsmouth Square area and she gave an example of the raised crosswalk on Walter U Lum Place that would improve accessibility. In closing, she emphasized CBPRC's support of the community based transportation plan and the community's appreciation of the Transportation Authority's work.

#### **10. Prop L Implementation Approach - INFORMATION\***

Michelle Beaulieu, Principal Transportation Planner, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Melgar asked if all the remaining Prop K funds were spoken for and observed the sales tax revenue was higher than initially expected this fiscal year.

Anna LaForte, Deputy Director for Policy and Programming, replied that there would be a large number of Prop K requests presented to the Board next month, including multiple requests to drawdown remaining Neighborhood Program funds. She added that the Neighborhood Program would reset and be replenished one year early under Prop L. Overall, Ms. LaForte explained that some Prop K programs were already fully allocated, some would be expected to be completely allocated by the end of March, and others would have unallocated funds that would carryforward to be programmed and allocated through Prop L.

During public comment, Aleta Dupree shared that Prop L is a good plan with a multitude of categories. She expressed the importance of paratransit services, decarbonization efforts, BART operations, and the benefits to diverse communities.

## **Other Items**

#### **11. Introduction of New Items - INFORMATION**

There were no new items introduced.

#### **12. Public Comment**

During public comment, Roland Lebrun expanded on the public comment letter that he submitted and was included in the agenda packet. He stated concerns with the cost, impact, and inability to truly accommodate a high-speed rail connection given the project designed by the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA). He said he did support the switch from a three- to two-track tunnel. Finally, he urged the Board to revise the governance model that was approved last year, to keep TJPA accountable and to transfer responsibility for delivery to a group consisting of the Transportation Authority, SFMTA, and San Francisco Department of Public Works.



Aleta Dupree asked that the Chair allow the public to continue to participate and not limit public comment. She expressed her support for San Francisco transportation and closed by asking the Board to accept those that are different and advocate for transportation that welcomes everyone.

Eric Arguillo, a member of Calle 24 Latino Cultural District and Missioner resident, asked for a comprehensive transportation plan for the Mission that centers racial equity. He stated that plans have been piecemeal and have had limited community engagement, causing confusion and safety issues for residents. He closed by stating that a plan would make streets safer, trauma informed, and more inclusive.

Barry Toronto stated that staff should present to SFMTA's Paratransit Coordinating Council on the paratransit funding component of the Prop L expenditure plan.

Marie Sorenson, a Mission resident, stated that she learned about SFMTA's plans to put a bike in the middle of Valencia street during a meeting at Manny's. She expressed a desire for a comprehensive transportation plan for the Mission, rather than a piecemeal approach.

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.