



## Memorandum

**Date:** April 25, 2023  
**To:** Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Mandelman (Chair), Melgar (Vice Chair), Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton  
**From:** Tilly Chang - Executive Director  
**Subject:** 4/25/2023 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report – INFORMATION

### REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

#### **Federal Advocacy - Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Annual Visit**

**Emphasizes Regional Transportation Priorities:** In late March, I joined MTC's delegation to Washington, DC to advocate for Bay Area projects, including The Portal/Downtown Rail Extension. The group met with members of the Bay Area Congressional delegation (Speaker Emerita Pelosi, Senator Padilla, Congressman Mullins), Senate (Environment and Public Works, Banking, Appropriations) and House (Transportation and Infrastructure) committees and USDOT officials at the Federal Transit Administration and the Federal Railroad Administration. I also participated in a statewide reception together with southern California agencies and joined Supervisors Dorsey and Engardio on the SF Chamber City trip which was holding meetings on Capitol Hill that week, as well.

#### **Speaker Emerita Pelosi Recommends \$3 Million for BART 16th St/Mission Elevator**

**Modernization:** We want to thank Speaker Emerita Pelosi for her support in nominating Congressionally Directed funding to modernize an elevator at BART's 16th Street station. Elevators are a critical means of access to transit for many riders. The elevators at the 16th Street Mission Station, while regularly repaired and maintained, have not been modernized or overhauled in their 50 years of service. The Board nominated the 16<sup>th</sup> elevators for One Bay Area Grant funding last year, but unfortunately, they did not make MTC's final list. The proposed upgrades would result in improved performance, better reliability, and improved safety and would be especially beneficial to riders with mobility limitations who rely on elevators to access the BART system, as well as riders with strollers, shopping carts, bicycles, etc. We will continue to monitor the proposed earmark, which needs to obtain Congressional approval.

#### **Speed Safety Camera Legislation - Assembly Bill (AB) 645 Passes Out of Committee:**

We are pleased to report that AB 645 (Friedman), the legislation that would authorize a speed safety camera pilot program, was unanimously approved by the Assembly Transportation Committee last week. A support position for the bill is slated for final approval on your



agenda today. SFMTA staff and other supporters traveled to Sacramento to testify at the hearing, and our Sacramento Advocate, Mark Watts testified in support of the bill on behalf of the Transportation Authority. The bill has been referred to the Assembly Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection. We want to thank Commissioner Dorsey and others for your work to advance this important piece of Vision Zero legislation that has the potential to save lives in San Francisco and in the other pilot cities. As you'll hear later on today's agenda, the bill is not without opposition and will require strong, coordinated advocacy to keep advancing.

**Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) - Downtown Rail Extension/Portal Awarded \$60 million:** Yesterday, Governor Newsom announced \$690 million in TIRCP grants, which included \$60 million for the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) to advance final design for the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX)/Portal. The funding will position the project to advance in engineering work and meet the next federal funding milestone for the project later this year, which is to demonstrate commitment of 50 percent of the matching funds to the planned Federal Transit Administration New Starts grant. I am happy to report that the state also awarded \$13.8 million in TIRCP funds to the Water Emergency Transportation Authority to expand electrical infrastructure to the Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal and \$11.2 million to the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority for work on Link21. Thank you to CalSTA for these awards.

**Express Lanes START - Equity-Focused Pilot Launches:** On April 7, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) launched their 18-month pilot project to provide qualified low-income drivers with at least a 50% discount on Express Lanes tolls on I-880 in the East Bay. The pilot is using social media, billboards, media, and partnerships with community-based organizations along the corridor to publicize the program to encourage qualified low-income drivers to enroll. We participated on the advisory committee over the past two years to design this program and thank Commissioner Ronen for advocating for its creation at MTC. We are tracking this START pilot closely, to inform our affordability and equity initiatives and gave the Board a preview of this pilot on March 21 as part of a Bay Area Express Lanes information item. We will get progress reports along the way and expect a robust evaluation after the first year of operations. See [www.expresslanesstart.org](http://www.expresslanesstart.org) for more information about the pilot. Separately, our Deputy Director for Planning, Rachel Hiatt, attended a ribbon cutting ceremony on our behalf for the new US101 Express Lanes in San Mateo, on April 15.

## **LOCAL ISSUES**

**Arguello Protected Bike Lanes and Ethan Boyes Rally at City Hall:** We were all saddened by the tragic death of Ethan Boyes earlier this month while riding his bike in the Presidio. It is also one more reminder that we have much more work to do to reach our Vision Zero goals



and this requires hard work and collaboration, so thank you to Vice Chair Melgar, and Commissioners Chan and Engardio who have been calling for accelerated delivery of protected bike lanes. The Transportation Authority first funded Class 2 (striped) bike lanes on Arguello in the Presidio 10 years ago and we look forward to being a partner in creating safe streets for all users in the Presidio and around San Francisco. We have a unique opportunity to focus on creating a new generation of safer infrastructure for bicyclists as we roll out the Prop L sales tax later this year. Additionally, we expect that the Active Communities Plan that SFMTA is currently leading - and that will be discussed later on today's Board agenda, will help guide our infrastructure investments across the city with the goal that people of all ages and abilities should be able to ride their bike or walk anywhere in San Francisco safely and comfortably.

**Transit Fiscal Cliff - Elected Officials and Advocates Rally in Advance of Key Budget Hearings in Sacramento:**

Last Tuesday Transportation Authority staff joined the well-attended rally at City Hall in support of state funding for transit operations, organized by Commissioner Preston, who was joined by speakers Commissioners Ronen and Walton, as well as Kevin Ortiz, the Chair of our Community Advisory Committee. The event was held in advance of a key Senate budget subcommittee meeting this Thursday, where legislators will consider transportation spending needs across the state. On Wednesday and Thursday, MTC officials will also be discussing a regional advocacy strategy to secure state revenue for transit operators to help address the pending transit fiscal cliff. We will continue to work closely with SFMTA to support San Francisco's MTC Commissioners on this topic, as well as communicate the urgency of this issue to our state legislative delegation and the Governor's office.

**District 1 Multimodal Transportation Study Kicks Off:** At the request of Chan, we've begun the District 1 Multimodal Transportation Study, which is funded through the sales tax Neighborhood Program. The effort will engage the community to identify known mobility challenges and develop near- to long-term strategies to improve transit reliability and safety and shift trips to transit, walking, biking, or other non-driving options. The study will identify medium-term concepts to improve transit reliability and pedestrian and bicycle safety and identify strategies to reduce emissions and congestion for trips that start and end within District 1, while promoting economic vibrancy. Community engagement will include a combination of in person and virtual community meetings and surveys with the first virtual event taking place this Thursday, April 27 at 6 pm. Members of the public may participate in Spanish, Russian and Chinese. For more information, visit [sfcta.org/D1-study](http://sfcta.org/D1-study).

**Recommendations Emerge from Ocean Avenue Mobility Action Plan:** Initiated by Transportation Authority Board Member Myrna Melgar, we have been leading the Ocean Avenue Mobility Action Plan to prioritize and identify funding for transportation, pedestrian safety, bike safety, and traffic circulation improvements for the Ocean Avenue corridor



between Junipero Serra Boulevard and San Jose Avenue. The recommendations that have emerged reflect input from the Ocean Avenue Mobility Action Plan Task Force, which has met five times, along with community surveys, two townhalls with Supervisor Melgar, and other community feedback. The recommendations include two large projects and three small projects. The large projects are shared pedestrian and bike path improvements, with removal of the Ocean Avenue pedestrian bridge; and K Ingleside Muni Forward improvements (including some parking space removal). The small projects are: Ocean Avenue pedestrian safety improvements, Ocean Avenue speed management improvements, and bike connectivity improvements via Holloway Avenue (includes some parking space removal). The projects are representations of how to apply a toolkit of improvements and are subject to more technical work and public outreach to determine final designs. We anticipate bringing the final report to the Board for approval early this summer. For more information, or to give feedback, visit [sfcta.org/oceanave](http://sfcta.org/oceanave).

### **Transportation Authority Hosts Roundtables with Business and Community Groups:**

Continuing an ongoing series of meetings with communities across the city, Transportation Authority staff and I met with business and community groups during the week of April 10. The virtual meetings were a chance for our staff to share updates and respond to questions about a range of Transportation Authority-led work, including launching the Prop L Transportation Sales Tax Program, the Eco-Friendly Downtown Delivery Study, US 101-280 Managed Lanes Study, and other topics such as the transit fiscal cliff. We appreciate the feedback we hear and the ongoing engagement with members of the community.

## **PROJECT DELIVERY**

### **SFMTA Quick-Build Project on Guerrero - WalkSF-led Walk Audit of Guerrero on**

**Saturday 4/15:** SFMTA is making progress toward implementation of a new quick-build traffic calming project for Guerrero on the edge of Districts 8 and 9 and that the public engagement for the project included a recent walk audit led by WalkSF and attended by Chair Mandelman. SFMTA expects the project to include an array of pedestrian safety improvements adjust signal timing, calm and slow turns with painted safety zones or left turn calming and reduce opportunities for illegal loading near intersections. The Board allocated \$2.3 million in TNC Tax and sales tax funds to the project in February. SFMTA expects to complete design this spring and to implement the quick-build later this year.

### **Lincoln Way Quick-build Update - SFMTA Preparing to Share Detailed Design Proposals and Seek Community Feedback:**

SFMTA continues to make progress on implementing quick-build safety projects. The Lincoln Way Quick-Build Project has finished initial outreach and design efforts and is preparing to share detailed project proposals with the community in upcoming targeted presentations and a virtual open house event. While the project was



initially focused between Arguello and 22nd, as a result of changes to the High Injury Network, SFMTA expanded the scope to comprehensively address the entire corridor, stretching from Arguello to the Great Highway. Implementation is scheduled to begin in Fall 2023. This work will include painted safety zones, upgraded signage, daylighting, left turn safety and signal timing changes. We are funding this Quick-Build with a combination of sales tax and TNC tax funds.

## **MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) - Another Clean Audit for San Francisco's County Program Manager Fund:** The Transportation Authority is designated as the county program manager for the local share of funds available through the Bay Area's TFCA program. Funds from this Bay Area Air Quality Management District program come from an annual \$4 vehicle registration fee on automobiles registered in San Francisco and are for transportation projects that improve air quality by reducing motor vehicle emissions. The audit, conducted by Simpson & Simpson LLP, covered projects ended in the period between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2021, and reported that the Transportation Authority spent program funds appropriately and complied with the funding agreements. Congratulations to the Policy and Programming Division for its ongoing efforts to run an effective TFCA program in San Francisco and to the Finance and Administration Division for yet another clean audit. I'd like to thank Mike Pickford and Camille Cauchois from our staff for their hard work on this.

**Community Advisory Committee Meetings - Recordings Available on YouTube:** In April, we were delighted to host the first in-person Community Advisory Committee or CAC meetings in three years. The meetings are held in a hybrid format to allow the public to join in person or remotely via Zoom. We are now posting video recordings of CAC meetings to our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/@sfcta](https://www.youtube.com/@sfcta) and on individual meeting pages on our website at [www.sfcta.org/events](https://www.sfcta.org/events). We welcome folks to join or view our next meeting, tomorrow night, April 26 at 6 p.m. at the Transportation Authority's offices at 1455 Market Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor.