



DRAFT MINUTES

San Francisco County Transportation Authority

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

1. Roll Call

Chair Mandelman called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

Present at Roll Call: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Peskin, Ronen, Stefani, and Walton (10)

Absent at Roll Call: Commissioner Safai (entered during Item 3) (1)

2. Chair's Report – INFORMATION

Chair Mandelman reported that he joined Commissioner Peskin, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency representatives, and community members to celebrate the completed Quick Build protected bike lanes on Battery and Sansome Streets. He reported that the Transportation Authority provided the vast majority of the funding at a total of about \$800,000 from Prop K and Prop D TNC Tax funds. Next, Chair Mandelman announced that the state Clean Air Resources Board e-bike incentive program was progressing and thanked Vice Chair Melgar and Commissioner Ronen for their work on the Air District's Mobile Sources Committee and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), respectively. The program will provide discounts to low-income California residents to purchase e-bikes and Chair Mandelman stated that he was keen to see these and other affordability subsidies get rolled out. Finally, the Chair thanked the Transportation Authority's partners at the United States Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration who visited the city and discussed the City's experience with driverless vehicle deployment and regulation. He closed by expressing his hopes that they would be strong partners in guiding this important sector to realize its transformative potential.

During public comment, Aleta Dupree stated that she looked forward to using the new Quick Build protected bike lanes. She stated that autonomous vehicles were important and that she wanted to see a federal standard set as many trips take people across multiple jurisdictions.

3. Executive Director's Report – INFORMATION

Tilly Chang, Executive Director, presented the Executive Director's Report.

During public comment, Jeff Kline stated that San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) faced a fiscal cliff. He went on to say that SFMTA service on Treasure Island resulted in an increased deficit and that it the large development corporations that should pay for these transit services.

Roland Lebrun requested that the Executive Director's Report be posted to the website.

Aleta Dupree stated that she supported the e-bike subsidies but would like to see those incentives targeted at low-income households.

4. Approve the Minutes of the March 14, 2023 Meeting – ACTION



There was no public comment.

Commissioner Peskin moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Safai.

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)

Consent Agenda

5. **[Final Approval] Adopt the Recommendations of the Caltrain 22nd Street Station ADA Access Improvement Feasibility Study for the Preferred Improvements to Achieve Street to Platform Accessibility –ACTION**
6. **[Final Approval] Allocate \$16,406,910 and Appropriate \$687,236 in Prop K Funds, with Conditions, and Allocate \$2,882,492 in Prop AA Funds for 23 Requests — ACTION***
7. **[Final Approval] Allocate \$10,000,000 in Prop K Funds, with Conditions, for Downtown Rail Extension Engineering Development and Procurement Preparation and Appropriate \$3,500,000, with Conditions, for Downtown Rail Extension Rail Program Oversight and Technical Tasks for Engineering and Procurement and \$2,500,000 for Pennsylvania Avenue Extension Pre-Environmental Bridging Study — ACTION***
8. **[Final Approval] Award a Construction Contract to Golden State Bridge/Obayashi Joint Venture, in an Amount not to Exceed \$84,399,951 and Authorize an Additional Construction Allotment of \$15,188,818; Approve a Contract Amendment with WMH Corporation in the Amount of \$2,678,000; Approve a Contract Amendment with WSP USA, Inc. in the Amount of \$5,940,382; and Authorize the Executive Director to Execute All Other Related Supporting and Supplemental Agreements for the Westside Bridges Seismic Retrofit Project - ACTION***

There was no public comment.

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

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)

End of Consent Agenda

9. **Bay Area Express Lanes Update — INFORMATION**

Rachel Hiatt, Deputy Director for Planning; Lisa Klein, Director of Field Operations and Asset Management for MTC; Pierce Gould, Principal, Express Lanes, MTC; Sean Charpentier, Executive Council, San Mateo JPA; and Andrew Quinn, Assistant Deputy Director, Roadway Pricing, Caltrans; presented the item.

Commissioner Peskin thanked staff from the partner agencies for the comprehensive briefing, acknowledged that traffic congestion had returned and stated that it was time for the City to consider exploring express lanes. He stated that while equity was a primary concern in initial conversations, it is now being meaningfully addressed such as in the Express Lanes START pilot in the East Bay.



Vice Chair Melgar stated that she was ready to have that conversation, as well. She stated that while transit agencies faced a fiscal cliff, car congestion was back to pre-pandemic numbers and it did not make sense that someone could drive up to the city from the south bay for free but would have to pay to ride BART. She asked that the Transportation Authority pay close attention to the operational details so that the system was as simple and seamless as possible to minimize public confusion.

Chair Mandelman supported his colleagues' comments.

During public comment, Jeff Kline stated that he was glad to hear equity issues were being addressed but felt that this express lanes would inevitably lead to equity issues. He referenced a SPUR study [Bridging the Gap] that found that FasTrak had a disproportionately adverse effect on people with low-incomes.

Aleta Dupree asked how to make sure that express lanes could effectively manage congestion while remaining equitable. She hoped that a solution could be found that would allow highways to continue to flow while encouraging high occupancy modes of transportation.

Ed Mason stated that express lanes would only encourage drivers and that there should be more focus on developing regional public transit, including a regional express bus system.

Executive Director Tilly Chang thanked Board members for their feedback and said that staff would go back and look at how they might adjust the current study to address Express Lane options based on the Board's comments.

Commissioner Safai stated anecdotally that express lanes around the Bay Area were effective. He noted that his biggest concern was that the city was unique in how the freeways ran through it and said that many City residents used freeways for intercity travel and that should be a consideration. He closed by saying that 101 should be considered for changes as it appeared to have greater congestion challenges due to both neighborhood traffic and commuters from the South Bay.

Commissioner Walton stated in his experience express lanes currently exist in less concentrated areas with more space. He referenced the case studies of London and Sweden and highlighted that those areas were very different from San Francisco. He closed by stating that he did not want to penalize people simply for being low-income.

Other Items

10. Introduction of New Items – INFORMATION

There were no new items introduced.

11. Public Comment

During public comment, Jeff Kline stated that a lot of the congestion was due to a failure of regional planning and zoning. He stated that if tax revenue could not cover the expenses of transit for the Treasure Island/Yerba Buena Island development, there would be a bigger hole in the budget and that the development agreement should be renegotiated.

Dave Alexander stated that the District 1 NTIP request for a HAWK (High-Intensity Activated crosswalk beacon) beacon at 38th and Geary was not enough and a more robust infrastructure solution was needed along the Geary and Fulton corridors.

12. Adjournment



The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.