



## Memorandum

**Date:** July 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:** 7/25/2023 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report – INFORMATION

### REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

**California Transportation Commission Approves \$5 million in Local Partnership Program Incentive Funds for San Francisco.** We are thrilled to announce that at its June 2023 meeting, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved \$5 million in one-time Local Partnership Program (LPP) incentive funds to reward San Francisco for passing Prop L in November 2022. These funds are available to the Transportation Authority as the eligible taxing authority with a new or renewed voter-approved tax, toll, or fee dedicated solely to transportation improvements. The incentive funds are in addition to \$3.44 million in San Francisco's LPP Formula Program funds, which along with the incentive funds, are available for CTC programming and allocation through June 30, 2026. LPP funds require a dollar-for-dollar local match. We plan to present LPP project priorities to the Board later this fiscal year.

**State Legislation - Bill Approved to Limit Caltrans' Indirect Cost Recovery Charges.** I am pleased to report that the transportation trailer bill that the Governor signed earlier this month included a provision that will reduce costs for projects done in coordination with Caltrans. Senate Bill 125 caps Caltrans's indirect cost recovery rate at 10% for self-help counties with countywide sales tax measures dedicated to transportation improvements. This recognizes the partnership between Caltrans and county sales tax agencies, which are working together to maintain and improve California's transportation system. While prior efforts to cap indirect cost recovery rates had sunset dates, the provision in Senate Bill 125 does not, making the cap permanent. Thank you to the staff and members of the Self-Help Counties Coalition, which I chair, for leading this effort.

**SF Hosts Major Autonomous Vehicles (AV) Conference, CPUC delays AV Expansion Hearing.** Transportation Authority and SF Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) staff participated in the 2023 Transportation Research Board Automated Road Transportation Symposium (ARTS), an international AV conference held here in San Francisco earlier this month. Industry, research, and government leaders gathered to discuss the challenges and



opportunities of the deployment of automated road and vehicle technologies at a time when San Francisco is the epicenter of “real world” deployment of AV technologies. Transportation Authority and SFMTA staff spoke in a number of sessions addressing issues such as the readiness of cities for automated road technologies; how federal, state, and local policies can be “harmonized” to expedite AV deployment; and how land development projects can consider AVs. Our staff also presented on the Treasure Island Autonomous Vehicle Shuttle Pilot Project, which is expected to begin service in the coming weeks. During the conference, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) delayed a hearing to consider expansion permit applications for two AV companies until August 10.

**SFCTA, SFMTA Join UN Working Group on AV Standards and Guidelines** - Last week, SFMTA staff and I participated in a convening of a United Nations-sponsored Working Group that is developing technical guidelines for Autonomous Vehicle manufacturers. Dozens of experts from Asia, Europe and the Americas gathered at Google offices in Mountain View for their quarterly meetings to discuss detailed functional requirements and specifications for operational and safety features on AVs. We thank the US Department of Transportation and National Highway Transportation Safety Agency for the invitation to participate and Waymo for hosting.

**The Portal - DTX Project Prepares for August Submittal to FTA.** Next month, the Transbay Joint Powers Authority will submit a request to have The Portal/DTX project formally evaluated by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), as part of the process to secure a multi-billion dollar federal investment for the project. Last week, my colleagues and I serving on the Peninsula Rail Executive Steering Committee (ESC) received a report on the project team’s progress in preparing this FTA submittal, which will be accompanied by an updated cost estimate and financial plan. Also last week, the FTA approved TJPA’s request to account for the already completed trainbox as part of the non-FTA funding share of the project, which will support The Portal’s FTA rating and funding plan. Finally, the ESC also last week approved The Portal Governance Blueprint, which will be presented to the TJPA Board next month for adoption and which will guide the preparation of a successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to serve the project starting next year as it advances into procurement and early works.

## **LOCAL ISSUES**

**Treasure Island Autonomous (AV) Shuttle Pilot Holds Community Day; Service to Commence in August.** We are excited to announce that the Treasure Island Loop AV Shuttle will begin providing passenger service in the coming weeks on Treasure Island between 9 AM - 6 PM daily. There will be an attendant on board at all times, rides are free to the public, and the shuttle can accommodate up to 10 passengers and is ADA accessible. The Loop will



have a frequency of about 20 minutes and all stops on the route will be signed. Service will operate through April 2023. In preparation of the service launch, we hosted a Community Day on Treasure Island on July 18 for neighborhood residents and representatives of Lighthouse for the Blind and members of SFMTA's Multimodal Accessibility Advisory Committee. Attendees were welcomed aboard a stationary shuttle in order to get familiar with its features, including the wheelchair-accessible ramp. Please see [ti-loop.com](https://ti-loop.com) for additional information on how to ride the vehicle as well as service updates.

**SFMTA Offers Active Communities Plan Outreach Bike Rides.** To help inform development of its Active Communities Plan, SFMTA is hosting a series of bike rides around the city and in partnership with local organizations. SFMTA has hosted rides in Districts 1, 2, and 4 over the past few weeks and has two more rides coming up. There will be a District 5 ride that will meet at Turk and Fillmore at 2:00pm this Friday, July 28th, and also a ride in the OMI area of Districts 7 and 11 on August 5th that will meet at 11:30am at Temple United Methodist Church. Everyone is encouraged to participate and let SFMTA know your priorities for the Active Communities Plan. More info here: <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/active-communities-plan>

**SFMTA to Install Eight New Red Light Cameras:** SFMTA has amended its contract with the company that operates the City's red light camera system to expand the program by eight additional locations in Districts 2, 5 and 6 and to extend the contract by five years to 2028. Cameras currently enforce 19 approaches at 13 intersections. The new locations are under design, and once construction is complete cameras will enforce a total of 27 approaches at 21 intersections. San Francisco was one of the first cities to implement an automated enforcement program to enforce laws prohibiting red-light running. SFMTA says that these cameras have resulted in a 66% citywide drop in injury collisions resulting from red-light running between 1997 and 2022.

## **PROJECT DELIVERY**

**Caltrain Celebrates Arrival of Electric Trainsets this Weekend.** I look forward to joining Caltrain leaders and community members at San Jose's Diridon Station this weekend to tour Caltrain's new, modern electric trains that will support the Caltrain Electrification project, which is set to open in fall 2024. The Transportation Authority has provided \$41 million in Prop K and One Bay Area Grant funds to support the project. Caltrain's event will be held on Saturday, July 29 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., where the public will be able to see and board the new vehicles featuring more spacious interiors, dedicated Wi-Fi, upgraded communications systems and baby-changing stations inside bathrooms. In addition, the new electric fleet will be quieter, less polluting and capable of faster acceleration. RSVPs are recommended, visit [caltrain.com/electric-train-tour](https://caltrain.com/electric-train-tour) for more information.



### **Prop K-Funded Caltrain Automatic Passenger Counters Installed at 4th and King**

**Station.** We are pleased to report that the new Automatic Passenger Counters at the 4th and King Station are now in use and producing daily reports. The Transportation Authority allocated \$400,000 in Prop K funds to Caltrain to install door sensors that count the number of passengers coming and going from the station. The automatic passenger counting system provides Caltrain with more accurate passenger counts which enables better long-range planning and forecasting. The counters currently count passengers leaving the station, but they will be upgraded to count in both directions by the end of the calendar year.

### **SFMTA Delivers Prop K-funded Pedestrian Safety Intersection Improvements at Elk and Sussex Streets.**

SFMTA is wrapping up construction of the Neighborhood Program funded intersection improvements to Elk Street at Sussex Street in District 8. This project constructed four new curb ramps, widened sidewalks and bulb-outs, a new marked crosswalk, and new flashing pedestrian beacons to improve safety and accessibility for people crossing the street.

### **Quick-Build Update - Prop K Sales Tax and TNC Tax Support Safety Improvements.**

SFMTA continues to make progress on implementing quick-build safety projects. The **Lake Merced Blvd Quick-Build** and **Bayshore Boulevard Quick-Build** projects are both preparing to enter construction. Project updates can be found on the project websites, <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/lake-merced-quick-build-project> and <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/bayshore-boulevard-quick-build-project>. Last month, the **Hyde Street and 17th Street** quick-build projects held open house events to present design proposals. Both project teams are now reviewing feedback prior to finalizing designs. These projects are funded by Prop K and TNC Tax funds. On **Valencia**, SFMTA recently activated bike signals at the intersections with 15th and 23rd streets, installed rubber curbs, and refreshed crosswalks. SFMTA anticipates that with the installation of additional planned plastic bollards and refined curb management, this project will provide clearly defined and safe spaces for all users. Weekly project updates can be found on the project website, <https://www.sfmta.com/projects/valencia-bikeway-improvements> and we look forward to the upcoming recommendations of the Valencia Long-Term Bikeway study, funded by District 9 Neighborhood Program funds.

## **MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

**Transportation Authority Hosts High School Summer Interns.** We have welcomed three students to our summer high school internship program: Tony Lu is a rising senior at George Washington, Gabriella Trujillo Diaz is a rising senior at the Bay School of San Francisco, and Anthony Irias graduated from Lowell and will attend Stanislaus State University this fall, majoring in business administration with a concentration in finance. They have been learning about transportation by attending tours such as the West Side Bridges projects and Treasure



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Island AV Loop, participating in SFMTA field trips and creating their own internal newsletter. Currently, they are working on a group research project which focuses on improving safety on public transit, and includes developing a short survey, conducting outreach at bus stops in the Bayview district, and developing potential solutions.

**Enterprise Resource Planning System Migration - System Goes Live on Schedule.** On July 10, 2023 we went “live” with the first module with the new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, Microsoft Dynamics 365, a business management software that allows the use of a system of integrated applications to manage all facets of financial management and operational oversight. The ERP system continues to enhance strategic decision making, reporting and forecasting, streamline access to relevant information and processes, and reduce redundant data entry, in addition to many other benefits. The implementation was completed on-time and I am pleased to recognize our Deputy Director for Finance and Administration, Cynthia Fong and ERP Implementation Team Members Javier Altamirano, Ron Leong, Henry Pan, Christy Tao, Amelia Walley, and Lily Yu.