



Memorandum

Date: September 26, 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: 9/26/2023 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report – INFORMATION

REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

Transit Month Rally and Events. Transportation Authority Commissioners and I joined SF Transit Riders, Senator Wiener and Assemblymember Ting for the kick-off rally of Transit Month, which the Transportation Authority is pleased to sponsor. The event highlighted all the efforts of transit systems to provide clean, reliable and responsive service, and all the diverse events that followed in San Francisco and across the region. Transportation Authority Deputy Director for Planning Rachel Hiatt spoke at the Bay Area Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Summit at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission last Friday, and our staff are also tabling at events at Salesforce Transit Center this week. In addition, BART and Caltrain have instituted transit service changes in an effort to respond to post-pandemic travel patterns. All BART trains will run at least at 20-minute frequencies nights and weekends, eliminating the longer half hour frequencies on nights and weekends. BART has also shortened some trains to match up with demand, to support safety and cleanliness efforts, and to save money (by reducing power costs). Starting yesterday, Caltrain adjusted its schedule to align with the BART schedule at Millbrae and to provide faster local trains in the evening.

Caltrain Celebrates Arrival of Electric Trainsets in San Francisco. I was delighted to join Chair Mandelman, Vice Chair Melgar and Commissioner Dorsey and thousands of members of the public at the Caltrain Electric Train event this past weekend, to tour the new electric trains that will operate as part of the Caltrain Electrification Project when it opens next fall 2024. The Transportation Authority has provided \$41 million in Prop K, One Bay Area Grant, and other funds to support the project. Caltrain's event featured federal and state leaders including Senator Wiener and Assemblymember Ting and was attended by Joint Powers Board Director Monique Zmuda and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Director Jeff Tumlin. The public was able to tour 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. For more information, visit caltrain.com/electric-train-tour for more information.

Vision Zero - California Legislature Approves Bill to Authorize Speed Safety Cameras:

On September 13, the Legislature approved Assembly Bill (AB) 645 (Friedman), which would authorize the implementation of five-year speed safety pilot program in six California cities, including San Francisco. AB 645 would enable the cities to install a limited number of speed cameras, technology that has saved thousands of lives in the cities and states that have implemented it, but to date has remained illegal in California. We want to thank SFMTA for sponsoring AB 645 as well as thank WalkSF and the countless supporters who have advocated tirelessly on its behalf. Governor Newsom now has until October 14 to sign it, veto it, or let it become law. We have submitted a letter to the Governor requesting his signature on the bill. If the cameras are authorized, we will work closely with SFMTA to begin the process of identifying how a pilot could be implemented in San Francisco.

Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants - Three San Francisco Awards. On August 31, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced the award of \$41.6 million in sustainable transportation planning grants statewide. Three of the awards are for projects in San Francisco under the Climate Adaptation Planning category, for a total of \$2.3 million. The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board received \$474,000 for the Caltrain Climate Change Vulnerability Study to address climate impacts along the Caltrain corridor. BART received \$515,000 for the BART Embarcadero Structure Long-Term Adaptation project to study adaptation for this critical infrastructure, and the SFMTA, along with the Port of San Francisco, received over \$1.3 million for the Embarcadero Mobility Resilience Plan to adapt the 3-mile multi-modal corridor and its critical transportation infrastructure to climate change. We congratulate these four agencies and thank the state for their investment in these important climate adaptation projects that will help make San Francisco more resilient. Our application for the Bayview Street Safety and Truck Relief Study was not recommended to receive funding and we will continue to explore further opportunities to fund this important work.

CPUC Approves San Francisco Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Driverless Expansion Permits.

On August 10, 2023, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved permits for both Cruise and Waymo to provide commercial driverless ridehail services in all of San Francisco, 24/7, and with no restrictions on the size of their fleets. Prior to the vote, the Commission heard public comments opposing and supporting the approval of the proposed service expansions by both AV operators for over 6 hours. The Commissioners comments and eventual vote also demonstrated a lack of consensus on the way forward. CPUC Commissioner Shiroma expressed support for San Francisco's concern about AV interference with emergency response. Other Commissioners cited prior permit requirements set two



years ago were met by applicants and stated that the Commission could hold future workshops to continue monitoring AV performance. Permits for both companies were approved by the Commission by a vote of 3-1. Moreover, in light of a number of incidents by Cruise, most notably a Cruise AV injury crash with a Fire Truck en route to an emergency, the DMV requested that Cruise cut its fleet in half until a proper investigation of such incidents was completed. In light of continuing safety incidents, San Francisco filed Motions to Stay both approval decisions, and subsequent Applications for Rehearing with the CPUC.

LOCAL ISSUES

WalkSF Memorial Rally for the 4th & King Fatality. We were all heartbroken to hear of the tragic death of the child who was struck by a car in the crosswalk at 4th and King on August 15th. On Tuesday, September 12, I joined WalkSF, Chair Mandelman, Commissioner Dorsey, SFMTA Board Chair Eaken and others at 4th and King for a memorial and a call to action. Later this month, we saw additional tragic pedestrian fatalities in the SoMA, Sunset and on Valencia Street. In addition to working toward speed safety camera authority, we are redoubling our efforts to advance planning studies and fund traffic safety through Prop L and Prop D, together with sponsors. Today's Vision Zero hearing will also report on the SFMTA's Active Communities Plan and Quick Build project delivery efforts.

Bayview Caltrain Station Location Study - Upcoming Outreach. The Bayview Caltrain Location study seeks to identify and advance a single preferred location from the remaining options at Evans Avenue and Oakdale Avenue to restore Caltrain service to the Bayview and surrounding neighborhoods that has been missing since the closure of the Paul Avenue station in 2005. We have been advancing initial work on the study, including developing a set of decision factors and preliminary station design elements, and are seeking the community's input on both. The study team has presented so far at the Bayview Hunters Point and Shipyard CACs, and will be hosting a community outreach event at the Bayview Hunters Point YMCA at 10:30am, on Saturday, October 14th. Additional information, including an online version of the content and feedback form, can be found on the project's website at <https://www.sfcta.org/bayview-caltrain>.

Brotherhood Way Safety and Circulation Plan - Outreach Launches in November. The Brotherhood Way Safety and Circulation plan will engage community members within the Brotherhood Way and Alemany Boulevard corridors to develop both long-range and quick build concepts to improve safety, circulation, and connectivity. We are connecting this month with community-based organizations in the study area to introduce the project and share the proposed outreach approach. This first round of outreach will begin in November and will focus on hearing from community members about transportation needs, barriers, and specific multimodal challenges. We will use what we learn to develop three long-range



concepts which address community needs. These concepts will be the focus of two subsequent rounds of outreach in the Spring and Fall of 2024. Learn more at <https://www.sfcta.org/brotherhood>.

D4 Community Shuttle Study Outreach. Following up on a recommendation from the D4 Mobility Study, adopted by the Board in 2021, we have been studying how an on-demand shuttle could be implemented in District 4, including service design, costs, benefits, and funding strategies. As part of this effort, on September 11, we launched an outreach campaign to hear directly from the District 4 community about their mobility needs and how an on-demand shuttle could best address such needs. The outreach campaign consists of a survey and a series of focus groups with merchant, senior, and neighborhood community organizations. Community input will be reflected in the final service design proposal. We expect to bring the final D4 Community Shuttle Study report for Board consideration in early 2024.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Breda Light Rail Vehicle Overhauls - Project Complete. The SFMTA has completed the Prop K-funded overhaul of critical systems in 149 Breda light rail vehicles. This project is critical to improve the reliability and performance of the fleet and to enable the vehicles to meet their useful lives. In 2014, the SFMTA embarked on a 15-year program to replace and expand its light rail fleet. To ensure continued safe and reliable service during the transition to the new fleet of Siemens light rail vehicles, which are also funded by Prop K, the SFMTA maintained and overhauled the 149 vehicles in its existing Breda LRV fleet.

Schools Engineering Update - Prop K-Funded School Walk Audits Complete. School Walk Audit Reports have been finalized by SFMTA for the following five schools: 1) Aptos Middle School in District 7, 2) Chinese Immersion School at De Avila Elementary School in District 5, 3) Lawton Elementary School in District 4, 4) Mission Preparatory Elementary School in District 10, and 5) Paul Revere Elementary School in District 9. There are a total of 95 potential improvements identified for all five schools. There have been 20 improvements that have been completed as of August. Each of the schools has a budget of \$50,000 for near-term improvements, and SFMTA staff started implementing this in Summer 2023 and anticipate completing these improvements by Winter 2024. This work will maximize the safety benefit for the student population and includes simpler measures (i.e., signs, curb paint, and roadway paint) and complex measures (i.e., speed humps, raised crosswalks, and signal timing modifications). This project is funded by Prop K sales tax.

Bayview Traffic Calming Measures - Construction Complete. Commissioner Walton and SFMTA recently celebrated the completion of eight (8) new traffic calming devices in the Bayview District along Gilman Avenue and also on Arelious Walker Drive. The traffic



improvements provide safer streets to the Bayview community, especially Bret Harte Elementary School students. This project is funded by Prop K as part of a \$3.1 million grant to SFMTA for application-based traffic calming.

Golden Gate Avenue and Laguna Street Paving Project Substantially Completed. I am happy to report that San Francisco Public Works reached substantial completion on the Golden Gate Avenue and Laguna Street Paving Project. This project, with the help of \$3 million in Prop K funds, included pavement renovation of 36 blocks, construction and retrofitting of 21 curb ramps, and new sidewalk construction. The project made improvements on Golden Gate from Van Ness Avenue to Divisadero Street and on Laguna from Haight Street to Golden Gate and from Turk Street to Pine Street.

Joice Alley Lighting Improvement Project Completed. Public Works completed the installation of new lights along Chinatown's Joice Alley as part of the Joice Alley Lighting Improvement project. The project makes walking a more inviting and safer experience for pedestrians on this important path near Gordon J. Lau Elementary, the Powell cable car line, several Muni bus stops, and the new Chinatown subway station. The new streetlights were energized by PG&E in May. The Transportation Authority provided \$500,000 in Prop AA vehicle registration fee funds to support the design and construction of this project.

SFMTA Completes Installation of 1,420 Bicycle Racks Around the City. This summer, SFMTA completed another tranche of bike rack installation around the city with 1,420 racks installed with funding from San Francisco's Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) program, funded by a regional \$4 vehicle registration fee. The Board approved a new round of TFCA funding for SFMTA's bike rack program in June, so we wanted to take a moment to highlight the progress that SFMTA continues to make, with approximately 30% of racks installed in Equity Priority Communities over the last few years. Members of the public can request installation of a new bike rack by visiting www.sfmta.com/getting-around/bike/bike-parking.

Fulton Street Safety Project [NTIP Capital]. SFMTA recently installed radar speed signs on Fulton Street at 16th Avenue and 39th Avenue, which were the final elements of the Fulton Street Safety Project. This project, which was funded with District 1 Neighborhood Program funds from the Prop K sales tax, started with a community-driven process to identify safety improvements along Fulton and subsequently installed new painted safety zones, intersection daylighting, bicycle signals and a new paved path into Golden Gate Park at 22nd Avenue.



MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

SFCTA Participates in ITS Australia Conference. I recently had the opportunity to attend the ITS Australia Global Summit in Melbourne as a member of the US DOT-sponsored Federal Highways Administration's delegation. Highlights included panels on inclusive and equitable transport and AV regulation and Public/Private Associations in Australia to name a few. I was honored to share San Francisco's experience and perspective on ITS/AV developments, including a short synopsis of US initiatives toward Net Zero Transportation. I was also fortunate to tour the Melbourne Tunnel Project, a 9 kilometer, four station subway under construction in the heart of Melbourne.

Eric Young, Director of Communications - Moving on After 10 Years. It is with a heavy heart that we say thank you and good luck to Eric Young, our Director of Communications for the past 10 years. He was our first Communications Director, building our excellent communications team from the ground up. Eric told the story of the Transportation Authority through many milestones over the past decade including our website relaunch, 25th and 30th anniversaries and Prop L sales tax reauthorization. We wish Eric all the best in his next role as the Communications Director for the Port of San Francisco. We are now recruiting a Director of Communications and more information can be found on our agency's website at www.sfcta.org/director-communications.