



DRAFT MINUTES

San Francisco County Transportation Authority

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

1. Roll Call

Chair Mandelman called the meeting to order at 10:05 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 (1)

2. Approve the Minutes of the July 25, 2023 Meeting - ACTION

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Walton moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Preston.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Peskin, Ronen, Stefani, and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioner Safai (1)

3. Community Advisory Committee Report - INFORMATION

Kat Siegal, Vice Chair of the CAC, reported that the CAC had met twice since the last Board meeting. During the July CAC meeting, they heard a Vision Zero Quick-Build update presentation. She stated that several CAC members raised concerns with the Valencia Street pilot project and requested an update when the pilot was completed. The CAC also wanted to see Quick-Build treatments added to the remaining 50 miles on the High Injury Network. Vice Chair Siegal noted that at its July meeting, the CAC did not approve the Transportation Capital Projects Delivery Study at that time as they had some questions and concerns. She continued by stating that subsequent to the CAC meeting, Transportation Authority staff met with a subset of the CAC to address these questions and the study was subsequently approved at the September 6th CAC meeting.

With respect to the September meeting, Vice Chair Siegal reported that the CAC approved both Yerba Buena Island contract items that were on the Board's agenda. She said that the CAC also heard a presentation on the Treasure Island Supplemental Transportation Study and requested an evaluation of making the 25 bus free and comparing that cost with the proposed multi-agency pass program for island residents. In addition, she noted that the CAC urged that the planned bus shelters be weather proofed to account for the high winds on the island. Finally, Vice Chair Siegal said the CAC heard a presentation on autonomous vehicles, was particularly interested in avenues for local regulation, and requested that Transportation Authority



staff collaborate with state and federal officials on this topic.

There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda

4. **[Final Approval] Accept the Transportation Capital Projects Delivery Study – ACTION**

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Walton moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Vice Chair Melgar.

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

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Peskin, Ronen, Stefani, and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioner Safai (1)

End of Consent Agenda

5. **Appoint Phoebe Ford as the District 4 Representative to the Community Advisory Committee – ACTION**

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

Phoebe Ford spoke to her interest and qualifications in being appointed to the CAC.

During public comment, a commenter stated that Vision Zero meant nothing if there was no vision.

Commissioner Engardio commented that he was pleased to nominate Ms. Ford and described her as a parent and a multimodal transportation user and a committed advocate for pedestrians and bicyclists. He added that her professional experience would add value to the CAC and she would represent the district well.

Commissioner Engardio moved to appoint Phoebe Ford to the CAC, seconded by Vice Chair Melgar.

The motion to appoint Phoebe Ford was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Peskin, Ronen, Stefani, and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioner Safai (1)

6. **State and Federal Legislation Update – INFORMATION**

Mark Watts, Sacramento Advocate, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Dorsey thanked Transportation Authority staff, SFMTA staff, and WalkSF staff for their work on AB 645 (Friedman) which would authorize pilots for the use of



speed safety cameras in San Francisco and several other jurisdictions. He stated that he was hopeful for a positive vote and wanted to hit the ground running if the bill was approved. He was optimistic about the policy and thought that it would have a positive impact on neighborhoods, especially as the city got denser.

During public comment, a commenter expressed skepticism that everything the Transportation Authority was working on would happen and said the agency should be strategic with where they focused their energy.

7. Release \$4,687,100 in Previously Allocated Sales Tax Funds, with Conditions, to the Transbay Joint Powers Authority for Downtown Rail Extension Engineering Development and Procurement Preparation – ACTION

Jesse Koehler, Rail Program Manager, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Dorsey thanked staff from the Transportation Authority and the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) for their engagement, including a tour of the project. He said that The Portal project was exciting and that he would be a full partner in moving it forward.

Commissioner Peskin noted that the project's memorandum of understanding (MOU) had been extended through the end of the current calendar year. He asked about the status of work to support governance after the MOU expired. Mr. Koehler indicated that the team was preparing a new multi-party agreement to succeed the current MOU, guided by The Portal Governance Blueprint.

Commissioner Peskin said that it is important for the Board to be assured of the ongoing involvement of the Transportation Authority and the City in the project team.

Anna Harvey, TJPA Deputy Project Director for Engineering, spoke about the work of the project with City agencies. She said that TJPA and the City approved an Interagency Cooperation Agreement (ICA) earlier this year to govern the City's participation in the project. Ms. Harvey noted that the ICA established a reimbursement process and technical advisory committee structure.

Commissioner Peskin referenced the approval of the Transportation Capital Project Delivery Study, and he said that The Portal project would necessitate significant involvement and coordination among multiple City agencies. He noted the \$2 billion funding gap and upcoming planned activity to relocate utilities and acquire right-of-way, and he asked how these pre-construction activities might proceed in this context.

Ms. Harvey said that the upcoming milestones for right-of-way included items that would come forward in November and December. Ms. Harvey indicated that right-of-way acquisition would not start prior to the start of next year. She said that TJPA staff were conducting briefings with City staff ahead of these right-of-way activities.

Commissioner Peskin reiterated the matter of the \$2 billion funding gap that the project was seeking to close within 18 months. He noted that right-of-way activities could start before this gap was closed, and he said that it would be important not to put the cart before the horse.

Chair Mandelman spoke to the need to understand upcoming major milestones on the project. He said that the application for New Starts funding was submitted and that the project team would then get some indication of how the Federal Transit



Administration (FTA) viewed the project. Chair Mandelman added that the project team would also be trying to close the funding gap.

Mr. Koehler noted the Stage Gates identified in the Governance Blueprint, and he indicated that the project was approaching a set of major milestones. Mr. Koehler said that this reflected the work of the multi-agency team in delivering on the work identified in the current MOU. He spoke to upcoming deliberations of the project's Executive Steering Committee with respect to recommending the initiation of the procurement process and the consideration of the readiness of the project, including FTA status, funding, and third-party agreements. Mr. Koehler noted that the selection of contractor teams for the large contracts would not result in immediate construction, and he said that the subsequent step would be the detailed design process with the involvement of the contractors.

Ms. Harvey added that the agency partners are working closely to advance the project including regular meetings of the Integrated Program Management Team and engagement with FTA.

Chair Mandelman asked about the deadline for closing the project's funding gap.

Mr. Koehler indicated that closing the gap was a requirement for FTA to enter into the project's Full Funding Grant Agreement currently scheduled for spring of 2025.

Chair Mandelman observed that 2024 would be a big year for the project.

During public comment, a commenter said that the presentation had come out of the blue and expressed confusion regarding the discussion about right-of-way for the project.

Roland Lebrun thanked Mr. Koehler and the team for advancing work to this point. Mr. Lebrun spoke about the recent Caltrain Board meeting, and he said that Caltrain Board Director Cindy Chavez inquired about the coordination of The Portal with the Link21 transbay rail crossing project. He indicated that this discussion would continue at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Programming and Allocations Committee chaired by Ms. Chavez. Mr. Lebrun added that Ms. Chavez would walk past the site of The Portal project along Beale Street when traveling to MTC.

Chair Mandelman 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, Stefani, and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioner Safai (1)

8. Adopt the Treasure Island Supplemental Transportation Study [NTIP Planning] Final Report - ACTION

Rachel Hiatt, Deputy Director for Planning, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Dorsey expressed appreciation for the item and his predecessor Matt Haney for requesting the study. He added that when community engagement is done in Treasure Island, the numbers seem low, and asked whether there was anything more that could be done to reach residents. He noted that there were a lot of



outreach efforts but some people still don't feel that they are included.

Sherry Williams, Co-Executive Director of One Treasure Island (OTI), responded that this year they initiated a Textedly program with a weekly update on things that are happening on Treasure Island, and they have 1200 residents and workers signed up. She said that they also do regular weekly outreach at the food pantry, bulletin boards and post flyers. She added that this project had been exciting for them, that they would like to see the transit first policy work on the Island but that they need these supplemental services. Finally, Ms. Williams stated that OTI created a welcome packet that they distribute to new and existing residents with information about the various transportation services, programs, etc.

During public comment, a commenter expressed that transportation would be a problem for the Island because of the amount of traffic on the bridge and that there would be a need for buses.

Commissioner Dorsey moved to approve the item, seconded by Chair Mandelman.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Peskin, Ronen, Stefani, and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioner Safai (1)

9. Increase the Amount of Professional Services Contract with WMH Corporation by \$350,000, to a Total Amount Not to Exceed \$3,050,000 for the Design Phase and Caltrans Right-of-Way Approval for the Yerba Buena Island Hillcrest Road Improvement Project – ACTION

Items 9 and 10 were called together.

10. Approve a Two-Year Professional Services Contract with WSP USA Inc. in an Amount Not to Exceed \$4,300,000 for Construction Management Services for the Yerba Buena Island Hillcrest Road Improvement Project; and Approve a Two-Year Professional Services Contract with GHD in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1,200,000 for Construction Management Services for the Torpedo Building Preservation Project and Pier E-2 Phase 2 Project – ACTION

Carl Holmes, Deputy Director for Capital Projects, presented both items per the staff memoranda.

Commissioner Chan asked about the budget for Torpedo Building Preservation and Public Pier E-2 projects.

Mr. Holmes responded that the budget in the presentation was to perform construction management and he explained that this budget covered soft costs only. He said that the projects would put a construction contract out for bid and that staff would return to the Board for approval of the construction contract.

Commissioner Dorsey thanked Transportation Authority staff for the work on Yerba Buena Island and commented that the island was inaccessible to many for a long time, but it was great to see the projects coming together.

During public comment, Roland Lebrun said that there were multiple projects under or planned for construction in a small area of Yerba Buena Island and requested that



the area to the east of Hillcrest Road be reserved for a future launch shaft for a possible new Transbay tube.

Commissioner Dorsey moved to approve the item, seconded by Chair Mandelman.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Peskin, Ronen, Stefani, and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioner Safai (1)

11. Investment Report and Debt Expenditure Report for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2023 - INFORMATION

Cynthia Fong, Deputy Director for Finance and Administration, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

There was no public comment.

Other Items

12. Introduction of New Items - INFORMATION

Vice Chair Melgar introduced a resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to include all schools in the San Francisco United School District (SFUSD) in the Active Communities Plan, which was due to be completed in May 2024. She stated that studies have shown that young people who walk, bike, roll, and take public transportation carry those sustainable transportation habits with them as they grow up. Vice Chair Melgar stated that the Active Communities plan was a prime opportunity to make sure that all students had safe and efficient routes to school using sustainable transportation options and this would necessitate infrastructure improvements. She continued by noting that the SFMTA was currently evaluating 5 schools per year for safe routes to school which would mean it would take them 20 years to cover all SFUSD schools. She related anecdotally that her youngest daughter recently started attending Lowell High School and this emphasized to her how dangerous the bike route from their house to school was, mentioning that the infrastructure around schools was designed for car drop offs and that students arriving by other means must compete for space with these cars. She closed by thanking Chair Mandelman, Commissioners Peskin, Chan, Dorsey, and Engardio for their early support. She thanked Robin Pam and Sara Barz of Kid Safe SF for their collaboration. She stated that she looked forward to working with all of her colleagues on this issue.

During public comment, a commenter stated that it was imperative that we raise the quality of education in the city.

13. Public Comment

During public comment, a commenter stated that transportation was essential. He posited that money was no longer the key issue anymore, but rather the overall vision and goal.



14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.