



## Memorandum

**Date:** October 23, 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:** 10/24/2023 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report – INFORMATION

### **REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES**

**Regional Funding - Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Seeks Feedback on a Potential Bay Area Revenue Measure for Transportation in 2026:** Over the past year, MTC staff have conducted multiple rounds of stakeholder engagement and have completed an initial round of public polling on Bay Area voters' priorities concerning transportation. The feedback they've received to date has informed the development of proposed guiding principles, categories of expenditure priorities, and a list of potential revenue options. MTC has commissioned a second poll of registered voters, with results expected by mid-November. In December, MTC staff will return to the MTC Commission to seek action on a more detailed set of guiding principles and an outline of the enabling legislation necessary to authorize MTC to place a measure on the ballot. We have been engaging with MTC staff, San Francisco sponsors like SFMTA, and stakeholders throughout the region to provide feedback on the potential measure's structure and will continue to advance San Francisco's priorities moving forward.

**Bay Area Travel Survey - Data to Inform Local and Regional Planning Efforts.** The Transportation Authority, in partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) recently launched a major survey designed to learn more about how people travel in San Francisco and throughout the Bay Area. In addition to providing information about issues such as trends in telecommuting, transit use, and online shopping, the survey will be used to support a number of other Transportation Authority-led efforts in San Francisco. For example, the Travel Demand Management (TDM) Travel Market Analysis Study will use the survey data to identify travel markets in San Francisco are best suited for TDM investments and the TSP Evaluation Tool Design and Implementation project will use the survey data to develop statistical models to quantify the effectiveness of strategies to reduce vehicles miles traveled (VMT) included in San Francisco's Transportation Sustainability Program. Households will be randomly selected



to ensure that the data is representative of San Francisco and the Bay Area, and respondents will be able to complete the study online, by phone, or through a smartphone app.

**Bay Area Council Waterfront Ferry Tour.** Commissioner Peskin and I joined the Bay Area Council, MTC, and the Port of SF for a great waterfront tour of a conceptual local ferry network connecting the Ferry Building, Mission Bay and Mission Rock, Potrero Power Station, Candlestick, and Pier 39 / the Marina. The Water Emergency Transportation Agency (WETA) is developing a shared vision of the San Francisco Bay Area ferry system in 2050, including the level of service and extent of WETA ferry operations. This Service Vision will serve as the foundation of WETA's Business Plan, which will present the specific strategies and actions required to achieve the 2050 Service Vision anticipated to be brought to the WETA Board for final approval this winter. We have collaborated with WETA to include the planned Treasure Island ferry service in the Service Vision, which will guide the use of Regional Measure 3 dollars for ferry service. This tour was also an opportunity to connect with WETA colleagues on Treasure Island Mobility Management Program financial planning, MTC on Yerba Buena Island Multi-Use Pathway project design, and with TDM leads for major employers throughout the west bay as we envision post-pandemic commute benefits programs.

**Focus on the Future - San Francisco Hosting Annual Self-Help Counties Coalition Conference.** From October 29 - 31, we will be welcoming hundreds of participants to San Francisco for the annual Focus on the Future conference on behalf of the Self-Help Counties Coalition, California's 25 counties whose voters have adopted local transportation sales taxes. This year's theme is "Out of Crisis Comes Opportunity - Focusing on the Importance of Collaboration and Partnership," with sessions that bring together experts to discuss the most pressing issues facing the transportation sector today. Transportation Authority staff are presenting on transportation technology, innovative project delivery and advancing equity. I want to thank Chair Mandelman in advance for kicking off the conference and welcoming everyone to San Francisco, as well recognize members of my staff and SFMTA and Transbay Joint Powers Authority staff who are hosting mobile tours to showcase transportation innovations throughout the city and volunteering at the event to ensure its success.

## **LOCAL ISSUES**

**101/I-280 Northbound Carpool and Transit Lane - Upcoming Outreach.** The NB I-280 Carpool/Transit Lane project will provide an option for high occupancy vehicles including transit to bypass congestion at the NB I-280 terminus from the 18th Street overcrossing to 5th Street, connecting to the surface street transit lane on 3rd Street in downtown San Francisco.



We have been advancing environmental and Caltrans reviews of the project, including developing traffic analysis. We are connecting this month with community-based organizations and individuals in the project area to introduce the project and publicize upcoming outreach. This fall's outreach will include a Town Hall in November and will gather feedback to guide our design and evaluation. We aim to present the evaluation findings and an updated design in spring 2024 during a second round of outreach for feedback. Learn more at [sfcta.org/freeways](https://sfcta.org/freeways).

## **PROJECT DELIVERY**

**Balboa Park's Kapuso at the Upper Yard Opening Celebration.** On September 28, I joined Commissioner Safai, Treasurer Fiona Ma, Senator Scott Wiener, BART Chair Janice Li and Mission Housing to celebrate the grand opening of the new transit-oriented housing development and open space plaza adjacent to the Balboa Park BART Station. Kapuso at the Upper Yard is home to 131 new affordable housing units and includes a new plaza to serve as a transit hub and public open space. The open space plaza features a tiered plaza design providing views of the city in all directions, a direct and accessible path to passenger loading areas for the BART and Muni stations, seating areas, lighting, security cameras, and trees throughout. The Transportation Authority contributed \$950,000 in transportation sales tax funds for design and construction of the new plaza that was constructed as part of the development project. This improvement will benefit residents and transit passengers alike.

**Quick-Build Update - Prop K Sales Tax and TNC Tax Support Safety Improvements.** We are glad to see SFMTA continue to make progress on implementing quick-build safety projects. The Lake Merced Quick-Build project is now under construction. The Hyde Street Quick-Build Project was approved by the SFMTA Board of Directors in mid-October. SFMTA is preparing to begin construction for Hyde Street, Sloat Boulevard, and Lincoln Way Quick-Builds. SFMTA has also launched a live dashboard that shows a High Injury Network Progress map and remaining progress. There is a link to this map on the Quick-Build website at [SFMTA.com/QuickBuild](https://SFMTA.com/QuickBuild). These projects are funded by Prop K sales tax and Prop D TNC tax funds.

**Page Street Neighborway Construction Completed, Supported by Prop AA Vehicle Registration Fee.** SFMTA and SF Public Works recently wrapped up the final punch list items on the Page Street Neighborway Project between Webster and Gough streets. The project constructed sidewalk extensions, rain gardens, and a traffic-calmed intersection at Page and Buchanan streets. These improvements shorten crossing distances, slow turning vehicle traffic, and improve overall pedestrian safety and comfort. The project built upon the Page Street Bikeway Improvements Project pilot, completed in 2020, and supports the larger Page Slow Street efforts. The Transportation Authority contributed \$144,000 in vehicle registration



fees for construction of this project. Learn more about the SFMTA Page Slow Streets project page at [SFMTA.com/projects](https://sfcta.com/projects).

## **MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

**SFCTA Keynotes at ITS World Congress (China) and US DOT's ARPA-I workshop.** I was pleased to provide virtual keynote remarks for the ITS World Congress in Suzhou, China earlier this month, as well as to attend and speak at the US DOT's kick-off ARPA-Infrastructure initiative workshop in Seattle, in late September. Both conferences highlight the role of collaboration in applying technology to the transportation sector. The ITS World Congress precedes the APEC conference here in San Francisco, where innovation is a theme, and the ARPA-I workshop sought to identify technical challenges and adoption barriers that would benefit from a deep applied research effort, in the vein of prior ARPA initiatives in the defense, energy and public health sectors, where collaboration and risk-taking are key.

**Farewell and Congratulations to Tom Maguire, SFMTA Sustainable Streets Director.** It was just after our city's passage of our Vision Zero policy in 2013 that Tom Maguire joined the SFMTA as its Director of Sustainable Streets. Now, almost 10 years later, we wish him well as he prepares to join the Santa Clara County Valley Transportation Agency to lead their BART to Silicon Valley Phase 2 project. In the past decade, Tom led implementation of myriad Vision Zero initiatives, street innovations and major capital projects from the Van Ness BRT and Improvement and Central Subway projects to JFK and Great Highway projects, Protected Bike Lanes and Slow Streets, to street re-designs like Folsom Street, parklets and Shared Streets. He also led permitting for scooters and bikeshare, provision of Taxi and Accessible services, and SFpark. We are glad Tom can celebrate passage of AB 645 the Speed Safety Camera Bill with us, to cap his time in San Francisco as he started with us, advancing Vision Zero.