



Memorandum

DATE: December 12, 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: 12/12/2023 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report – **INFORMATION**

REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

California Secures Transformational Federal Investments in Passenger Rail. Last week, while I was in Washington, D.C., two major federal grant awards for passenger rail were announced from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Federal-State Partnership Program (FSP). The California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) will receive \$3.07 billion in federal funding to support the implementation of HSR in the Central Valley. FRA also announced the award of \$3.0 billion in FSP funds to the Brightline West project, which will link Southern California and Las Vegas. The infusion of federal funds for CHSRA's Central Valley construction sets the stage for additional state funding in the coming years, including for future investment the HSR system's Northern and Southern California bookends, including for The Portal (DTX) project. In addition to FSP grants, the FRA also awarded \$500,000 in planning funding to CHSRA through the FRA Corridor Identification program, to support further service development planning for the HSR Phase 1 system between San Francisco and Los Angeles. I thanked Speaker Emerita Pelosi and Senator Padilla via their staffs, with whom I met to discuss The Portal and other key transportation topics.

FTA Grants for Golden Gate Transit and WETA. On November 30, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced grants totaling \$220 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to modernize the nation's ferry systems. We were excited to see awards to Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District for \$6 million to replace the Sausalito Ferry Landing, and \$15.9 million to WETA to retrofit ferry floats to enable electrified service between San Francisco and Alameda. These projects support the Bay Area's water transit network and relieve congestion on the bridges. WETA is committed to operating the cleanest vessels possible and this grant helps them shift 50% of their fleet to zero emissions by 2035. Expanded electrification capacity at the San Francisco Ferry Building helps facilitate zero emission ferry service to Mission Bay and Treasure Island as well.



San Francisco Wins \$600,000 to Expand E-Bike Delivery Pilot. San Francisco Environment Department has been awarded a \$600,000 grant from the United States Department of Energy to expand the City's existing [E-Bike Delivery Pilot Program](#), more than doubling the number of participants. The program will continue monitoring the impact e-bikes have on delivery efficiency and worker revenue while assessing bike safety. Learnings from the program will help us understand the potential of e-bike delivery to lessen traffic congestion and reduce transportation-related emissions. Transportation Authority will build on these learnings through our Eco-Friendly Downtown Deliveries Study. That effort will convene a working group of small businesses from Equity Priority Communities along with environmental organizations and delivery companies to discuss and identify promising zero emissions goods movement strategies. We anticipate the first meeting of this working group convening in early 2024

LOCAL ISSUES

Outreach Underway for Brotherhood Way Study - Survey Open through December 26.

Our first round of outreach for the Brotherhood Way Safety and Circulation Plan is underway. So far, we have had meetings with numerous community-based organizations, released a survey, shared an interactive online map, and hosted an online town hall. On December 16 we are hosting a walk around the neighborhood with community members. That guided walk will begin at 11am at Daly City BART, for those interested. The survey and interactive online map will be available through December 26. This first outreach round has focused on confirming study goals and hearing from community members about transportation needs, barriers, and challenges. We will use what we learn to develop three long-range concepts and accompanying quick-build proposals 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, take our survey, and sign up for the neighborhood walk at sfcta.org/brotherhood.

Outreach Events Held for 101-280 HOV/Carpool Study. Transportation Authority staff recently hosted a Town Hall Meeting and actively participated in the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association Meeting in November, focusing on the Northbound I-280 Transit/Carpool Lane Project, currently in environmental review. The purpose of this project is to provide priority for public transit and carpools at the I-280 northern terminus, increasing person throughput, increase carpooling and transit use, and extending the travel time and reliability benefits of the Express Lanes on US-101 in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Our outreach round is focused on introducing the project to stakeholders and hearing feedback on the project alternatives and analysis approach. We appreciate the valuable feedback received so far and look forward to sharing the traffic data and evaluation of alternatives in Spring 2024.



PROJECT DELIVERY

SFMTA Quick-Build Update -Prop K Sales Tax and TNC Tax Support Safety

Improvements. SFMTA expects to start construction of the Lincoln Way Quick-Build project next month, now that they have completed outreach and design. The project will install 20 new crosswalks, 12 painted safety zones, 16 left turn safety treatments, daylighting at 30 intersection approaches, as well as signal visibility upgrades and timing adjustments. SFMTA also is on track to complete construction of the Hyde Street Quick-Build Project later this month and continues to deliver the Lake Merced Quick-Build, with completion expected in January. Lastly, SFMTA held an open house for the Frida Kahlo Way Quick-Build Project on December 5th at City College to showcase design proposals. SFMTA's project team is now reviewing public feedback. Learn more at <https://www.sfcta.com/vision-zero-quick-build-projects>.

New Signal Activated at Lincoln Way and Kezar Drive - Funded by Half-Cent Sales Tax.

SFMTA is steadily rolling out new signals funded by Prop K. This particular project, known as Contract 65 includes new traffic signals at six intersections and pedestrian-activated flashing beacons at one intersection to improve traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle safety and traffic operations. Earlier this fall, SFMTA activated the first new signal under Contract 65 at Lincoln Way and Kezar Drive on the Vision Zero High Injury Network. Improvements include pedestrian countdown signals, accessible (audible) pedestrian signals, and a median upgrade. Roadway restoration and curb ramp work around the median are expected to be completed in the coming months.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Sales Tax Receipts - First Quarter Update. We have collected \$27.3 million in sales tax revenues during the first quarter of Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/24, which is 4.0% lower than the first quarter of FY 2022/23. Total FY 2023/24 revenues collected to date are 2.7% below the prorated FY 2023/24 adopted budget amount for three months. We are seeing a reduction of sales tax revenues due to lower consumer spending.

Thank You to our Board and their Legislative Aides, CAC, Agency Partners, Consultants and Staff.

We wish to express our appreciation to the Board and your legislative aides, Community Advisory Committee and our staff, consultants and partner agencies. We could not do our work without everyone's support and wish everyone a happy and relaxing holiday season.