



DRAFT MINUTES

San Francisco County Transportation Authority

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

1. Roll Call

Chair Mandelman called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Present at Roll Call: Commissioners Chan, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton (10)

Absent at Roll Call: Commissioner Dorsey (1)

2. Chair's Report - INFORMATION

Chair Mandelman thanked all the City departments and regional and state transportation agencies for a very successful APEC event. Chair Mandelman congratulated the operators and departments on a smooth week of great events, which concluded with Commissioner Engardio's "Great Sunset Joy Ride" to Ocean Beach. Next, Chair Mandelman discussed the recent Focus on the Future conference, which was the annual meeting of the Self-Help Counties of California which is chaired by Transportation Authority Executive Director Tilly Chang. Next, Chair Mandelman announced that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) endorsed the Portal/Downtown Rail Extension for a key federal funding program as well as allocating \$100 million from the Regional Measure 3 bridge toll program for the project. Chair Mandelman also thanked MTC for their leadership towards a December action that will provide key operations funding to local and regional transportation agencies. This funding will help agencies avoid service cuts until voters considers a long term solution in 2026. Chair Mandelman thanked Mayor Breed, Commissioner Ronen, MTC Chair Alfredo Pedroza, and Senator Weiner for all their hard work on these MTC actions. Finally, Chair Mandelman reported that the Transportation Authority was again awarded a Certificate of Achievement from the Government Finance Officers Association. He said this is the sixth consecutive year and is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting. Chair Mandelman thanked and congratulated the Transportation Authority's accounting team, lead by Deputy Director Cynthia Fong.

There was no public comment.

3. Executive Director's Report - INFORMATION

Tilly Chang, Executive Director, presented the Executive Director's Report.

There was no public comment.

4. Approve the Minutes of the November 14, 2020 Meeting - ACTION

There was no public comment.

Vice Chair Melgar moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner



Walton.

The minutes were approved without objection by the following vote:

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

Absent: Commissioner Dorsey (1)

Consent Agenda

5. **[Final Approval] Adopt Two 2023 Prop L 5-Year Prioritization Programs and Amend the Prop L Strategic Plan Baseline – ACTION***
6. **[Final Approval] Allocate \$36,545,335 in Prop L Funds, with Conditions, for Five Requests – ACTION***
7. **[Final Approval] Program \$2,601,000 in Senate Bill 1 Local Partnership Program Formula Funds for Construction of the Yerba Buena Island Hillcrest Road Improvement Project (Hillcrest Project) and Design of the Yerba Buena Island Multi-Use Pathway (YBI MUP); Approve Two Fund Exchanges, with Conditions, to Fully Fund the Hillcrest Project, Including Accommodations for a New Class I Multi-Use Pathway; and Appropriate, with Conditions, \$4,850,000 in Prop K Funds for Design and Construction of the Hillcrest Project - ACTION***
8. **[Final Approval] Authorize the Executive Director to Execute Master Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Cooperative Agreements, Fund Transfer Agreements and Any Amendments Thereto with the California Department of Transportation for Receipt of Federal and State Funds for Design of the Yerba Buena Island (YBI) Multi-Use Pathway in an Amount up to \$3,001,000; State Funds for Construction of the YBI Hillcrest Road Improvement Project in the Amount of \$2,600,000; and State Funds for Planning, Programming, and Monitoring in the Amount of \$46,000 - ACTION***
9. **[Final Approval] Increase the Amount of Professional Services Contract with MNS Engineers, Inc. by \$250,000 to a Total Amount Not to Exceed \$5,050,000, for Construction Management Services for the Yerba Buena Island Southgate Road Realignment Improvement Project - ACTION***

There was no public comment.

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

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

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

Absent: Commissioner Dorsey (1)

End of Consent Agenda

10. **San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Update on Transit Facilities and Fleet Programs – INFORMATION***



Julie Kirschbaum, SFMTA Director of Transit, and Jonathan Rewers, SFMTA Chief Strategy Officer, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Vice Chair Melgar thanked SFMTA staff for their presentation and Director Kirschbaum for seriously considering all electric buses. She stated that she appreciated how much SFMTA was learning from the Potrero Yard redevelopment. Vice Chair Melgar stated that SFMTA was a large property owner in the city and asked if SFMTA was working on a comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of these sites that would be responsive to the changing needs of both the city and the SFMTA as well as other City departments.

Mr. Rewers stated that the SFMTA's Building Progress Program included a multi-department memorandum of understanding (MOU) and that SFMTA was thinking not just of their own needs but also the needs of the city as a whole when considering redevelopment and revenue opportunities. He stated that SFMTA was considering their other sites, such as the Presidio and Kirkland yards, and what potential they had for development as well as government bonds to finance the development. He stated that SFMTA was looking to maximize the use of their sites. Mr. Rewers continued by saying that the Potrero Yard project was the first time SFMTA had used the private-public partnership (P3) process and there were many lessons learned that would be applied to future sites.

Vice Chair Melgar stated that she was aware of the separate efforts, but she was not aware if SFMTA had a comprehensive, long range, development plan that looked at the next 100 years. Vice Chair Melgar stated that these one off projects took a lot of effort and energy and SFMTA would be better served to create a more comprehensive plan that could be adjusted as necessary.

Chair Mandelman expressed some disappointment in the update as the Board had the expectation that SFMTA would be moving to an all electric bus fleet and they would not be procuring anymore hybrid vehicles, but he recognized that SFMTA was doing the best they could given the circumstances. He thanked SFMTA staff for their emphasis on a just transition and their willingness to consider the potential continued use of trolley buses. Chair Mandelman stated that the presentation underscored the issues created by SFMTA's 2022 general obligation bond failure and stated that SFMTA should move the timeline up on their current plan to put a bond measure on the 2026 ballot. Chair Mandelman stated that bringing this bond forward earlier would allow SFMTA to cover project funding gaps sooner and deliver those projects faster.

During public comment, a commenter stated that it is important to consider how the batteries for electric buses would be produced and how they would be disposed of. He stated that water would be important in the future as well.

Alex Lansberg, San Francisco Electrical Contractors Association, applauded the SFMTA for their updated electrification policy and stated that the trolley bus system still had a lot of value. He stated that the facilities renewal program was the biggest piece of the electrification program and stated that SFMTA should first evaluate the best available technology, then develop a fleet plan, and then design garage upgrades.

Roland Lebrun stated that he was excited about electrification but appreciated the



Chair's disappointment. He stated that the SFMTA should aim at perfection and be ok with coming short of that, rather than aiming at imperfection and achieving that goal. He stated that he was excited about the results of the bus enroute charging and related Santa Cruz's experience with attempting to transition to a battery electric bus fleet. He suggested that SFMTA work with the MTC on its bond measure as MTC also exploring a measure in 2026.

Other Items

11. Introduction of New Items - INFORMATION

Commissioner Peskin stated that following the Transportation Authority's hearing on autonomous vehicles (AV), the Department of Motor Vehicles suspended Cruise's driverless permit and Cruise subsequently ceased driverless operations nationwide. Commissioner Peskin stated that the California Public Utilities Commission had also stayed Cruise's expansion permit, but not Waymo's. Commissioner Peskin requested that Transportation Authority staff work with SFMTA staff to further develop the Transportation Authority Board's input to state agencies. Commissioner Peskin also requested an AV regulatory framework study that looked at how AV safety and performance metrics could be used to create an incremental performance-based approach to AV permitting. The study should use the best available public data or estimates that would look at how the framework could be applied to AV testing and deployment.

There was no public comment.

12. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.