



DRAFT MINUTES

San Francisco County Transportation Authority

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

1. Roll Call

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

Present at Roll Call: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, and Walton (8)

Absent at Roll Call: Commissioners Ronen, Safai, and Stefani (3)

2. Chair's Report - INFORMATION

Chair Mandelman shared an update on the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA)'s Portal project, which earned a rating of "Medium-High" under the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)'s rigorous and highly competitive Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program. He continued that the score reflected The Portal's overall performance and positioned the project well for seeking just over \$4 billion in federal funds from the CIG program, now awaiting the FTA's recommendation on the project's Entry into Engineering. The Chair congratulated TJPA Executive Director Adam Van der Water and his team, Transportation Authority Rail Program Manager Jesse Koehler, and other multi-agency partners who collaborated over the past three years to advance the project to this stage.

The Chair congratulated the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) on receiving an \$8 million federal Safe Streets 4 All Grant for the Tenderloin Traffic Safety Improvements Project, and thanked U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, Commissioner Preston, and the Tenderloin Traffic Safety Task Force who advocated for the grant. He said the U.S. Department of Transportation grant would fund a suite of projects in the Tenderloin, where every street was on the High Injury Network, with delivered projects including signal improvements and other intersection upgrades at 11 intersections on Larkin Street; street reconfiguration to make way for the Golden Gate Greenway; and bikeway protected corners at six intersections on Turk Street, Golden Gate Avenue, and Polk Street. Prop L would provide matching funds for the grant.

Chair Mandelman also discussed riders responding positively to BART's efforts to improve service and focus on providing a clean, safe, and secure experience, as shown in the agency's latest survey indicating BART's overall customer satisfaction rating reaching 81%. He praised BART General Manager Bob Powers; the BART Board led by current and past chairs Bevan Dufty and Janice Li; and the hard-working BART staff who had been striving to tackle service, safety, and cleanliness needs. The Chair continued that the Transportation Authority had been proud to provide BART with funding from State Transit Assistance, One Bay Area Grant, and sales tax for downtown station Elevator Attendants, modernized stations and fixed elevators, and improved faregates at San Francisco stations. He looked forward to continued effectiveness of BART's Safe and Clean Plan and more infrastructure improvements to support BART and the City's economic recovery.



There was no public comment.

3. Executive Director's Report - INFORMATION

Tilly Chang, Executive Director, gave the presentation.

During public comment, a speaker asked BART to make some fixes before installing the new fare gates at San Francisco stations, recounting his experiences with the new fare gates at West Oakland station including limiting working fare gates at the station to only one during installation of the new fare gates, not allowing riders enough time to pass through; and ceasing to function during software updates.

Chair Mandelman asked staff if there was a mechanism to alert BART staff to the issues around the fare gates.

Deputy Director for Policy & Programming Anna LaForte answered that staff would follow-up with BART.

4. Approve the Minutes of the February 13, 2024 Meeting – ACTION

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Dorsey moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Peskin.

The minutes were approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton (11)

Absent: none (0)

Consent Agenda

5. [Final Approval] Approve the 2024 State and Federal Legislative Program – ACTION

6. [Final Approval] Adopt Four 2023 Prop L 5-Year Prioritization Programs and Amend the Prop L Strategic Plan Baseline – ACTION

7. [Final Approval] Allocate \$10,489,620 in Prop L Funds, with Conditions, to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency for Paratransit – ACTION

8. [Final Approval] Release \$130,000 in Previously Allocated Prop L Funds to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency for Vision Zero Education and Communications: Speed Safety Cameras – ACTION

9. [Final Approval] Adopt Fiscal Year 2024/25 Transportation Fund for Clean Air Local Expenditure Criteria – ACTION

Commissioner Preston moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Dorsey.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton (11)

Absent: none (0)



End of Consent Agenda

10. [Final Approval] Appoint Kat Siegal and Venecia Margarita as the District 5 and District 9 Representatives, Respectively, to the Community Advisory Committee – ACTION

Amelia Walley, Program Analyst, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Venecia Margarita spoke to their interests and qualifications for the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) position.

Commissioner Ronen reiterated her nomination for Ms. Margarita, noting that her office had worked with Ms. Margarita for several years in the District 9 community; and spoke to her integrity, dedication, collaborative spirit, bilingual abilities, and knowledge of the community. She asked Commissioners to help confirm the appointment.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Ronen moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Preston.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton (11)

Absent: none (0)

11. Major Capital Project Update: Caltrain Modernization Program - INFORMATION

Michelle Bouchard, Caltrain Executive Director, and Casey Fromson, Caltrain Chief of Staff, presented the item.

Commissioner Walton thanked Director Bouchard and her staff for their hard work and commitment to Caltrain electrification and ensuring the project would be ready for service by the anticipated September timeline. He appreciated the positive news especially when many transit providers were still trying to recover from the pandemic.

During public comment, a speaker supported the project but expressed concern over the emission of sulfur hexafluoride, a powerful greenhouse gas, mentioned in the staff report but not in the presentation.

Roland Lebrun expressed concern over the train configuration not being compatible with the train functionality, which would result in excessive maintenance, wear-and-tear, staff costs, and a collapsing system. He suggested a shorter train configuration and asked for follow up with the Caltrain board and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to address the issue.

Mike Swire supported the project but expressed concern over funding of lane widening projects which competed with Caltrain's efforts to boost ridership.

A speaker asked if Caltrain was attempting to market the new service to South Bay technology companies, which also provided disruptive neighborhood commuter shuttles, to attract their employees to Caltrain. He noted redundancy in service when both options were made available.



12. District 1 Multimodal Transportation Study [NTP] Update - INFORMATION

Aliza Paz, Principal Transportation Planner, presented the item.

Commissioner Chan thanked Mx. Paz, Senior Communications Manager Daniela Rible, and her Legislative Aide Angelina Yu for their help in strategizing both short-term and long-term planning to help the District 1 neighborhood become more walkable, bikeable, and transit oriented. She had high praises for staff and appreciated efforts to understand the neighborhood and address locations like Cabrillo, Fulton, and Geary streets; address transit connections out of the district to other parts of the city and outside the city; and offer a future mobility hub with diverse travel options for all different needs including seniors with disabilities, future youth transit riders, and underrepresented populations like Asian Americans. Commissioner Chan also highlighted the discussion of loading zones and consideration of small businesses so that the community was not pitted against one another but represented a holistic and comprehensive study and planning. She noted the immediate and long-term investments of the project and asked for Commissioners' support on future funding.

During public comment, a speaker supported a long distance north/south transit route for commuters to reduce vehicular traffic on streets; more pedestrian safety improvements like Fulton Street quick-build extension all the way to Arguello Boulevard and speed limits lowered to 25 miles per hour; more bike lanes; and a multimodal travel hub but was concerned about potential over building of parking spaces for electric vehicle charging.

Lian Chang, a District 1 resident, supported a long distance north/south transit route, as well as pedestrian safety improvements particularly on the High Injury Network like Fulton Street all the way to Arguello Boulevard. They also expressed concern about the timeline for project implementation.

After public comment, Commissioner Chan responded that the study was very smart because it addressed what was current going on with SFMTA's project, which included the Fulton Street treatment, and should have been done a while ago considering the unfortunate, tragic death at Fulton and Arguello streets. She also appreciated the discussion around speed cameras at the previous Board meeting, which was being coordinated with district San Francisco Police Department Captain Chris Cannon to improve enforcement and select best location placement, one of which would be at the Fulton and Geary streets intersection. Commissioner Chan also addressed the bike lane shortage by noting Assemblymember Phil Ting supported state funding to both Districts 1 and 2 to build a bike lane around Arguello/Fulton/Turk streets area and noted strategic bike lane placement around Cabrillo and 23rd Avenue Slow Streets into Golden Gate Park.

13. Internal Account Report, Investment Report, and Debt Expenditure Report for the Six Months Ending December 31, 2023 – INFORMATION

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

There was no public comment.

Other Items



14. Introduction of New Items - INFORMATION

There were no new items introduced.

15. Public Comment

During public comment, a speaker opposed lane widening on the U.S. 101/I-280 San Francisco portion of the freeways, citing traffic congestion with 3rd, 4th, and King streets which are already on the High Injury Network and more greenhouse gas emissions with an additional lane. They suggested building transit lanes and faster rail connections instead.

David Hooper, member of the New Mission Terrace Improvement Association thanked Transportation Authority and SFMTA staff for the pedestrian safety improvements in their neighborhood, particularly the installation of traffic signals at Alemany and Theresa streets. They also requested expedited pedestrian safety improvements along the rest of the Alemany and San Jose corridors.

A speaker opposed lane widening on U.S. 101/I-280 at Potrero Hill, Mission Bay, and surrounding neighborhoods, and said the opposition was also supported multiple community and advocacy groups.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.