



# DRAFT MINUTES

## **San Francisco County Transportation Authority**

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

### **1. Roll Call**

Chair Mandelman called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

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

**Absent at Roll Call:** Commissioner Ronen (entered during Item 5) (1)

### **2. Community Advisory Committee Report – INFORMATION**

Kat Siegal, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair, reported that CAC members supported the proposed allocations for Golden Gate Greenway and Transit Stop Signage Enhancement Program (Phase 2). She said the members also supported the recommended State Transit Assistance funding for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Paratransit program, BART's Elevator Attendant Program, and the Water Emergency Transportation Authority's Treasure Island Electric Ferry Service. She added that members expressed interest in expanded the elevator attendant program to cover BART stations outside of downtown and asked whether BART had considered bringing the staffing of the program in-house. She added that members questioned the timing of funds for the ferry service given that the vessel had not been procured and service would not start until 2026 but were satisfied with staff's explanation.

CAC Chair Siegal discussed the Preliminary Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget and Work Program and State and Federal Legislation Update, particularly Senate Bill (SB) 1031 (Wiener, Wahab), and noted that members were interested in weighing in on eligibility of highway widening projects for potential revenue measures to be authorized by the bill. She concluded by stating that one CAC member expressed interest in seeing greater local control over autonomous vehicle operations and that staff had referenced SB 915 (Cortese) in the agenda materials which was seeking to address that topic.

There was no public comment.

### **3. Approve the Minutes of the April 16, 2024 and April 23, 2024 Meetings - 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, Safaí, Stefani, and Walton (10)

**Absent:** Commissioner Ronen (1)



#### **4. State and Federal Legislation Update – INFORMATION**

Mark Watts, state legislative consultant to the Transportation Authority, and Amber Crabbe, Senior Public Policy Manager presented the item.

During public comment, a speaker talked about simplifying language.

Michael Petrelis supported Assembly Bill 3061 (Haney) regarding autonomous vehicle incident reporting, as well as the amendments. They said the companies that owned the vehicles had extensive data to provide to the public.

Roland Lebrun commented on where Senate Bill 1031 (Wiener) was in the legislative process and added that the staff at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) who had previously recommended opposing the bill had recently retired.

#### **5. Allocate \$140,000 in Prop L Funds, with Conditions, and Allocate \$1,021,021 in Prop AA Funds for Two Requests – ACTION**

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

Commissioner Preston said he wanted to thank everyone involved in the Golden Gate Greenway project. He said that last year he had worked with the community and the Transportation Authority to ensure that Prop L sales tax funds were programmed to the project. He said that he had been excited to learn that the project would receive funding from a federal grant, but that federal funding was often slower and more challenging to use, so local funding was still important to implement projects in a timely fashion. He said that the project represented collaboration between the Transportation Authority, SFMTA, District 5 and the Tenderloin community. He thanked Kimberly Leung and Thalia Lang of SFMTA, Transportation Authority staff Anna LaForte and Mike Pickford, and CAC Chair Kat Siegel for their support, as well as others. He said the project was a top priority for District 5 to make this vision a reality in the heart of the Tenderloin, where pedestrian friendly green space was desperately needed..

During public comment, a speaker commented on Vision Zero.

Geoffrey McFarland, project manager with St. Anthony Foundation, said that Golden Gate Greenway was a shared community vision of the non-profit partners that lined the 100 block of Golden Gate Avenue, including providers of essential services. He said that residents and workers voted to advance Phase 1 of the project through the Tenderloin Community Action Plan in 2022 and the project enjoyed broad community support. He said that as St. Anthony's spearheads the project, it was committed to a community led and informed process and transparency at all stages. He thanked the Transportation Authority for its support and for allocating funding to the project to allow detailed design of Phase 2 to proceed, which would be helpful in informing the community on what to expect from the project and in seeking funding for future aspects of the project.

Michael Petrelis said the Muni F-line turnaround stop at Jane Warner Plaza was in deplorable condition, noting that the island where tourists get on and off the F-Line streetcar had lacked a shelter for more than two years. He said there was no signage in Jane Warner Plaza indicating when the F-Market & Wharves departed toward downtown and Fisherman's Wharf. He urged that signage be quickly put up, as it was Pride season and thousands of visitors were coming into the Castro.



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

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

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

Absent: Commissioner Chan (1)

**6. Approve Programming Priorities for Up to \$5,342,905 in San Francisco's Estimated Fiscal Year 2024/25 State Transit Assistance County Block Grant Funds – ACTION**

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

Commissioner Dorsey expressed appreciation to staff and sponsors for securing state funding for the Water Emergency Transportation Authority's Treasure Island ferry service. He added that the increased population on both Treasure and Yerba Buena islands raised the stakes for congestion management, and the new ferry service could be a fast, frequent, reliable, clean, and safe way of managing that. He further added that the increased transit service to Treasure Island would likely entice people to visit the island.

During public comment, a speaker opposed the item.

Michael Petrelis commented on the elevator attendant program and requested that the 16th Street Mission Station be considered for BART's elevator attendant program and that a Muni elevator attendant/ambassador program be developed for the Castro station at Jane Warner Plaza in the Castro neighborhood. He added that 16th Street Mission BART Station should also include wayfinding signage for elevator access.

Commissioner Dorsey 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, Safaí, Stefani, and Walton (11)

Absent: none (0)

**7. Preliminary Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget and Work Program – INFORMATION**

Lily Yu, Finance Manager, and Tilly Chang, Executive Director, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

During public comment, a speaker opposed the item.

Harry Breaux, member of Castro Ambassadors, expressed their concerns about the current condition of Jane Warner Plaza and requested equivalent improvement efforts for Jane Warner Plaza, as were planned for Harvey Milk Plaza just across the street.

Michael Petrelis voiced support for the prior speaker's comments and expressed their concerns over a lack of public forums to provide input on funding for various projects, particularly for Jane Warner Plaza.



## **Other Items**

### **8. Introduction of New Items - INFORMATION**

There were no new items introduced.

### **9. Public Comment**

During public comment, Roland Lebrun asked Commissioner Walton, in his role as Director on the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, to re-open discussions with regional partners regarding Caltrain operations funding stating that after Measure RR passed, a VTA staff person (since retired) recommended withdrawing some operating support from Caltrain, which lead to the other two member counties doing the same, resulting in the loss of \$15 million of Caltrain operations funding.

Michael Petrelis said that the potholes and other conditions at Jane Warner Plaza were in desperate need of repair and cleaning, citing pedestrian safety and negative impacts on potential tourism.

### **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.