



## Memorandum

### AGENDA ITEM 3

**DATE:** March 24, 2025

**TO:** Transportation Authority Board

**FROM:** Tilly Chang - Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** 03/25/2025 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report - INFORMATION

### REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

**San Francisco leaders visit NYC to study Congestion Relief Zone (CRZ).** On March 20-21, 2025, a delegation from San Francisco including Transportation Authority Chair Melgar, TIMMA Chair Dorsey, Commissioner Chen, legislative aides Emma Hare and Madison Tam, and Transportation Authority staff visited New York City to study their Congestion Relief Zone (CRZ) and Pricing Program. In operation since January 5, the program rolled out smoothly and has performed as expected - traffic congestion is down, commute times by private vehicles and buses are shorter, transit ridership is up, and foot traffic is up. The San Francisco delegation met with senior officials at New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) as well as members of the Traffic Mobility Review Board; the MTA's Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee; the Regional Plan Association; Partnership for NYC and Riders Alliance. We toured the CRZ in the field and met with the system operator Transcore and learned about the policies and process that led to the CRZ's implementation. We thank all of our hosts for their time, valuable insights and gracious hospitality.

On March 21, which was the US Department of Transportation (US DOT) Secretary Duffy's original deadline for MTA to cease operations of the system, our delegation was invited to attend a press event with New York Governor Kathy Hochul and other speakers who advocated for continuation of the program, given its effectiveness. The day before the event, US DOT had extended the deadline by 30 days. MTA's lawsuit is pending and we will keep the Board apprised of the outcome. For more information about New York's program, see [mta.info/project/CBDTP](https://mta.info/project/CBDTP).



**Senators Wiener and Arreguín Introduce Amendments to Senate Bill 63 - The Connect Bay Area Act.** Yesterday, I joined Chair Melgar at a press conference held by Senator Scott Wiener at Embarcadero Station where he announced forthcoming amendments to Senate Bill (SB) 63, also known as the Connect Bay Area Act. These amendments will act as the foundation for a regional transportation revenue measure and build off of the work completed by Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) through its Select Committee convened last year. The amendments, which are expected to be in print by March 26, will propose a high-level framework for a new multicounty sales tax that would support transit operations for AC Transit, BART, Caltrain and Muni and fund regional transit initiatives. The sales tax measure would be placed on the November 2026 ballot in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco Counties with the ability for San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties to opt in by July 31. Under the proposed measure framework, all participating counties would see a new half-cent sales tax except for San Francisco which could see up to a one-cent sales tax rate, which is reflective of the city's higher share of transit operating deficits. Today's consent agenda includes final approval of a "Support in Concept" position for SB 63, and we plan to bring more detailed information to the Board on the bill's contents after the amendments are released.

**Salesforce Transit Center - TJPA receives Federal Gold Standard Award.** At the March 13 meeting of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) Board, staff announced that the Transportation Security Administration has awarded the TJPA the prestigious Gold Standard Award, which recognizes excellence in security and emergency preparedness. The recognition reflects TJPA's performance in 17 categories of evaluation. TJPA is one of only two transit agencies in the nation to receive this honor this year. Congratulations to the TJPA team on this recognition!

## **LOCAL ISSUES**

**SFMTA's Speed Safety Camera Program Liftoff.** Last week, we joined Vice Chair Sauter, President Mandelman, Mayor Daniel Lurie, City Attorney David Chiu, Families for Safe Streets, Walk SF, city leaders and advocacy organizations to celebrate the launch of SFMTA's Speed Safety Camera Program. Vice Chair Sauter spoke on the years of commitment by local and state leaders as well as from community and advocacy groups that prioritized street safety and speeding enforcement for the community. The Transportation Authority contributed \$150,000 in Prop L sales tax funds to support the public education campaign for the program rollout. Through Assembly Bill 645, which authorizes the City and County of San Francisco to pilot this



life-saving technology, 33 cameras are now activated across the 11 supervisorial districts placed on high-injury streets, in school zones, or on streets with a documented history of sideshows. During the first two months of system operations, the SFMTA will issue warning notices to speeding vehicles. After 60 days, cameras will begin issuing fines to speeding vehicles.

**Funding Options Packages Discussed at May Muni Funding Working Group.** On March 21, SFMTA held their seventh and final Muni Funding Working Group workshop session where staff presented six different packages containing various revenue and non-revenue options to help resolve the agency's anticipated \$320 million annual operating deficit. Each package proposed a unique combination of ballot measures, efficiencies, new parking revenues, subsidy reductions, and service and program cuts among other funding solutions. Working group members provided feedback on all packages and indicated broad support for Package A, which proposes ballot measures to generate the bulk of revenues and does not include any Muni transit service cuts. SFMTA intends to provide a presentation on the packages and the working group's feedback to its Board during the April 22 budget workshop and expects implementation of package recommendations to begin moving forward later this year. More information on the Muni Funding Working Group can be found at [www.sf.gov/muni-funding-working-group](http://www.sf.gov/muni-funding-working-group).

## **PROJECT DELIVERY**

**The Portal Project - MTC Elevates The Portal Project to the Highest Tier of Regional Priority.** At its March 12 meeting, the MTC Programming and Allocations Committee unanimously recommended advancing The Portal project to Level 1 of MTC's Major Project Advancement Policy (MAP) framework. Thank you to Chair Melgar for representing San Francisco at the Committee meeting and for urging her MTC colleagues to support the item. The updated MAP framework will be before the full Commission for approval on March 26. The Bay Area's prioritization of the project will align our local and regional advocacy efforts to authorize state funding and secure \$3.4 billion in federal funding to the project in the coming years. Earlier this month, Chair Melgar and Vice Chair Sauter also had the opportunity to visit the Salesforce Transit Center and its underground trainbox that is awaiting The Portal's connection for Caltrain and future California High-Speed Rail service. We and TJPA staff joined our Board leadership in touring the facility and discussing our joint advocacy priorities to fully fund the project and advance to construction.



**Sunset Boulevard Paving Renovation Project - Smoother Streets and New Curb Ramps.** I'm happy to announce that SFMTA and Public Works completed two important West Side projects prior to the planned April 12 closure of the Great Highway to private vehicles. Last month, San Francisco Public Works completed the Sunset Boulevard Paving Renovation Project, which repaved 44 blocks of Sunset Boulevard from Golden Gate Park to Lake Merced Boulevard. Additional upgrades included enhanced drainage to reduce localized flooding, 23 new curb ramps for accessibility, and 20 new concrete bus pads to improve efficiency at existing Muni stops. This project, funded by the transportation sales tax, was coordinated with the 29 Sunset Muni Improvement Project and will help provide smooth transit and vehicle travel up and down the West Side.

**SFMTA Activates Sloat Skyline Traffic Signal and New Temporary Signal at 41st and Lincoln.** To further improve traffic flow and safety on San Francisco's west side, SFMTA has activated two new traffic signals at key intersections. Specifically, at Sloat and Skyline Boulevard, SFMTA, Public Works, and Caltrans replaced a three-way stop with a full traffic signal, improving mobility for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists. This long-planned upgrade will help traffic flow smoothly and predictably, as well as helping pedestrians and cyclists safely navigate the complex intersection. The Transportation Authority supported planning work with sales tax funds in 2017 and subsequently provided sales tax funds for design and construction for this project. Separately, SFMTA has also installed and activated a new temporary traffic signal at 41st Avenue and Lincoln Way, replacing a four-way stop at a critical connection point for residents, commuters, and visitors accessing Golden Gate Park and Ocean Beach. SFMTA continues to monitor traffic patterns, adjusting signal timings as needed. While we did not fund this temporary signal, the Transportation Authority has allocated sales tax funds for design of a permanent signal at 41st and Lincoln. These improvements were recommended by the Transportation Authority's Great Highway Concepts Evaluation Final Report.

**Geary Fillmore Underpass Community Planning Study - Community Engagement.** The Transportation Authority was awarded a Federal Reconnecting Communities Grant in 2024. The Transportation Authority, in partnership with the Planning Department, will conduct a community-led planning study to reimagine the future of Geary between Laguna and Divisadero, with a goal to reconnect the Japantown and Western Addition/Fillmore Neighborhoods. In preparation for this study, we attended the Reconnecting Community Task Force Meeting, co-hosted by the Japantown Task Force, New Leadership Foundation, and Jewish Community



Relations Council. Participants shared information about community priorities, both near and long-term. Commissioner Mahmood attended to share community updates related to safety, transportation, and land use. The Transportation Authority is launching this project, including seeking community organizations to serve on a Community Council, this month; for more information and to sign up for project updates, visit our website at: [www.sfcta.org/projects/geary-fillmore-underpass](http://www.sfcta.org/projects/geary-fillmore-underpass).