



Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM 3

DATE: March 24, 2026

TO: Transportation Authority Board

FROM: Executive Director - Tilly Chang

SUBJECT: 03/24/2026 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report - INFORMATION

FEDERAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL ISSUES

SF Chamber Trip to Washington, D.C. On March 15, Chair Melgar, Vice-Chair Sauter and I joined the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce's annual City Trip to Washington, D.C. Our group met with legislators and their staff, including Speaker Emerita Pelosi, Senators Padilla and Schiff, and Representatives Kevin Mullin and Zoe Lofgren, among others. We advocated for maintaining transit spending levels in the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill and requested ongoing support for San Francisco's Seawall and The Portal project as well as for stronger AV safety, data reporting and resilience regulations.

Honoring Speaker Emerita Pelosi at Caltrain Electric Train Dedication Event. On Sunday I had the pleasure of joining Caltrain Director Walton, Chair Melgar, President Mandelman and Supervisors Chan, Chen and Mahmood plus other elected officials and community members at an exciting event to honor Speaker Emerita Pelosi with her own Caltrain train. Her leadership and tireless advocacy on transportation projects helped secure more than \$1 billion in federal funding to electrify Caltrain and other transit projects to help improve connectivity in the Bay Area. The Caltrain Electrification and Modernization Program also enables The Portal project to operate below ground to the Salesforce Transit Center in downtown San Francisco, as well as prepare the corridor for the future arrival of California High-Speed Rail. We thanked Speaker Emerita for being a true transit visionary and champion on behalf of our city, region and the nation.

San Francisco Receives \$4 Million in Federal Transportation Earmarks Through 2026 Budget. I am pleased to report that appropriations bills passed by Congress earlier this year included \$4 million for transportation projects and programs in San Francisco including \$250,000 for BART Station LED Lighting, \$1.2 million for SFMTA Transit Stop Lighting, \$1.5 million for the Tenderloin Neighborhood Pedestrian



Safety Signal Upgrades project, and \$1 million to the City College of San Francisco to support student access to regional transit. We are very thankful to San Francisco's federal delegation for their work in securing these funds as part of the funding bills. The Transportation Authority and other agencies recently submitted requests to legislators for Community Directed investments (earmarks) for Fiscal Year 2027.

Autonomous Vehicles - Discussions Continue Over New Federal Standards. This month we continued to engage at the federal level around the proposed SELF DRIVE Act and other autonomous vehicles (AV) regulatory efforts. Amber Crabbe, our Senior Public Policy team member, participated in a National AV Safety Forum hosted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) which included discussions among the Administration, NHTSA leadership, industry, and other interested parties on the most pressing safety issues facing the AV industry. We continued to provide real life examples from San Francisco, emphasizing the need for robust safety standards and maintaining current state and local roles in AV safety regulation. Over the last month we also met with staff from Speaker Emerita Pelosi and California Senators Padilla and Schiff's offices to provide a briefings on the SELF DRIVE Act, Representative Mullin's AV Safety Data Act and other future legislation dealing with interactions of AVs and emergency responders. We will continue to provide monthly updates on our efforts to advance our AV policy priorities at the federal level.

New York City's Congestion Pricing Program Wins in Court. In early March, a federal judge ruled that the federal government's attempt to end New York City's Central Business District Tolling Program was illegal. As I reported in January, the program is reducing traffic in the Congestion Relief Zone as well as in areas outside the zone, and raised over \$562 million for subway capital maintenance in its first year, exceeding expectations. A recent report released by the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee, an advisory body to New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, found that transit ridership increased by 7.7% in the year that congestion pricing has been in effect. More information can be found at <https://congestionreliefzone.mta.info/>.

Assembly Bill 1837 (Gonzalez) - Recent Amendments Narrow Scope of Bill. Earlier this month, the Board took action to adopt a support position on Assembly Bill 1837, which proposed eliminating the sunset date for transit operators' authority to utilize video imaging enforcement in transit lanes and expanding operators' authority to use video imaging to enforce double parking and parking in bike lanes. The bill has subsequently been amended to remove language related to the expanded authorities and is now focused on eliminating the sunset date for transit-only lane



video imaging enforcement. Uniquely in the state, SFMTA already has permanent authority to use these cameras to enforce parking violations in transit lanes. We are still recommending a support position on the bill since it would extend authorization for other transit operators using San Francisco roadways. The description of the bill in the State and Federal Legislation table under Item 6 on today's agenda, has been updated in the agenda packet to reflect the amendments.

Regional Transit Oriented Communities Policy - Metropolitan Transportation Commission Approves New Incentive Program. On February 25, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) dedicated \$45 million in regional One Bay Area Grant funding to a new regional grant program to reward jurisdictions that adopt policies that focus on residential growth near high-quality transit services. To be eligible for funding, jurisdictions would have to demonstrate at least 85% compliance with MTC's Transit Oriented Communities Policy by July 1, 2027. The grants will vary based on the size of the jurisdiction, with San Francisco eligible for an award of between \$6 million and \$8 million. We thank MTC for this investment, including Chair Melgar and our other MTC representatives who advocated to encourage that this funding be provided to cities across the region to incentivize and support growth near transit.

LOCAL ISSUES

Board of Supervisors Hearing on Waymo Operations During December Blackout Highlights Need for Improved Coordination and Transparency. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors Land Use and Transportation Committee held a March 2, 2026, hearing to examine the causes and impacts of Waymo's AV disruptions during the December 20, 2025, PG&E blackout, as well as steps to prevent future incidents. Key takeaways included Waymo's acknowledgment of operational failures, including fleet immobilizations resulting from a surge in remote assistance requests, delayed 311 response times, and inadequate support for first responders. Supervisors called for greater transparency, more timely communication and decision-making on the part of Waymo and stronger coordination with city agencies, to develop communication protocols and resilience plans.

Street Safety Initiative Working Group Kick Off Meeting on March 10. Earlier this month, Mayor Lurie and Chair Melgar convened the Street Safety Initiative Working Group, a collaborative forum of city agencies established through the Mayor's Executive Directive (25-06) implementing to implement the Directive in response to the San Francisco Street Safety Act resolution, authored by Chair Melgar and unanimously adopted by the Board of Supervisors in September. This resolution



recommits San Francisco to eliminating severe and fatal traffic crashes, strengthening interagency coordination, and scaling proven safety solutions. As a requirement per the Street Safety Act, the Transportation Authority will coordinate with the Controller's Office City Performance Unit to assess effectiveness and completion of core agency responsibilities and host an annual hearing on the review of street safety progress, challenges, and data, anticipated in fall 2026.

Arbor Day Celebration and Urban Canopy Expansion in District 3 . On March 14, I was delighted to join Vice Chair Sauter, Mayor Lurie, San Francisco Public Works and over 250 volunteers to celebrate Arbor Day at Francisco Middle School as they gathered to plant over 100 trees throughout District 3. It was inspiring to see so many members of the community, including many youth, greening our city and making our streets safer and more livable by planting trees. The Transportation Authority is proud to have provided over \$3 million in Prop L half-cent transportation sales tax funds for tree planting and establishment since October 2023, with millions more invested under prior sales tax measures.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Transit Signal Priority Upgrades Substantially Complete, Enhancing Muni Performance. I'm happy to announce that SFMTA has substantially completed work to repair and replace existing Transit Signal Priority (TSP) equipment, including radios, controller equipment, and networking equipment, along Muni routes at locations in Districts 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, and 9, where equipment is nearing the end of its useful life. This effort is funded with \$2.3 million in Prop K sales tax funds. These funds also supported new installations at intersections that were skipped when the larger corridor was equipped with TSP due to conflicts with construction projects. These improvements will extend green lights to prioritize transit vehicles, update signal timing to the latest standards, and enable remote monitoring, to make trains and buses faster and more reliable.

Clay & Grant and Stockton & Sutter Conduits and Signal Modifications - Open for Use. I'd also like to share that SFMTA's traffic signal upgrade project at Clay & Grant Streets and Stockton & Sutter Streets in District 3 is now open for use. This work was funded with \$660,000 in Prop K sales tax funds to install new subsurface electrical conduits, new poles and pole foundations, upgraded vehicular signal heads, and new pedestrian countdown signals. This project was coordinated with Public Works' project to install curb ramps located over sub-sidewalk basements at



the two intersections. Together, these projects enhance pedestrian safety and support Vision Zero/Street Safety Initiative efforts.

Fulton Street Safety and Transit Project Enhances Muni Service and Street Safety. I'd like to congratulate SFMTA with support from former Assemblymember Phil Ting and Commissioner Chan, on completing their Fulton Street Safety and Transit Project, which brought major traffic calming and street safety improvements to Muni's 5 Fulton and 5R Fulton Rapid lines. In addition to state funds secured by Assemblymember Ting, the Transportation Authority provided \$318,000 in Neighborhood Program funds for daylighting at 34 intersections and signal timing changes on Fulton Street. . The Fulton Street Safety and Transit Project improvements will enhance visibility and safety for both pedestrians and drivers on this High Injury Networks corridor.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Celebrating Women Leaders in Transportation During Women's History Month.

In celebration of Women's History Month, Chair Melgar and I attended an event at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency where she spoke on a panel featuring women shaping sustainable mobility alongside fellow female transportation leaders. The event was co-led by the Conference On Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) NorCal and Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) SF and highlighted the region's broad and diverse leadership. We enjoyed lively discussions on collaborative decision-making, sustainable innovation, and the importance of inclusion and mentorship. Thank you again to COMTO, WTS and VTA for hosting this special gathering.

Eco-Friendly Downtown Delivery Study Team Partners With Stanford Students to Study Goods Movement.

Over the last two months, Transportation Planner Alexandra Pan has worked with students taking an introductory transportation course at Stanford University to research goods movement in San Francisco. Serving as the "client," the Transportation Authority tasked three students with identifying and characterizing typologies of freight activity currently taking place in the city, such as on-demand DoorDash deliveries and Amazon parcel shipments. Last Thursday, students presented the initial results of their research, which Transportation Authority staff will ultimately use to help inform implementation of the Eco-Friendly Downtown Delivery Study's recommendations and other future goods movement work. We deeply appreciate the students' hard work and look forward to future partnerships with Stanford.



BART Next Generation Fare Gates Recognized Nationally, Improved Safety and Rider Experience. BART's Next Generation Fare Gates Project has received national recognition from the American Public Works Association, which named it the 2026 Public Works Project Award winner, and the International Partnering Institute, which honored it as the 2026 Collaborative Project of the Year. Completed in August 2025, four months ahead of schedule, the project replaced 715 gates across all 50 stations in five counties. Early results show a more than 50% drop in reported fare evasion, a 41% reduction in overall crime, and nearly 1,000 fewer maintenance hours for vandalism and repairs. The gates are projected to increase annual fare revenue by \$10 million. The Transportation Authority contributed \$12.5 million in sales tax funding for San Francisco stations, enhancing safety, accessibility, and the overall rider experience. Congratulations to BART!