



DRAFT MINUTES

San Francisco County Transportation Authority

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

1. Roll Call

Chair Melgar called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Present at Roll Call: Commissioners Chen, Fielder, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, and Wong (6)

Absent at Roll Call: Commissioners Chan (entered during Item 2), Dorsey (entered during Item 2), Mahmood, Mandelman (entered during Item 2), and Walton (entered during Item 3) (5)

2. Approve the Minutes of the June 23, 2026 Meetings - ACTION

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Mandelman moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Fielder.

The minutes were approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, and Wong (9)

Absent: Commissioners Mahmood and Walton (2)

3. Community Advisory Committee Report – INFORMATION

Kat Siegal, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair, reported that at the June CAC meeting, the CAC supported \$3 million in Prop L allocations, the 2026-2027 Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program of Projects, amendments to the Prop K Standard Grant Agreement for the Visitacion Valley and Portola Community Based Transportation Plan, and the Laguna Honda Gondola Feasibility Study Final Report staff recommendations. She stated that CAC members urged faster sidewalk repairs, greater cost efficiency for curb ramp work, prioritization of curb ramps beyond constituent requests, and fully connected bike networks during discussions related to the aforementioned funding items. With respect to the Laguna Honda Gondola Feasibility Study discussion, Chair Siegal reported that CAC members urged improved shuttle service between Forest Hill Station and Laguna Honda Hospital and an alternatives analysis for shuttle investments, while acknowledging the study's limited scope.

During a discussion on the Transportation Authority's Westside Network Study, CAC members expressed support for improved transit frequency and coverage on the west side, particularly north-south connections, and expressed interest in recommendations including new connections to Daly City BART. She also reported that comments on the state and federal legislation update affirmed that accountability and enforcement for moving violations by autonomous vehicles remained a high priority for CAC members.



During public comment, Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, stated that she was interested in the Laguna Honda gondola proposal and referenced the aerial tram serving the medical campus in Portland, Oregon. She added that she would like to see more frequent transit service because transfers could be time-consuming.

4. State and Federal Legislation Update – INFORMATION

Amber Crabbe, Senior Public Policy Manager, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Walton asked whether Senate Bill (SB)1246 (Cortese) included provisions allowing passengers to override autonomous vehicle (AV) systems to address situations in which passengers could become trapped in vehicles during emergencies, natural disasters, or other safety incidents. He also asked whether passengers would be able to override the system to exit the vehicle in an emergency.

Ms. Crabbe clarified that the bill only authorized emergency responders to place an AV in neutral or turn it off in order to move it and confirmed that it did not include provisions allowing passengers to override the system.

Chair Melgar asked for clarification on the proposed penalties in the bill, whether the bill imposed penalties only after 30 minutes, and whether a municipality would have to proactively file a lawsuit to recover penalties under the bill.

Ms. Crabbe confirmed that the bill authorized cities to pursue a \$10,000 penalty if the 30-minute time limit was exceeded, unless another provision of the bill was violated in which case the allowable penalty was \$5,000. Ms. Crabbe stated that penalties under the bill were not automatic and explained that recovery would require a civil action initiated by a city attorney or county counsel.

Commissioner Mandelman thanked Chair Melgar and staff for their work on AV issues. He stated that recent AV incidents raised concerns about traffic safety and emergency vehicle access and said state regulators should take additional action to ensure the technology operated safely. He added that, although many people enjoyed the technology, emergency vehicles needed to be able to move reliably during both everyday operations and emergencies.

Commissioner Walton asked whether the reason passengers were not allowed to override AV systems was known and why there was opposition to providing passengers with that capability.

Ms. Crabbe stated that passenger remedies were available through AV providers but were not addressed in SB 1246 because the bill focused on emergency response issues. She added that the senator's office was interested in discussing ideas for future legislation and said the Transportation Authority would consider comments received in planning for next year's legislative priorities.

Commissioner Walton stated that he supported the legislation but believed it did not go far enough. He added that allowing passengers to exit AVs during emergencies was a critical safety issue and said the lack of that capability was a primary reason he would not ride in one.

Chair Melgar thanked staff, Director Chang, and Commissioner Mandelman for their work on AV legislation. She stated that she believed the bill did not go far enough and



remained concerned about liability to the City and the impact of AVs on emergency response during unplanned events such as disasters. She added that cost recovery alone would not adequately address those concerns and said that Commissioner Walton's comments should be incorporated into future advocacy efforts. She stated that she supported continuing to work with partners throughout the state on these issues.

During public comment, Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, stated that she supported well-reasoned regulation of AVs but was concerned that regulations could become overly restrictive. She added that passengers should not be able to operate vehicle controls citing lack of training and other reasons, expressed concern about privacy and data disclosure, and stated that public safety should remain the primary focus. She also said that human-driven vehicles continued to present significant safety concerns and urged that AV users not be shamed or marginalized.

Vice Chair Sauter moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Dorsey.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Walton, and Wong (9)

Absent: Commissioner Mahmood and Sherrill (2)

5. Allocate \$3,055,000 and Appropriate \$125,000 in Prop L Funds, with Conditions, for Six Requests – ACTION

Rachel Seiberg, Transportation Planner, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

During public comment, Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, asked how the loader purchase would comply with emissions regulations. She stated that electric construction equipment was available and urged consideration of zero-emission equipment to reduce emissions and noise. She added that the purchase presented an opportunity to invest in newer technology.

Commissioner Chen moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Mandelman.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Walton, and Wong (9)

Absent: Commissioner Mahmood and Sherrill (2)

6. Approve the Fiscal Year 2026/27 Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program of Projects, Totaling \$2,496,917, with Conditions – ACTION

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

Chair Melgar expressed support for the recommended program of projects. She thanked Commissioner Walton for his many years of service at the Air District. and said that it was a great thing that the Air District had provided the additional Regional Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) funds this cycle.

Commissioner Walton said that he was excited about the projects, as well, but asked for



clarification about a statement Mr. Pickford made during the presentation about reallocating funds for District 10 projects if SFMTA did not secure certain funding.

Mr. Pickford responded by stating that the TFCA program had strict timely-use-of-funds requirements. He explained that the proposed condition on the Visitacion Avenue Bike and Pedestrian Safety Improvements project (and one other project in another district) would allow the Transportation Authority to reallocate the TFCA funds to another project the following year if the affected project had not secured all other funding (rather than lose the TFCA funds). He further explained that the affected projects would remain eligible to reapply for TFCA funds in future cycles.

Commissioner Walton said that it was a problem if the projects were at risk of losing funds.

Mr. Pickford stated that staff would not have recommended the projects unless they were pretty confident that they would be fully funded. He added that for the Visitacion Valley project, the remaining unsecured funding consisted of PG&E funds pending Board of Supervisors approval in July.

Vice Chair Sauter stated that he appreciated all the projects in the funding package and said bike racks in daylighting zones provided a small but impactful improvement to safety. He added that there had been an explosion in the number of scooters and that corrals installed by SFMTA had successfully reduced sidewalk clutter in dense neighborhoods and streets, such as Grant Avenue, which has narrow sidewalks. He said he looked forward to additional installations to help get scooters and bikes off the sidewalks and into the corrals.

During public comment, Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, stated that she supported purchasing electric vans, purchasing more bike racks, and implementing daylighting improvements. She added that bike facilities should accommodate electric bicycles and scooters as they may be used by people with disabilities. She urged clearer use of transportation agency acronyms and expressed support for expanding transportation options for people who do not drive, including the Bayview Shuttle. She said she did not know how to access the shuttle or what the fare was and asked if someone could provide her with that information after the meeting.

Commissioner Walton moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Chen.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, Walton, and Wong (10)

Absent: Commissioner Mahmood (1)

7. Amend the Prop K Standard Grant Agreements for the Visitacion Valley & Portola Community Based Transportation Plan (Plan) Implementation [NTIP Capital] to Update the Scope, Schedule, Cost, and Funding Plan; and Release \$435,000 on Reserve to Implement Plan Recommendations – ACTION

Rachel Seiberg, Transportation Planner, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Walton moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Fielder.



The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, Walton, and Wong (10)

Absent: Commissioner Mahmood (1)

8. Adopt the Laguna Honda Gondola Feasibility Study Final Report – ACTION

Chair Melgar stated that she requested the study to explore creative transportation solutions between Forest Hill Station and Laguna Honda Hospital, particularly to serve seniors and people with disabilities. She explained that the study concluded a gondola was not cost-effective for the site but added that it showed the mode could become more cost-effective over longer distances and with higher ridership. She stated that the study could serve as a reference for evaluating similar transportation concepts elsewhere in San Francisco in the future.

Ahmed Thleiji, Rail Program Principal Engineer, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Chair Melgar stated that the Board was voting to accept the final report but would not pursue the gondola proposal further for the Laguna Honda site because it was not cost-effective. She reiterated that the study could serve as a reference for evaluating similar transportation challenges at other locations in the future.

During public comment, Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, stated that, although a gondola was not the right solution for Laguna Honda at this time, innovative transportation options should continue to be explored. She added that electric shuttles could reduce emissions but said longer-term transportation solutions should continue to be evaluated to improve access to Laguna Honda.

Commissioner Chen moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Dorsey.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Walton, and Wong (9)

Absent: Commissioner Mahmood and Sherrill (2)

9. Award a Three-Year Professional Services Contract with an Option to Extend for Two Additional One-Year Periods, to Crowe LLP in an Amount Not to Exceed \$340,000 for Annual Audit Services – ACTION

Javier Altamirano, Controller, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Mandelman moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Chen.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Walton, and Wong (9)

Absent: Commissioner Mahmood and Sherrill (2)



10. Ratify Debt, Investment, and Procurement Policies – ACTION

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

There was no public comment.

Vice Chair Sauter moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Fielder.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Walton, and Wong (9)

Absent: Commissioner Mahmood and Sherrill (2)

Other Items

11. Introduction of New Items - INFORMATION

There were no new items introduced.

12. Public Comment

During public comment, Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, asked about procedures for participating remotely. She stated that transportation systems should be inclusive and serve all users, regardless of residency or background. She added that public meetings should welcome all participants and encourage everyone to speak without fear.

Alex Lantsberg, Research and Advocacy Director for the San Francisco Electrical Construction Industry, stated that SFMTA had begun testing in-motion charging trolleybuses and said the initial results had been positive. He stated that the testing could inform future funding decisions and support an alternatives analysis for fleet replacement. He also referenced international developments in trolleybus systems and other transit electrification efforts.

13. Adjournment

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