



DRAFT MINUTES

San Francisco County Transportation Authority

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

1. Roll Call

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

Present at Roll Call: Commissioners Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mahmood, Melgar, Sauter, and Sherrill (7)

Absent at Roll Call: Commissioners Chan (entered during Item 5), Mandelman, Walton (entered during Item 3), and Wong (entered during Item 5) (4)

2. Approve the Minutes of the July 28, 2026 Meeting - ACTION

There was no public comment.

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

The minutes were approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mahmood, Melgar, Sauter, and Sherrill, (7)

Absent: Commissioners Chan, Mandelman, Walton, and Wong (4)

3. Community Advisory Committee Report – INFORMATION

Kat Siegal, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair, reported that the CAC had met twice since her last report to the Board. At its July meeting, the CAC supported Senate Bill (SB) 1246 regarding autonomous vehicle (AV) regulations, although members believed the legislation did not go far enough, particularly its 30-minute threshold for blocking emergency vehicles, and cited incidents in which AVs blocked emergency vehicles and Muni service. The CAC also received an update on the San Francisco Transportation Plan 2050+, with members requesting greater emphasis on transit service expansion, major transit improvements, and adapting the transit network to changing travel patterns.

Chair Siegal reported that at its September 9 meeting, the CAC supported allocating \$22.5 million in Prop L funds to the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) for The Portal Project Engineering Phase. Members asked about federal and state funding risks, and staff reaffirmed the strong partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) while acknowledging risks to planned Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funding resulting from California Air Resources Board changes that impacted the State Cap-and-Invest Program. Chair Siegal said that the CAC also supported the staff-recommended One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) Cycle 4 project nominations. She added that members questioned the higher score for the Treasure Island Electric Ferry Pilot compared with the 16th Street Mission Elevator Modernization project, citing the station's high usage and accessibility needs. Staff explained that project readiness was



heavily weighted and that previously OBAG-funded Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) elevator projects remained incomplete, prompting discussion of delivery barriers and how the Transportation Authority could help expedite these projects.

There was no public comment.

4. Appoint Abigail Pantoja as the District 11 Representative to the Community Advisory Committee – ACTION

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

Abigail Pantoja spoke to her interests and qualifications for serving on the CAC as the District 11 representative.

Commissioner Chen stated her support for Abigail Pantoja's appointment to the CAC, describing her as a longtime Excelsior resident, community worker, and daily transit rider. She stated that Ms. Pantoja emphasized her commitment to community engagement and amplifying transit riders' voices, particularly the experiences of working families navigating the city on public transportation. Commissioner Chen added that Ms. Pantoja would prioritize affordability, equity, and protecting public transportation services, and said she looked forward to her collaboration on the CAC.

There was no public comment.

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

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chen, Dorsey, Fielder, Mahmood, Melgar, Sauter, and Sherrill, and Walton (8)

Absent: Commissioners Chan, Mandelman, and Wong (3)

5. State and Federal Legislation Update – INFORMATION

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

During public comment, Aleta Dupree, Team Folds expressed support for reasonable transportation regulations involving emergency responders and funding for The Portal and transit services. She raised concerns about remote driving, the effectiveness of e-bike sales restrictions, and privacy protections for publicly available data.

Vice Chair Sauter 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, Mahmood, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, Walton, and Wong (10)

Absent: Commissioner Mandelman (1)

6. Allocate \$22,500,000 in Prop L Funds, with Conditions, to the Transbay Joint Powers Authority for The Portal Project Engineering Phase Activities Starting October 1, 2026, and Appropriate \$3,500,000 in Prop L Funds, with Conditions, for The Portal Project Oversight, Engagement, and Work Program for Initiation of Pre-Construction – ACTION

Carl Holmes, Deputy Director for Capital Projects, presented the item per the staff



memorandum.

Commissioner Dorsey said he supported the funding package for The Portal, formerly known as the Downtown Rail Extension, which would extend Caltrain from Fourth and King streets to the Salesforce Transit Center and accommodate future California High-Speed Rail service. He stated that the funding would advance San Francisco's top rail capital priority through the Engineering Phase and that the \$3.5 million appropriation for Transportation Authority oversight would support funding strategy, risk management, and interagency coordination as the project moved toward pre-construction.

Chair Melgar stated that the MTC had recommended The Portal for \$750 million in state funding but that changes to the Cap-and-Invest program presented funding challenges. She expressed continued support for advancing the project and its vision of San Francisco as a transportation hub connecting regional transit and future high-speed rail service. Chair Melgar thanked Director Van de Water and his staff; the Transportation Authority staff for their work, particularly Director Chang's longstanding advocacy for the project; and Commissioner Mandelman for his leadership on the project, including serving on the TJPA Board.

During public comment, Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, expressed support for The Portal, citing the difficulty of traveling between Embarcadero and Fourth and King streets and the project's potential to improve connections between BART and Caltrain. She referenced New York's Grand Central Madison as an example of improved regional rail connections and urged continued progress on the project.

Commissioner Dorsey 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, Mahmood, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, Walton, and Wong (10)

Absent: Commissioner Mandelman (1)

7. Adopt San Francisco's One Bay Area Grant Cycle 4 Project Nominations – ACTION

Nicolette Chan, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Dorsey said that he strongly supported the recommended Mission Street Safety Improvements, Howard Streetscape, and Treasure Island Electric Ferry Pilot projects. He stated that improvements to Mission and Howard streets were important to support downtown recovery and residential growth. He emphasized the need for continued investment in Treasure Island transportation options to support planned housing growth, noted promising ferry ridership trends among new residents, and said he hoped the MTC would support the recommendations.

Chair Melgar stated that she supported the recommended projects, particularly the Treasure Island Electric Ferry Pilot, and hoped to see more westside projects as planning efforts advanced. She noted that MTC's OBAG policy had evolved through collaboration among the nine Bay Area counties to incorporate climate change, transit-oriented communities, and preservation of existing affordable housing.

During public comment, Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, emphasized the importance of



accessible stations, particularly the 22nd Street Station ADA Improvement project. She also voiced interest in the Treasure Island Electric Ferry Pilot, Bayview Caltrain Station, and Geary-19th Avenue Subway projects.

Commissioner Dorsey 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, Mahmood, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, Walton, and Wong (10)

Absent: Commissioner Mandelman (1)

Other Items

8. Introduction of New Items - INFORMATION

There were no new items introduced.

9. Public Comment

During public comment, Aleta Dupree, Team Folds, encouraged a regional approach to transportation planning and emphasized the importance of BART and connections between San Francisco and the East Bay.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.