



Memorandum

Date: September 19, 2017
To: Transportation Authority Board
From: Jeff Hobson – Deputy Director for Planning
Subject: 09/26/17 Board Meeting: ConnectSF Update

<p>RECOMMENDATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information <input type="checkbox"/> Action</p> <p>None. This is an information item.</p> <p>SUMMARY</p> <p>This memo serves as an update regarding activities associated with ConnectSF, the San Francisco multi-agency long-range transportation planning program. Currently in the vision-setting phase, this multi-year process will encompass a major update to the countywide transportation plan, or the San Francisco Transportation Plan (SFTP), and an update to the Planning Department’s General Plan Transportation Element.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Fund Allocation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fund Programming</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Policy/Legislation</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plan/Study</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Capital Project Oversight/Delivery</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Budget/Finance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Contract/Agreement</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</p> <hr/>
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DISCUSSION

Background

To define the desired and achievable transportation future for San Francisco, the Transportation Authority, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and the Planning Department are collaborating on the San Francisco Long Range Transportation Planning Program, also known as ConnectSF. Additional program partners include San Francisco Office of Economic and Workforce Development and the Mayor’s Office, with involvement of regional transportation agencies to follow.

The program is composed of several distinct efforts, including:

- Subway Vision (completed)
- ConnectSF 2065 Vision (in progress)
- Transit Modal Concept Study
- Freeway and Street Traffic Management Study
- San Francisco Transportation Plan (SFTP) 2050
- General Plan Transportation Element Update

Other key topics to be addressed include: transportation demand management, emerging mobility services and technology and adaptation and resilience. Combined, the efforts of the ConnectSF program will result in the following set of deliverables:

- Create a common vision for the future that will result in common goals and objectives that subsequent efforts work to achieve.

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- Serve as San Francisco’s long-range transportation planning program, integrating multiple priorities for all modes based on robust technical analysis and public engagement.
- Identify short-term needs and opportunities to improve transportation that support key city policies and priorities.
- Identify and prioritize long-term transit strategies and investments to support sustainable growth.
- Develop a revenue strategy for funding priorities.
- Establish a joint advocacy platform, including policy and project priorities.
- Guide San Francisco’s inputs into the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy updates.
- Codify policies in the San Francisco General Plan.

ConnectSF 2065 Vision.

The 2065 Vision segment of the ConnectSF program is answering the question “what is the future of San Francisco as a place to live, work and play in the next 25 and 50 years?” To answer this question, staff is employing a scenario planning framework – a methodology used by businesses and large-scale public agencies and governments designed to help organizations think strategically about the future. This methodology identifies drivers of change and critical uncertainties, develops plausible future scenarios to understand how the city may react in those scenarios, the implications and paths for the city to navigate each of those plausible futures, and a preferred future to strive towards.

ConnectSF Outreach to date.

Since summer 2016, the ConnectSF team has been actively engaged in several public engagement activities, all with the aim of providing forums for the public to help answer the question, “what is the future of San Francisco as a place to live, work and play in the next 25 and 50 years?” Staff will be using this input to guide the development of a preferred 2065 Vision for the city, to inform the next stages of the ConnectSF program.

In summer and fall of 2016, ConnectSF staff utilized pop-up workshops and an online tool to ask where San Francisco should expand its subway network. More than 2,600 ideas were submitted.

In May 2017, seven on-sidewalk pop-ups scattered around San Francisco, and an online survey encouraged public participants to think broadly about the future of transportation in San Francisco and ask what they are excited and concerned about. Collectively, over 1,100 open-ended responses were collected from over 450 individuals.

Additionally, starting in May 2017, a Futures Task Force was invited to three co-learning events, designed to delve into the specific topics, including impacts of development in neighborhoods, the changing future of mobility, and how work may change in the future. Then, in June, the Futures Task Force participated in the Scenario Building Workshop, designed to understand how uncertain drivers of change may influence the future of San Francisco, and how the city will prepare if those futures come to fruition. The day and a half workshop culminated with the production of four future scenarios, that were further refined by staff and discussed by the Futures Task Force at follow-up webinars.

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During September 2017, focus groups, also called Small Group Experiences, are engaging small groups in thinking about the four scenarios and the tradeoffs between them. The project team is making special efforts to meet with groups and organizations from communities of concern. Additionally, an online public survey about the four plausible future scenarios is now open as well at connectsf.org/survey. Both efforts are designed to give both staff and the Futures Task Force insight into broader opinions about how San Francisco should react to plausible futures. The Futures Task Force will re-convene on October 4 for the Scenarios Implications Workshop, where participants will discuss the implications of each plausible future and provide direction for staff to develop a preferred future.

Next Steps.

The 2065 Vision will culminate this winter, while staff is beginning on the next phases of the program, including the Transit Concept Modal Study and the Freeway and Streets Study.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

None. This is an information item.

CAC POSITION

None. This is an information item.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

None.