



## **Administrative Code**

Ordinance 23-01

### **SECTION 1. TITLE AND AUTHORITY.**

This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the provisions of California Public Utilities Code Section 131265, and may be referred to as the "San Francisco County Transportation Authority Administrative Code." This Ordinance prescribes the powers and duties of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (Transportation Authority) Board; the method of appointment of employees of the Transportation Authority; and the policies and systems of operation and management of the Transportation Authority.

### **SECTION 2. DUTIES OF THE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.**

The Transportation Authority shall have the power, authority, and duty to do all things necessary and required to accomplish the stated purposes and goals of Division 12.5 of the California Public Utilities Code, also known as the Bay Area County Traffic and Transportation Funding Act, including the following:

- (a) Administer the 2022 Transportation Expenditure Plan, approved by voters as Proposition L and effective on April 1, 2023, which supersedes the New Transportation Expenditure Plan approved by voters as Proposition K and effected on November 4, 2003, as well as the original Transportation Expenditure Plan approved by voters as Proposition B on November 7, 1989, extending the sales tax for another 30-year period.
- (b) Adopt an annual budget by June 30 of each year and fix the compensation of its commissioners and employees. The compensation of commissioners shall be as provided in Section 3.2 herein.
- (c) Cause a post audit of its financial transactions and records at least annually by a certified public accountant.
- (d) Prepare and adopt an annual report by January 31 of each year on the objectives completed for the projects in the Transportation Expenditure Plan.
- (e) Conduct an employee performance evaluation of the Executive Director by December 31 of each year for the Executive Director's work performance of the preceding year.
- (f) Perform other related responsibilities, including but not limited to (i) serving as the county program manager for the Transportation Fund for Clean Air; (ii) serving as the county Congestion Management Agency; (iii) administering Proposition AA projects; and (iv) administering Prop D projects.



### **SECTION 3. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY COMMISSIONERS.**

The eleven members of the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco shall be the commissioners of the Transportation Authority. They shall be known as "Commissioners" individually, and as the Board of Commissioners, or Board, collectively.

- (a) **Chair.** The Chair shall possess the following powers and duties:
1. To preside at all meetings;
  2. To appoint the membership and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the committees of the Transportation Authority, except for the Community Advisory Committee;
  3. To decide the agenda of Board meetings;
  4. To sign contracts, deeds, and other instruments on behalf of the Transportation Authority; and
  5. To perform such additional duties as may be designated by the Transportation Authority.
- (b) **Vice-Chair.** The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the absence or incapacity of the Chair.

#### **SECTION 3.1. METHOD OF APPOINTMENT OF THE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OFFICERS.**

- (a) The Chair shall be elected at the first meeting of the Transportation Authority, and thereafter, after the first complete calendar year, annually, at the first meeting in January. The newly appointed Chair shall immediately preside, following their election at the same meeting.
- (b) The Vice-Chair shall be elected at the first meeting of the Transportation Authority, and thereafter, after the first complete calendar year, annually, at the first meeting in January.
- (c) If the Chair or Vice-Chair resigns or is removed from office, the election for Chair or Vice-Chair to serve the remainder of the term shall be at the next meeting of the Transportation Authority. Except as provided in Section 3.2(a) below, the Chair and Vice Chair shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement as provided in Section 3.2(b) below.



### **SECTION 3.2. COMPENSATION OF COMMISSIONERS.**

- (a) As required by the provisions of California Public Utilities Code Section 131268, Commissioners shall be compensated at the rate of \$100 for each day attending the business of the Transportation Authority, but not to exceed \$400 in any month, for any of the following occurrences that are related to the business of the Transportation Authority:
1. A meeting of the legislative body or committee thereof;
  2. A meeting of an advisory body;
  3. A conference or organized educational activity, including ethics training; or
  4. Any other occurrence, if the Transportation Authority has adopted a written policy in a public meeting specifying that the attendance at such occurrence would constitute the performance of official duties for which Commissioners may receive compensation.
- (b) Commissioners shall receive reimbursement for necessary travel and personal expenses incurred in the performance of their duties when such expenses are authorized in advance and as set forth in the Transportation Authority's adopted Travel, Conference, Training, and Business Expense Reimbursement Policy.

### **SECTION 4. STAFF TO THE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.**

- (a) **Executive Director.** The Board shall appoint the Executive Director, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Executive Director shall possess the power and duty to administer the business of the Transportation Authority, including the following powers and duties:
1. To supervise and direct preparation of the annual budget for the Transportation Authority;
  2. To formulate and present plans for implementation of the Transportation Expenditure Plan, including establishment of project priorities within the priorities set by the plan, and the means to finance them;
  3. To provide guidance to and to monitor and coordinate the activities of the project sponsors to ensure that the projects are completed;
  4. To submit to the Board each year a complete report of the finances and administrative activities of the Transportation Authority from the preceding year;
  5. To direct the preparation and administration of purchase orders and contracts for goods and services, and to execute contracts for goods, materials, and services,



including support services, where estimated expenditures thereunder do not exceed \$100,000 and to execute any agreements with sponsoring agencies where sufficient funding for such is available in the Transportation Authority's budget;

6. To administer the personnel system of the Transportation Authority, including hiring, controlling, supervising, promoting, transferring, suspending with or without pay, or discharging any employee. To this end, the Executive Director shall prepare and maintain a Personnel Manual, stating the rules of employment of the Transportation Authority and methods of compensation established by the Transportation Authority; and
  7. To provide the day-to-day administration of the Transportation Authority and to perform such other and additional duties as the Transportation Authority Board may prescribe.
- (b) **Chief Deputy Director.** The Executive Director shall appoint a Chief Deputy Director. In the event of the Executive Director's temporary absence, disability, unavailability, or during a vacancy in that position, the Chief Deputy Director shall act as the Executive Director.
- (c) **Additional Staff.** The Executive Director may create additional staff positions subject to the approval of the Board. Duties shall be defined by the Executive Director and shall be contained in a written job description. The Executive Director shall appoint additional staff members to approved positions. All employees are "at-will" employees and serve at the pleasure of the Executive Director.

#### **SECTION 4.1. BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES.**

The Transportation Authority may contract with the appropriate agencies of the State of California to provide retirement and health benefits for its employees or with any other retirement or health system which it determines is in the best interests of its employees, and in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

#### **SECTION 4.2. RULES OF EMPLOYMENT.**

The Executive Director or their designee shall administer the personnel policies of the Transportation Authority as set forth in the Personnel Manual. The Executive Director shall take all necessary actions to hire, promote, transfer, suspend with or without pay, or discharge any employee in accordance with the procedures in the Personnel Manual.



## SECTION 5. METHODS, PROCEDURES, AND SYSTEMS OF OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT.

### SECTION 5.1. COMMITTEES OF THE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.

- (a) **Personnel Committee.** The Chair shall appoint a Personnel Committee, which shall be composed of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Transportation Authority and the City and County of San Francisco's representative to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), as appointed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. If the MTC representative is also the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board, the Chair shall be able to appoint a third member to the Personnel Committee. The Chair or their designee shall serve as the Chair of the Personnel Committee. Two members shall constitute a quorum and all official acts of the Personnel Committee shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the authorized number of members of the committee. Meetings of the Personnel Committee shall be held at the call of the Chair. The responsibilities of this committee shall include the following:
1. To make recommendations on the hiring, firing, and employment status of the Executive Director of the Transportation Authority;
  2. To conduct annual performance evaluations of the Executive Director; and
  3. To make recommendations on the Transportation Authority's policies and actions related to staffing levels, job specifications, compensation ranges, and employment conditions.
- (b) **Additional Committees.** The Board may create, and the Chair shall appoint, the membership of select committees consisting of Commissioners and established consistent with the following criteria:
1. The committee shall have a clear, simple, narrow, single statement of purpose;
  2. The committee will be created for a specified maximum period of time; and
  3. The size of the committee will be either three or five Commissioners, based on the committee purpose.
- (c) **Transportation Authority Committee Procedures.** The Chair shall be eligible to be appointed and to serve on any committee established under this Code as a voting, regular member. If not appointed as a regular member of a committee, the Chair shall serve as a non-voting, ex-officio member, except that the Chair shall serve as a voting member when their presence is necessary in order to constitute a quorum. A majority of the authorized number of members of a committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business and all official acts of the committee shall



require the affirmative vote of the majority of the authorized number of members of the committee. In the case of a tie vote, the Chair, if present but not acting as a voting member, may cast the deciding vote. If the Chair's presence causes a quorum of the members of the full Board to be present, the committee meeting shall be recessed and the meeting convened or reconvened as a special Board meeting.

## **SECTION 5.2. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**

(a) **Community Advisory Committee.** The Board shall appoint eleven non-Commission members to a Community Advisory Committee. This committee shall include representatives from various segments of the community, such as public policy organizations, labor, business, seniors, people with disabilities, environmentalists, and neighborhoods, and reflect broad transportation interests. The committee is also intended to reflect the racial and gender diversity of San Francisco residents. Each Commissioner shall nominate one member to the committee. The committee members shall be residents of San Francisco and shall serve for a two-year period. Any member who is absent for four of any twelve regularly scheduled consecutive meetings shall have their membership automatically terminated. Any resulting vacancy shall be filled for a new two-year period. Any member whose membership has been terminated or whose term of office has expired and who wishes to be reappointed shall contact their District Supervisor and shall reappear before the Board to speak on their behalf. This committee shall meet at least quarterly, and all meetings shall be conducted pursuant to the Brown Act and shall be open to the public. The regular meetings of the committee shall be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Transportation Authority's offices at 1455 Market Street, 22nd Floor, San Francisco, California, barring a state of emergency which would move the location to a virtual meeting platform. The staff of the Transportation Authority will be available to assist the committee. This committee shall provide input to the Transportation Authority in:

1. Defining the mission of the Transportation Authority;
2. Reflecting community values in the development of the mission and program of the Transportation Authority, and channeling that mission and program back to the community;
3. Defining criteria and priorities for implementing the Expenditure Plan programs consistent with the intention of the half-cent sales tax funding purposes; and
4. Monitoring the Transportation Authority's programs and evaluating the sponsoring agencies' productivity and effectiveness.



- (b) **Additional Advisory Committees.** The Board may appoint any other advisory committees that it deems necessary.

### **SECTION 5.3. CONTRACTS.**

- (a) Contracts for the purchase of supplies, equipment, and materials in excess of \$100,000 shall be awarded after a formal competitive procurement process in conformance with the Procurement Policy.
- (b) Contracts for the purchase of services in excess of \$100,000 shall be awarded after a formal competitive procurement process in conformance with the Procurement Policy.
- (c) The Executive Director is authorized to contract for supplies, equipment, materials, and services for an amount less than or equal to \$100,000 in conformance with the Procurement Policy. The Executive Director is authorized to amend contracts and agreements within the parameters specified in the Procurement Policy.
- (d) Where advantageous, the Transportation Authority may contract without initiating a competitive procurement process with any public agency, including but not limited to, the California Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, or any transit district, county, or city, including the City and County of San Francisco, to render designated services or to provide materials on behalf of the Transportation Authority in conformance with the Procurement Policy.
- (e) All contracts shall reflect the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise/Local Business Enterprise goals, if applicable and as permitted by law, and Equal Benefits provisions adopted by the Transportation Authority.

### **SECTION 5.4. PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT.**

#### **Section 5.4.1. Authority and Mandate.**

- (a) This Section 5.4 is adopted pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code Sections 21000 and following, as amended; and pursuant to the Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended, appearing as Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations (hereinafter referred to collectively as "CEQA").
- (b) Any amendments to CEQA adopted subsequent to the effective date shall not invalidate any provision of this Section 5.4. Any amendments to CEQA that may



be inconsistent with this Section 5.4 shall govern until such time as the relevant provision is amended to remove such inconsistency.

- (c) This Section 5.4 shall govern in relation to all other ordinances of the Transportation Authority and rules and regulations pursuant thereto. In the event of any inconsistency, the provisions of this Section 5.4 shall prevail.

**Section 5.4.2. Incorporation by Reference.**

The provisions of CEQA are not repeated here, but are expressly incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth.

**Section 5.4.3. Responsibility.**

The administrative actions required by CEQA with respect to the preparation of environmental documents, giving of notice and completing other activities shall be performed by staff of the Transportation Authority or by consultants under the direction of the Transportation Authority. These activities may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Preparing any necessary forms, checklists, and processing guidelines to implement CEQA in accordance with this Section 5.4;
- (b) Determining excluded and exempt activities which are not subject to CEQA;
- (c) Determining when a negative declaration or environmental impact report (EIR) is required when acting as a lead agency or as is otherwise required by CEQA;
- (d) Ensuring that agencies and other interested parties are consulted and have an opportunity to comment during the CEQA process when acting as a lead agency or as is otherwise required by CEQA;
- (e) Preparing environmental documents and notices when acting as a lead agency or as is otherwise required by CEQA;
- (f) Consulting, providing comments, and attending hearings as necessary on behalf of the Transportation Authority when it acts as a responsible agency under CEQA; and
- (g) Ensuring coordination with federal lead and responsible agencies when project review is required under both CEQA and the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA").





**Section 5.4.4. List of Non-Physical and Ministerial Projects.**

The Transportation Authority shall maintain a list of types of ministerial projects excluded from CEQA. Such lists shall be modified over time as the status of types of projects may change under applicable laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations. The list shall not be considered totally inclusive, and may at times require refinement or interpretation on a case-by-case basis. The list of ministerial projects and modifications thereto shall be kept posted in the offices of the Transportation Authority, with updated copies shall be sent to the Board.

**Section 5.4.5. Categorical Exemptions.**

The Transportation Authority shall maintain a list of types of projects that are categorically exempt from CEQA. This list shall be kept posted in the offices of the Transportation Authority, with updated copies sent to the Board. The list shall be kept up to date in accordance with any changes in CEQA.

**Section 5.4.6. Initial Evaluation of Projects**

- (a) For projects that are not statutorily excluded or categorically exempt from CEQA, an initial study shall be prepared to establish whether a negative declaration or an EIR is required prior to the decision as to whether to carry out or approve the project. If it is clear at the outset that an EIR is required, however, such determination may be made immediately, and no initial study shall be required.
- (b) Each initial study shall meet the requirements of CEQA with respect to contents and consultation with Responsible and Trustee Agencies. During preparation of the initial study, the Transportation Authority may consult with any person having knowledge or interest concerning the project.
- (c) If a project is subject to both CEQA and NEPA, an initial evaluation prepared pursuant to NEPA may be used to satisfy the requirements of this section.
- (d) Based on the analysis and conclusions in the initial study, the Transportation Authority shall determine, based on the requirements of CEQA, whether there is substantial evidence that any aspect of the project may cause a significant effect on the environment, and whether a negative declaration or EIR shall be prepared.



**Section 5.4.7. Negative Declarations or Mitigated Negative Declarations.**

- (a) When a negative declaration is required, it shall be prepared by or at the direction of the Transportation Authority. All CEQA requirements governing contents, notice, and recirculation shall be met.
- (b) The Board shall review and consider the information contained in the final negative declaration, together with any comments received during the public review process, and, upon making the findings as provided in CEQA, shall adopt the negative declaration, prior to approving the project. If the Board adopts a mitigated negative declaration, it shall also adopt a program for reporting on or monitoring the mitigation measures for the project that it has either required or made a condition of approval to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects.

**Section 5.4.8. Draft Environmental Impact Reports.**

- (a) If it is determined that a project may have a significant effect on the environment and that an EIR is required, the Transportation Authority shall prepare a Notice of Preparation and shall meet all requirements for notice and circulation as required by CEQA.
- (b) The EIR shall be prepared by or under the direction of the Transportation Authority. The EIR shall first be prepared as a draft report. During preparation of the draft EIR, the Transportation Authority may consult with any person having knowledge or interest concerning the project and shall meet all CEQA consultation requirements.
- (c) When the draft EIR has been prepared, the Transportation Authority shall file a Notice of Completion and shall provide public notice of the draft EIR, as required by CEQA. The comment period on draft EIRs shall meet the requirements of CEQA. The draft EIR shall be available to the general public upon filing of the Notice of Completion.
- (d) Public participation, both formal and informal, shall be encouraged at all stages of review, and written comments shall be accepted at any time up to the conclusion of the public comment period. The Transportation Authority may give public notice at any formal stage of the review process, beyond the notices required by CEQA, in any manner it may deem appropriate, and may maintain a public log as to the status of all projects under formal review. Members of the general public shall be encouraged to submit their comments in writing as early as possible.



**Section 5.4.9. Final Environmental Impact Reports.**

- (a) A final EIR shall be prepared in accordance with CEQA by, or at the direction of, the Transportation Authority, based upon the draft EIR, the consultations and comments received during the review process, and additional information that may become available.
- (b) In the judgment of the Board, if the final EIR is adequate, accurate and objective, and reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the Board, the Board shall certify its completion in compliance with CEQA. The certification of completion shall contain a finding as to whether the project as proposed will, or will not, have a significant effect on the environment.

**Section 5.4.10. Actions on Projects.**

- (a) Before making its decision whether to carry out or approve the project, the Board shall review and consider the information contained in the environmental document and shall make findings as required by CEQA.
- (b) After the Board has decided to carry out or approve a project, the Transportation Authority shall file a notice of determination with the county clerk of the county or counties in which the project is to be located and as required by CEQA. Such notice shall contain the information required by CEQA. If required by CEQA, the notice of determination shall also be filed with the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

**Section 5.4.11. Additional Environmental Review.**

If the Transportation Authority or the Board determine that additional environmental review is required by CEQA, or if modifications to a project require additional environmental review, such review will be conducted as provided by CEQA and in accordance with the applicable procedures set forth in this Section 5.4.

**Section 5.4.12. Evaluation of Modified Projects.**

- (a) After evaluation of a proposed project has been completed, a substantial modification of the project may require reevaluation of the proposed project.
- (b) Where such a modification occurs as to a project that has been determined to be excluded or categorically exempt, a new determination shall be made. If the project is again determined to be excluded or categorically exempt, no further evaluation shall be required. If the project is determined not to be excluded or



categorically exempt, an initial study shall be conducted as provided in Section 5.4.6.

- (c) Where such a modification occurs as to a project for which a negative declaration has been adopted or a final EIR has been certified, the Transportation Authority shall reevaluate the proposed project in relation to such modification. If, on the basis of such reevaluation, the Transportation Authority determines, based on the requirements of CEQA, that no additional environmental review is necessary, this determination and the reasons supporting the determination shall be noted in writing in the case record, and no further evaluation shall be required. If the Transportation Authority determines that additional environmental review is necessary, a new evaluation shall be completed prior to the decision by the Board as to whether to carry out or approve the project as modified. CEQA sets forth specific requirements for the determination of whether a supplemental or subsequent EIR is necessary, as well as the applicable process.

**Section 5.4.13. Multiple Actions on Projects.**

- (a) The concept of a project is broadly defined by CEQA so that multiple actions of the same or of different kinds may often constitute a single project. This concept of a project permits all the ramifications of a public action to be considered together and avoids duplication of review.
- (b) Early and timely evaluation of projects and preparation of EIRs shall be emphasized.
- (c) Only one initial study, negative declaration or EIR shall be required for each project.
- (d) Only one evaluation of a project or preparation of an EIR shall occur in cases in which both the Transportation Authority and one or more other public agencies are to carry out or approve a project. In such cases the evaluation or preparation is performed by the lead agency, which agency is selected by reference to criteria in CEQA.
- (e) CEQA provides that a single initial study, negative declaration or EIR may be employed for more than one project, if all such projects are essentially the same in terms of environmental effects. Furthermore, an initial study, negative declaration or EIR prepared for an earlier project may be applied to a later project, if the circumstances of the projects are essentially the same.



- (f) Reference is made in CEQA to simultaneous consideration of multiple and phased projects, related projects, cumulative effects of projects, projects elsewhere in the region, existing and planned projects.

**Section 5.4.14. Severability.**

- (a) If any article, section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Section 5.4, or any part thereof, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid or ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, or other competent agency, such decision shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remaining portions. The Board hereby declares that it would have passed each article, section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more articles, sections, subsections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared unconstitutional, invalid, or ineffective.
- (b) If the application of any provision or provisions of this Section 5.4 to any person, property or circumstances is found to be unconstitutional or invalid or ineffective in whole or in part by any court of competent jurisdiction, or other competent agency, the effect of such decision shall be limited to the person, property or circumstances immediately involved in the controversy, and the application of any such provision to other persons, properties and circumstances shall not be affected.
- (c) These severability provisions shall apply to this Section 5.4 as it now exists and as it may exist in the future, including all modifications thereof and additions and amendments thereto.

**SECTION 6. SEAL.**

The Transportation Authority may provide for and adopt an official seal. The use of the seal of the Transportation Authority shall be for purposes directly connected with the official business of the Transportation Authority.