



Memorandum

Date: 7.23.19 **RE:** Board
July 23, 2019

To: Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Peskin (Chair), Mandelman (Vice Chair), Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mar, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton, and Yee

From: Tilly Chang – Executive Director

Subject: Executive Director’s Report – **INFORMATION**

REGIONAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL ISSUES

Caltrain Business Plan – Interim outreach on service vision, investment need and organizational assessment unveiled: This week, Caltrain shared its long-range service vision for the Caltrain Business Plan via a 2-hour online Town Hall via YouTube. A main proposal increases the number of trains from five per hour to eight per hour during the peak and running express Baby Bullet trains every 15 minutes. As a result of this level of service, Caltrain expects to nearly triple the number of riders, from around 65,000 per day today to 180,000 by 2040. The Business Plan outlines about \$25 billion in improvements that would be needed to realize this service vision, including building the Caltrain rail extension to Salesforce Transit Center and other key terminal and line investments like grade separations, passing tracks, Diridon Station and maintenance facilities. Caltrain also conducted an organizational assessment to analyze how Caltrain should change in terms of service delivery, internal organization and governance, to realize the vision. We are still reviewing the findings and recommendations and will coordinate comments with CCSF. We thank Caltrain for working with us and other partner agencies on the business case for change. For more information visit www.Caltrain2040.org/get-involved.

Brisbane Baylands Transportation Planning Workshop held: The City of Brisbane convened a workshop with staff from transportation agencies on both sides of the county line to discuss the area’s transportation needs as planning for Brisbane Baylands development proceeds. I attended with staff from both the Transportation Authority and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) attended. The discussion focused on coordinating planned development with a pedestrian, bicycle, and transit-focused vision for the area and potential updates to the list of planned projects identified in the Transportation Authority’s 2013 Bi-County Transportation Study. Brisbane plans to continue coordinating with the participating partners as planning for the Baylands and associated transportation improvements progresses.

LOCAL ISSUES

Salesforce Transit Center Reopens - Full Bus Service Resumes on Bus Deck in August: After completing repairs on the cracked girders and a facility-wide review to confirm the structural integrity of the building, the independent peer review panel confirmed that the Transit Center was ready for use. The Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) completed the recommissioning of the entire facility and opened the building on July first. The rooftop park, including the gondola from Salesforce plaza, the Grand Hall, food trucks, and public art installations were all opened to the public. Muni and Golden Gate Transit have commenced operations at the bus plaza on the ground level and AC Transit bus lines, Greyhound, and

Westcat Lynx will commence service from the bus deck in early August upon completion of driver training.

Caltrain/HSR Rail Extension Receives Federal Environmental Approval, Peer Review Work Continues with Final Report Due in September. Just yesterday, Transbay Joint Powers Board Executive Director Mark Zabaneh shared the good news that the Federal Transit Administration has signed off on Federal environmental review documents for the Downtown Rail Extension. This is a significant project milestone and we are keen to complete the Peer Review and resume project development. The Peer Review final report is now slated for presentation to the Board in September, to allow time for consideration of stakeholder input and the Caltrain Business Plan organizational and governance recommendations, as well as for partner agencies to develop consensus around the peer review recommendations and jointly prepare a potential funding item for Transportation Authority consideration to resume project development in September.

San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Director Ed Reiskin Appreciation: On behalf of the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, Chair Peskin, and I attended last week's SFMTA Board meeting together with Supervisor Fewer, to express our appreciation to outgoing SFMTA Director Ed Reiskin. I would like to thank Director Reiskin for his local, regional and national leadership – promoting San Francisco's policy vision for cities and the innovative street designs and practices at the SFMTA. These included his leadership of the SFMTA itself, the only multi-modal agency housing transit and street and active transportation functions in the nation, as well as the roles he played as the largest operator in the region or being on the vanguard of Vision Zero and new mobility management. I have enjoyed working closely with Director Reiskin over the past 8 years and wish him all the best in his new post with the City of Oakland.

Muni Transit Performance Working Group - First Meeting to Convene July 26: On June 24th Mayor London Breed along with Supervisor Mandelman and Supervisor Peskin convened the creation of a working group to review the performance of Muni service and to make recommendations on how to improve it. The working group has been tasked with reviewing the performance of the City's current bus and rail system and recommending actionable steps that the City can take to improve service for riders. The working group includes transit experts who have operated large systems throughout the country, labor leaders representing the City's transit workers, and transit advocates pushing for improvements in Muni service. The group will be co-chaired by Ed Harrington, the City's former Controller, and Gwyneth Borden, the incoming Chair of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors. The working group will complete its assessment and issue a public report by January 2020. The working group will be supported by staff from the Controller's Office, the SFMTA, and the Transportation Authority.

Commissioner Mar hosted Safe Streets Town Hall: On Saturday, July 13, Commissioner Mar hosted a town hall on street safety in District 4. The event included a panel and breakout discussions and was co-hosted with D4ward, Walk San Francisco, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, SFMTA, San Francisco Transit Riders, and San Francisco Senior and Disability Action. The Transportation Authority continues to support street safety projects in the district, including 19th Ave Rapid Project, 20th Ave Neighborway Project, and an upcoming District 4 Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Study.

Electric Vehicles - City Advances Effort to Electrify San Francisco Ground Transportation: On July 16, Mayor London Breed and Chair Peskin introduced legislation to expand the number of electric vehicle charging stations in San Francisco by 1) requiring the city's largest commercial parking lots and garages to install electric vehicle charging stations in at least 10% of spaces by the end of 2022 and 2) soliciting

proposals to install charging stations in municipal lots. The Transportation Authority has provided grants to install publicly-accessible charging stations through its annual Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program. Mayor Breed also released the EV Roadmap, which details strategies to overcome barriers to adopting electric vehicle technologies and offers actions the City can take to electrify private sector transportation and achieve 100% emission-free transportation by 2040.

[link to EV Roadmap: https://sfenvironment.org/sites/default/files/fliers/files/sfe_tr_ev-roadmap.pdf]

Climate Emergency - SF Environment Responds with New Report: In April, Supervisor Mandelman introduced a resolution declaring a climate emergency, which was approved unanimously by the Board of Supervisors. On July 17, SF Environment released “Focus 2030: A Pathway to Net Zero Emissions,” which details what it would take to reach the city’s climate goals across four sectors: buildings, transportation, energy, and zero waste. On Monday July 22, city departments testified at a hearing at the Board’s Land Use and Transportation Committee on high-priority strategies to achieve deep greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2030. Amber Crabbe presented on behalf of the Transportation Authority on our leadership on regional policy issues and transportation initiatives that have the potential to reduce vehicle miles traveled and increase safety and equitable access to transportation. Specific efforts highlighted included ongoing studies on downtown congestion pricing, carpool, and express lanes on US 101/I-280, the transportation management program on Treasure Island, incentives programs like BART Perks, and planning for emerging mobility. The release of this report kicks off the process to update the city’s Climate Action Strategy.

[link to Focus 2030 report: <https://sfenvironment.org/download/focus-2030-a-pathway-to-net-zero-emissions-climate-report-july-2019>]

PROJECT DELIVERY

Arguello Boulevard Safety Improvements - District 1 Neighborhood Transportation Improvement

Program (NTIP) Project: We’re pleased to note that next month SFMTA and San Francisco Public Works (SFPW) will be wrapping up safety improvements on Arguello Boulevard that are the culmination of an NTIP Planning project and close coordination between the agencies. A 2015 District 1 NTIP grant funded SFMTA to conduct outreach and develop conceptual designs to improve bicycle safety and access to Golden Gate Park and the Presidio. Since the community wanted safety benefits quickly but were aware that SFPW would be repaving Arguello within a few years, the project included funding for lower-cost, interim roadway striping for buffered bike lanes and crosswalk enhancements, in addition to the permanent pavement markings and concrete islands that are being completed now that paving is finished. A separate Prop AA and Prop K funded project to upgrade signals at six intersections along Arguello is expected to be completed by the end of the year, making this a truly complete street.

Downtown Congestion Pricing Study Kicks Off: Following Board approval of the study’s consultant selection in June, the Downtown Congestion Pricing Study held project team kick-off meetings on July 9th and 10th. The team discussed how the Stakeholder Engagement, Program Development, and Technical Analysis workstreams can work together to address key issues, including the need to improve equity and maintain economic competitiveness. The team identified an initial three-month workplan, which includes identifying Policy Advisory Committee members and other key stakeholders, analyzing data on existing conditions, developing technical tools to compare possible scenarios, and preparing for a first round of outreach to begin later this fall. Meanwhile, with support from our project team to develop a proposal, UC Davis researchers were awarded UC Institutes of Transportation Studies research funding from SB1 to help determine how congestion pricing can best support the goal of improving equity. We plan to coordinate closely with the Davis research team through the course of our study.