



## Memorandum

**RE:** Board, October 22, 2019  
**DATE:** October 22, 2019  
**TO:** Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Peskin (Chair), Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee  
**FROM:** Tilly Chang - Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Executive Director's Report – **INFORMATION**

### REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

#### **State Legislation - Governor Takes Final Action to Approve or Veto Bills by October 13**

**Deadline:** Notable outcomes include Governor Newsom's veto of Assembly Bill (AB) 1605 (Ting), which would have authorized a pilot reservation and pricing program on the Lombard Crooked Street. We are exploring ways to manage the street without charging users, which was his main stated concern. He also vetoed Senate Bill (SB) 277 (Beall), which would have directed a larger share of SB 1 State Local Partnership Program by formula to jurisdictions that vote to raise local transportation revenue, and SB 127 (Wiener) which would have required complete streets considerations on state highway projects. His veto messages for both bills articulated his preference to maintain the state's role in grant funding and its discretion in project scoping. Finally, the Governor signed AB 1487 (Chiu) which established the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority and authorized the governing bodies of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments to advance a revenue measure that supports and finances affordable housing. In November, Mark Watts will present a full look-back report on this year's state legislative outcomes.

#### **Potential Regional Transportation Measure - Transportation Authority to host a public forum on October 24:**

At today's meeting (agenda item #12), two groups advocating for a potential regional transportation funding measure will be presenting their visions to you--Voices for Public Transportation and FASTER Bay Area. These groups will give the same presentation to our Citizens Advisory Committee meeting tomorrow, October 23 at 6 p.m. at our offices at 1455 Market Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor. And, on October 24, from 6 - 8 PM in our offices, we will be hosting a public forum for any interested parties to come learn from both groups and to provide their perspective on the topic. Any regional transportation funding measure would need to be approved by the state legislature and then by the voters of the Bay Area. We will continue to represent San Francisco's interests in these conversations as these potential measures continue to be discussed.



## **LOCAL ISSUES**

### **American Cities Climate Challenge - San Francisco Delegation Visits London and Stockholm:**

The American Cities Climate Challenge invited Mayor Breed to send a delegation from San Francisco on a Congestion Pricing Study Tour to London and Stockholm. Commissioners Haney and Walton, along with the Mayor's Transportation Advisor Paul Supawanich and San Francisco Chamber President Rodney Fong, joined the delegation in London and Stockholm from October 3 to October 8, 2019. Officials from Washington, D.C., Seattle, Portland, and Boston also sent delegates. The delegation met with agency officials and transportation experts, observed congestion pricing technology in action, and witnessed the results of the policy on the ground. The tour agenda also encompassed developing equitable programs, building coalitions, and identifying next steps. We have reached out to Commissioner Haney and Walton's offices to arrange a debrief for staff and a report out to the Board at one of the November Transportation Authority meetings.

### **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Surface Transportation System Funding Alternatives Grant Program (STSFA) - The Transportation Authority submitted an application on October 14:**

The FHWA's STSFA grant program is intended to support state and local demonstrations of local user fees or other alternatives to the federal gas tax. In partnership with Caltrans, we submitted an application for \$500,000 in federal funds to conduct the Downtown San Francisco Pricing and Incentives Demonstration Pilot. The purpose of this demonstration project is to pilot the use of incentives, as well as virtual "mock" trip pricing, to nudge travel behavior. The pilot will test traveler responses to 'debits' and 'credits' that correspond to their trip choices, with any remaining budget per month available to cash out or exchange for sponsored goods/services. The pilot would additionally analyze equity impacts, and seek to demonstrate a collaborative stakeholder process. The pilot would involve several partnerships, including with local employers, developers, mobility companies and community groups, as well as one or more technology platforms and service operators. Program design would focus on the fast-growing, regionally-linked downtown core/South of Market/Mission Bay areas. Ultimately, if funded, the pilot will yield insights into the effectiveness of incentives and fees for increasing public acceptance of pricing strategies. FHWA expects to announce awards by December 21, 2019. This work would complement our underway Downtown Congestion Pricing Study.

### **Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program - San Francisco Agencies Submit Seven Applications by October Deadline: The Transportation Authority submitted two applications by Caltrans' October 17 deadline.**

The first application is for a Transportation Demand Management Community of Practice, to create a citywide working group of developers, employers, transportation coordinators, transportation management associations, and transportation brokerage services to optimize their collective resources in reducing vehicle miles traveled from new and existing development. This will help implement the City's TDM Program, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2017. The second application is to develop a School Access Plan, focusing on solving for medium- to long-



distance K-5 school trips for vulnerable students and their families, in partnership with SFUSD. We thank Commissioner Mar for his role in moving this application forward. This grant would help supplement existing funding secured by Commissioner Mar's office to study school transportation issues. San Francisco agencies submitted five additional applications, four from San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and one from Planning. We will hear about the awards in Spring 2020 and projects can begin next Fall, if awarded.

**Treasure Island Business Outreach - Collaborative Workshops Last Week, This Week:** We are hosting another outreach round on Treasure Island as part of our continuing work on the Treasure Island Transportation Program. The focus of this round is for-profit and non-profit businesses and their employees. We are holding two collaborative workshops this month, one last Wednesday the 16th and the next on Thursday October 24, during which we ask participants to share ideas that will help staff finalize policies pertaining to the Treasure Island toll, which will fund new and expanded transit services and mobility improvements. We are also planning another round of outreach to Treasure Island residents later this year. We will come back to you with more details about that round in coming months. More information on the overall program can be found at [sfcta.org/treasure-island](https://sfcta.org/treasure-island).

**ConnectSF Phase 2 Outreach - Focused Public Workshops begin in November:** ConnectSF, the city's multi-agency long-range transportation planning process to build an effective, equitable, and sustainable transportation system, is entering another outreach phase that will be used to inform the Transit Corridors Study and Streets and Freeways Study. The goals of this round is to:

- Engage the public in a discussion about what works well and what doesn't when it comes to local and citywide connections,
- Learn more about what it would take to get people to travel by more sustainable modes, and
- Get ideas for project concepts and policies that could help us reach our community-generated transportation vision for the future.

In November, ConnectSF staff will hold two workshops focused on youth and southeast neighborhoods. Then in January staff will hold workshops open to the general public. Staff are also working on a survey that parallels much of the workshop content and that can be distributed later this fall to those who cannot attend a workshop.. More information about ConnectSF can be found at [connectsf.org](https://connectsf.org).

## **PROJECT DELIVERY**

**Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Program (NTIP): Construction Beginning on "Hairball" Interchange Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Improvements:** Districts 9 and 10 have devoted Prop K NTIP funds to improving safety and accessibility for bicyclists and pedestrians navigating the Hairball interchange, where Bayshore Boulevard, Cesar Chavez Street and



Potrero Avenue intersect with Highway 101. Today we are pleased to report that Public Works will be starting construction within the next week to improve the safety and usability of an important section of pathway at the western entrance to the interchange along Cesar Chavez. This area, known as Segments F and G, will see a wider path, regraded to improve clearance under the freeway, and with a new landscaped buffer separating the path from the freeway onramp. Construction is expected to take about four months.

**NTIP Funds Advance Vision Zero: SFMTA Completes New Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Safety Improvements Along Battery and Sansome:** In District 3, SFMTA has just completed an NTIP-funded project that added new bike lanes along Battery, Sansome, Vallejo, and Davis streets, as well as revising signal timing and adding a new crosswalk at the intersection where Sansome and Davis meet the Embarcadero. SFMTA will continue to make minor tweaks to the project, including adding a painted safety zone on Chestnut and upgrading a bike lane buffer on Battery Street from safe hit posts to concrete islands. This project was identified as a near-term need through outreach conducted for SFMTA's Embarcadero Enhancement Project, which will bring additional bicyclist and pedestrian safety improvements to the Embarcadero from North Point to Townsend, with construction expected to begin in 2021.

**Jefferson Streetscape Improvements Project - Phase II Groundbreaking Event on October 21:** Yesterday, Mayor Breed, Chair Peskin and representatives from the project partner agencies - the Port, Public Works, SFMTA, the Public Utilities Commission, Planning Department, and the Transportation Authority, along with the Fisherman's Wharf Community Benefits District joined together to celebrate this important milestone. This project will transform Jefferson Street between Jones and Powell streets in the heart of the Wharf area, which is a top attraction in San Francisco. The project includes wider sidewalks, pedestrian scale lighting, bike parking, and landscaping, and creates a safer street for all modes of transportation along Jefferson Street and a portion of the San Francisco Bay Trail. We have provided significant funding support with \$200,000 in District 3 NTIP funds and another \$1.2 million from the Prop K half-cent sales tax for transportation. With the Board's support, the project was able to secure another \$6.8 million from the state's competitive SB 1 Local Partnership Program under the California Transportation Commission. We look forward to seeing the project completed in Fall 2020.