



Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM 3

DATE: June 25, 2024

TO: Transportation Authority Board

FROM: Tilly Chang - Executive Director

SUBJECT: 6/25/2024 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report – INFORMATION

FEDERAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL ISSUES

FTA All Stations Accessibility Program Awards - SFMTA Awarded \$4.6 Million Grant to Improve Accessibility. On May 28, the US Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announced a \$4.69 million grant award to the SFMTA from its All Stations Accessibility Program. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) will use the grant to construct platforms, wheelchair ramps, and further improve accessibility at five Muni stops on the J-Church line and at three stops on the M-Ocean View line. We were happy to provide a letter of support for this project which will increase the number of surface-level rail stations with level boarding and will ultimately result in improved accessibility for the thousands of folks with disabilities who rely on Muni. We also provided a letter of support for Caltrain's application to improve accessibility at their 22nd Street Station. While Caltrain's application was not selected in this round of All Stations Accessibility Program funding, we will continue to explore other opportunities for funding to advance this important project.

State Budget - Budget Agreement Restores Proposed Cuts to Transportation and Planning Funding. Over the weekend the Legislature and the Governor reached agreement on a Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/26 budget. Previous proposals would have included cuts to several transportation funding programs, which were either fully or partially restored in the final budget compromise, although with some appropriations delayed to future fiscal years. This includes \$600 million for the Active Transportation Program, \$148 million for the Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program, \$150 million for grade separations, and \$75 million for the Highways to Boulevards program. It also reinstates \$260 million of the proposed \$300 million cut to the Regional Early Action Program (REAP 2.0) program. REAP 2.0 funds are distributed to regions via formula for use on transportation, climate, and housing projects. We



thank Senator Wiener who is Senate Budget Committee Chair for his efforts and fully support these revisions, which we understand the Governor will approve later this week. We will provide a more detailed update at our July 9 Board meeting.

Caltrain Electrification - On Target for Revenue Service this September. Earlier this month, Caltrain conducted end-to-end testing of the Caltrain Electrification project, successfully running eight trains simultaneously on the Peninsula Corridor. This testing was facilitated by a weekend closure of the system on June 8-9. Caltrain plans to launch its electric service on Saturday, September 21. The new service will feature express service between San Francisco and San Jose in under an hour, peak hour trains every 15-20 minutes at 16 stations, and trains every half hour during mid-day, evenings, and weekends.

MTC Transportation Revenue Measure Select Committee - First Meeting Held June 24. Earlier this month, following withdrawal of Senators Wiener and Wahab's regional transportation funding measure Senate Bill (SB)1031, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Chair Alfred Pedroza announced the establishment of a new Transportation Revenue Measure Select Committee that would be tasked with building consensus around key provisions for successor legislation that would allow the region to raise transportation revenues for transit operations and other transportation projects and programs. The Select Committee has representation from eight out of the nine counties in MTC's membership with Commissioner Nick Josefowitz representing San Francisco, supported by Commissioner Ronen. The Select Committee held its first of five anticipated meetings yesterday where members received staff presentations and provided input on what issues the legislation should address. Topics discussed included identifying the fiscal needs of the transit agencies, what transit operators are doing in response to revenue losses, and what the measure needs to include to win voter support. I also attended a meeting of Bay Area executives formed to support the Select Committee's efforts.

State Legislation - SB 915 (Cortese) Withdrawn in the Assembly and Anti-Tax Initiative Removed from Ballot. On Monday June 17, Senator Cortese withdrew SB 915 from consideration by the California Assembly's Transportation Committee, effectively ending his effort to advance the bill this session. SB 915, on which the Transportation Authority has a support position, would have allowed the state's larger cities and their neighbors to limit the number of commercially operated AVs on their roads, set maximum fares for riders, and fine operators for moving violations. Amendments proposed by Assembly Transportation Committee staff, and supported



by Committee Chair Lori Wilson, would have removed the local control aspects of the legislation, which the Senator was unwilling to accept. Meanwhile, our state legislative advocate Mark Watts will speak in support of two other AV bills on our behalf this afternoon at the Senate Transportation Committee - Assembly Bill (AB) 1777 (Ting) and AB 3061 (Haney). Finally, on June 20, the California Supreme Court removed the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act from the November 5 ballot, finding it would illegally revise the state constitution. The initiative would have made it more difficult to raise taxes and would have raised the voting threshold for local, voter-initiated special taxes from a simple majority to two-thirds. Supporters of the initiative have indicated they will work on a narrower tax proposal for voters to consider in 2026.

LOCAL ISSUES

Curbside Electric Vehicle Charging - Pilot Program Study and Launch. On June 14, Mayor London Breed announced the launch of a new pilot program that allows electric vehicle charging providers to apply online for installation of on-street chargers at locations throughout the city on non-commercial corridors. Applicants for the Curbside Electric Vehicle Charging Pilot will be required to collect and report data related to usage, uptime and user feedback that will be used to support larger-scale implementation efforts. This program is complementary to the SFMTA's ongoing feasibility study for curbside electric vehicle charging. The SFMTA's study will provide recommendations to implement a limited number of chargers in the city to inform future citywide implementation and accelerate the adoption of EVs. Per Chair Mandelman's resolution passed by the Board of Supervisors on June 4, the Transportation Authority is supporting SFMTA's feasibility study. We are advising on funding, equity, and delivery strategy, and plan to bring an item next month to this Board for the adoption of the Prop L Citywide / Modal Planning 5YPP, which includes a recommendation to program \$150k in funding to support next steps (e.g., outreach, implementation planning) for further study.

Walter U Lum Public Space Study - Outreach Events Underway. The Walter U Lum Public Space Study (Study), requested by Commissioner Peskin, is underway with its first round of outreach this month and next. This Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Program (NTIP) planning Study will evaluate various scenarios for a community-centered Walter U Lum Place. Design concepts will include options for a shared, traffic-calmed street, and time-restricted vehicle access. The project will also develop an urban design strategy to connect Walter U Lum



Place with other cultural destinations in Chinatown and improve the public streetscape. The purpose of this first outreach round is to collect community input on their goals and objectives for the space and share preferences about the menu of potential design treatments. Outreach partner Chinatown Community Development Center has launched an online survey and is holding engagement events with community groups (e.g., SRO Families, Community Tenants Association) and with local merchants throughout the months of June and July. Take the survey and find dates and times for more events at <https://www.sfcta.org/walter-u-lum>.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Caltrans Repaves Portion of 19th Avenue. Caltrans performed some preliminary pavement enhancements on the northbound interior lanes of 19th Avenue (State Highway 1) between Sloat Boulevard and Santiago Street, just after Memorial Day. This work was performed in advance of the repaving of the full 19th Avenue corridor (scheduled for 2025) due to the rough pavement condition in this section of 19th Avenue. Crews did not conduct work in the cross streets or outer (curbside) lane to allow for the public to traverse through the intersections during construction, and to avoid disrupting Muni service, respectively. We thank Caltrans for coordinating with SFMTA, SF Public Works, and SF Fire Department on completing this work.

SFMTA Taraval Street Segment B Pavement Renovation Reaches Substantial Completion. SFMTA reports that the most disruptive work, including sewer, water, rail lines, new street base and repaving the entire corridor from Sunset Boulevard to West Portal has been completed. The Transportation Authority provided Prop K sales tax and Prop AA vehicle registration funds to support the Taraval Pavement Renovation project and related L-Taraval Transit Enhancements (Segment B) project that is replacing light rail track and overhead contact system components along the L-Taraval line between West Portal Station and Sunset Boulevard. Curve track replacement work at 46th Avenue was completed in early June and work to replace the Overhead Contact System (OCS) that powers the trains is also complete. The next phase of the project includes energizing and testing the OCS lines, testing trains, and implementing landscaping and artwork.

Clay & Grant and Stockton & Sutter Conduits and Signal Modifications Update. This month Public Works expects to start work related to installation of new subsurface electrical conduits and traffic signal upgrades at the intersections of Clay



and Grant streets and Stockton and Sutter streets. The project is part of Public Works Sub-sidewalk Basement Curb Ramp project and also includes installation of new curb ramps at the two intersections. The signal improvements, funded by Prop K sales tax funds, will support San Francisco's Vision Zero program and help ensure a safe and reliable transportation system. Public Works anticipates completing the work by Spring 2025.

Quick-Build Update - Prop K Sales Tax and TNC Tax Support Safety

Improvements. SFMTA continues to make progress on implementing quick-build safety projects at various locations citywide. The Lake Merced Boulevard Quick-Build Project (between Skyline Boulevard and John Muir Drive) constructed transit boarding islands to protect the new protected bikeways along the east side of the lake. The 17th Street Quick-Build Project (between Potrero Street and Pennsylvania Avenue) started striping the new design onto the roadway in May. This work includes new striping for floating parking, green bike lane paint, and the addition of vertical deflection in the form of flex posts and rubber curbs. There was substantial work installed between Mississippi Street to Carolina Street. These projects will improve transit reliability and access. The project is funded by sales tax and TNC Tax funds. Learn more at [SFMTA.com/QuickBuild](https://sfmta.com/QuickBuild).

District 3 Pedestrian Safety Improvements Substantially Completed - Funded by the Sales Tax Neighborhood Transportation Program. SFMTA has opened a new signalized crossing at the intersection of Columbus, Green, and Stockton, which was the final recommendation of the 2020 District 3 Pedestrian Improvements study. This new crossing dramatically reduces the time it takes to cross the intersection, which adds convenience for pedestrians and reduces the risk of collisions. Final striping and any remaining construction details are expected to be completed in the next few weeks. This project was funded through the Transportation Authority's Neighborhood Transportation Program at the request of Commissioner Peskin.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Transportation Authority Maintains Highest Rating for Sales Tax Bond Outlook for Fourth Consecutive Year.

The Transportation Authority has maintained the highest possible rating of AAA by Fitch Ratings for \$179.6 million in outstanding senior sales tax revenue bonds (2017). This is the fourth consecutive year Fitch affirmed a AAA rating on the agency's debt, placing the Transportation Authority among the highest rated organizations in California. The Transportation Authority repays the bonds using revenues from San Francisco's half-cent sales tax, which is



estimated to be approximately \$108.3 million in the agency's proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 2024. The bonds are part of the agency's overall financial strategy to advance half-cent sales tax project delivery and allow benefits to the public to be realized sooner than would otherwise be possible.

Transportation Authority Wins California Transportation Foundation Award for Interchange Project of the Year. Earlier this month, the California Transportation Foundation (CTF) awarded the Transportation Authority the Interchange Project of the Year Award for the Yerba Buena Island / I-80 Southgate Road and Interchange Project which provides safer connections at the I-80 / YBI eastbound offramp leading to Treasure Island. Hearty congratulations to Deputy Director for Capital Projects Carl Holmes and his extended staff and consultant team on this recognition of the project's innovative design and excellence in project delivery. The Transportation Authority partnered with the Treasure Island Development Authority, Caltrans and Bay Area Toll Authority on this \$63.7 million project that seismically secured the ramps and features an intricate design that improves traveler safety for local and regional motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike. Construction was completed in May 2023 and is part of a larger effort to replace and retrofit key roads and on- and off-ramps that connect the I-80 Bay Bridge and Yerba Buena and Treasure Islands.

Bay Area Transportation Project Owners' Night. On June 13, we participated in Owners' Night, one of the industry's premier networking events for industry professionals to meet with local, public, and private owners to learn about their projects and staffing needs. Registrants totaled 338 for this in-person event held at the Salesforce Transit Center. The event was sponsored by the American Council of Engineering Companies, the Construction Management Association of America, and BuildOUT California. We highlighted upcoming contracting opportunities to interested parties including Disadvantaged Business Enterprise, Small Business Enterprise, and Local Business Enterprise firms.