



Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM 3

DATE: July 23, 2024

TO: Transportation Authority Board

FROM: Tilly Chang - Executive Director

SUBJECT: 07/23/2024 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report – **INFORMATION**

FEDERAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL ISSUES

Senate Bill 125 Transit Funding - CalSTA approves over \$1.9 billion for public transportation. We are happy to report that on July 8, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) approved almost \$2 billion to support public transportation throughout the state. This is the first wave of funding authorized under Senate Bill (SB) 125, which makes a total of \$5.1 billion available to regional transportation planning agencies over the next several years. The Bay Area is slated to receive \$1.1 billion under SB 125 to support transit operations and capital projects. We are thankful to Governor Newsom and the legislature for their continued support of public transportation, especially in a very tough budget year.

Regional Housing Bond: Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) Places Affordable Housing Bond on the November Ballot. On November 5, 2024, Bay Area voters will consider approving a \$20 billion general obligation bond to build or preserve more than 70,000 affordable homes throughout the region. It would currently require two-thirds voter approval to pass, but if Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 is approved on the same ballot, the threshold would be reduced to 55 percent. Under the BAHFA measure, 80 percent of the funds would go to counties and select cities via formula, including \$2.4 billion to San Francisco. The remaining 20 percent would be used by BAHFA to establish a new regional program to fund affordable housing construction and preservation projects throughout the Bay Area as well as other uses such as infrastructure needed to support new housing. We want to recognize Commissioner Ronen's leadership on this measure and congratulate the entire BAHFA Board for this momentous milestone.

TJPA re-elects Chair Gee and Vice-Chair Mandelman, Sets FTA Grant Date in 2027. At its monthly meeting last week, the TJPA Board of Directors re-elected Chair Jeff Gee and Vice-Chair Rafael Mandelman to continue to serve as the agency's leaders for the coming year. Their re-appointment builds on the momentum of the past year, which culminated in May with the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA's) commitment of \$3.4 billion to The Portal project.



Also at that meeting, the TJPA Board approved an updated target date for completing The Portal's Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) with the FTA. The revised FFGA date of July 2027 sets the stage for completion of the project's capital and operating funding plans over the next approximately two years. Also last week, we met with Brian Kelly, outgoing CEO of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, and his team to discuss shared priorities for increased state funding in rail in the years ahead. We will be continuing to work with agency partners and stakeholder groups to advocate for extension of the state's cap-and-trade program, to facilitate investment in The Portal and in other transit and climate priorities statewide.

LOCAL ISSUES

Caltrans Planning Grants Awarded for Bayview Truck Relief and SF Freeway

Management Studies. I am delighted to share that we received two planning grant awards this month. The first award is for \$525,000 for the Bayview Street Safety and Truck Relief Study. This study was a recommendation in the ConnectSF Streets and Freeways Strategy and will develop recommendations to improve safety, reduce freight conflicts with transit and pedestrian and bike activity, formalize freight circulation between the freeway and industrial areas, and explore ways to advance low and zero emission vehicle adoptions for freight. This study is expected to take about two years from the time we execute a grant agreement. We look forward to working with Commissioner Walton and the community on this important study.

The second planning grant award is for \$500,000 to support the San Francisco Freeway Network Management Study, which has a funding item before the Board for final approval today. This is a partnership effort between Caltrans, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and the Transportation Authority to advance planning for freeway management in San Francisco, as also recommended by our Streets and Freeways Strategy.

SFMTA Biking and Rolling Plan - Ongoing Outreach. We are happy to report that SFMTA's Biking and Rolling Plan has launched a series of open houses which will run through the end of August, including one in each supervisorial district. The Biking and Rolling Plan is at an important juncture. After 18 months of listening and learning about what San Franciscans would like to see in their communities, SFMTA is presenting three different network scenarios for consideration. The Biking and Rolling Plan team will collect feedback on these three different visions and then, in the fall, will refine the preferred scenario and integrate recommendations from community action plans currently being developed with community partners in priority communities into a single proposal. The Biking and Rolling Plan is funded primarily by a state grant with supplemental funding for outreach from San Francisco's Proposition K sales tax.



Geary/19th Avenue Subway and Regional Connections Study - Ongoing Outreach. The Geary/19th Avenue Subway and Regional Connections Study team began outreach this month to start discussions with community members about what it would take to deliver a new rail subway under Geary Boulevard and 19th Avenue. The Geary/19th Ave subway was a key long-term recommendation of ConnectSF and the San Francisco Transportation Plan, and Vice Chair Melgar requested this initial phase of work which will lay the groundwork for advancing the project through future planning and project development. The project team hosted two virtual town hall events on July 17 and July 20 which were attended by about 110 people, and recordings are available on our website at sfcta.org/geary19th, where folks can also sign up for email updates about the study. The study team will continue outreach and engagement throughout the summer with presentations to community-based organizations and neighborhood groups. Community groups may request a presentation by emailing geary19@sfcta.org.

Curbside Electric Vehicle Charging - Communities Taking Charge Accelerator Grant Application Submittal. On July 16, the San Francisco Environment Department (SFE) submitted a grant application to the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation under their Communities Taking Charge Accelerator program requesting \$1.2 million to support the launch of the Curbside Electric Vehicle Charging Pilot. Per Chair Mandelman's resolution passed by the Board of Supervisors on June 4, the Transportation Authority is supporting SFE on the project and was included as an implementing partner in the grant application along with SFMTA and SFPUC. If awarded funding, the Transportation Authority will lead two tasks described in the grant application - 1) the Evaluation and Monitoring Plan and 2) the Funding Strategy and Business Model Refinement tasks - in support of the overall project. Project selections are anticipated later this December. We appreciate SFE for leading grant pursuits for this project and look forward to delivering more charging infrastructure for the city.

Community Roundtables - Transit Recovery, the Fiscal Cliff and Project Updates. On July 18 and 19, the Transportation Authority hosted two roundtables with business, labor and community members to provide a presentation on the city's economic recovery, transit operator recovery and financial challenges, as well as an update on a potential successor to Senators Wiener and Wahab's Senate Bill (SB) 1031 effort that would authorize a MTC regional transportation measure to support transit and other transit improvements. We were joined by business, community and labor representatives and received insightful feedback on addressing transit operator budget shortfalls. During our polling exercise, attendees voiced significant support for 'finding new revenues' as the primary solution with a focus on priorities relating to equity, safety, and climate. We are thankful to those that attended for the perspectives they brought to the table, and to our partners at BART, Caltrain and SFMTA for coordinating with us on presentation content.



PROJECT DELIVERY

BART Commences SF Station Faregates Installation - Civic Center Underway, 24th Street Next on Deck. BART resumed installation of the new fare gates at Civic Center station on July 18th, after having installed an initial gate at the Civic Center platform elevator in April. The new faregates are designed to improve accessibility, reliability, and maintainability and to deter fare evasion at each BART station. BART plans to continue installing new fare gates at stations across the system in the coming months with the goal to finish all San Francisco stations by end of 2024 and all BART stations by end of 2025. The next San Francisco's BART station to receive the new fare gates will be 24th Street station. The Transportation Authority is providing \$12,525,000 in Prop L funding to this project.

San Francisco Bay Ferry - Launches First Vessel Powered by Hydrogen Fuel Cells. On July 19, the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) launched the *Sea Change*, the world's first commercial passenger ferry powered 100% by zero-emission hydrogen fuel cells. The six-month demonstration of this new technology will provide free trips between the Ferry Building and Pier 41. The project is a public-private partnership including WETA, SWITCH Maritime, who built the vessel, and funders the California Air Resources Board (CARB), Chevron New Energies, the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District, and United Airlines. Many officials spoke at the launch event on July 12, including Congressmen Kevin Mullins from San Mateo and Jared Huffman from Marin; CalSTA Secretary Toks Omishakin; CARB Chair Liane Randolph; and Commissioner Dorsey, representing the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway Transportation District. We congratulate WETA and its partners for pioneering this demonstration of cleaner water transportation in the Bay Area.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Congratulations to New SFMTA Streets Director Viktoriya Wise. We wanted to extend a warm congratulations to Viktoriya Wise who has been appointed Director of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's (SFMTA's) Streets Division. With extensive experience within SFMTA, including Chief of Staff and Acting Director of the Streets Division, as well as prior leadership roles in the San Francisco Planning Department, Viktoriya is well equipped to ably guide the Streets team into the agency's next chapter and we wish her the best in her new role.