



# DRAFT MINUTES

## **San Francisco County Transportation Authority**

Tuesday, July 09, 2024

### **1. Roll Call**

Chair Mandelman called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**Present at Roll Call:** Commissioners Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, and Walton (8)

**Absent at Roll Call:** Commissioners Chan (entered during Item 3), Safai (entered during Item 4), Stefani (3)

### **2. Approve the Minutes of June 25, 2024 Meeting – ACTION**

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Dorsey moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Ronen.

The minutes were approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, and Walton (8)

Absent: Commissioners Chan, Safai, Stefani (3)

### **3. Community Advisory Committee Report – INFORMATION**

Kat Siegal, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair, reported that during the June 26 CAC meeting, committee members had a long discussion on the four Prop L 5-Year Prioritization Programs (5YPPs) that the Board would be considering as part of item 6 with most of the discussion time spent on the curbside EV charging pilot project under the Citywide/Modal Planning 5YPP. Chair Siegal stated multiple members raised concerns that curbside EV charging structure would entrench parking at the city curb space when the City should focus shifting travel to other modes consistent with the Transit First policy. Chair Siegal also said some CAC members acknowledged that many people in the city would continue to rely on cars and curbside parking and advocated this was an important pilot given the state mandate to transition to electric vehicles. Chair Siegal reported that ultimately, the CAC approved programming funds for the curbside pilot and added a condition to their motion of support that SFMTA return to further discuss the pilot study and project at the next CAC meeting.

Chair Siegal reported that in regard to the Managed Lanes and Express Bus 5YPP, CAC members were glad to see that concerns raised about the proposed lane conversions on the 280 northbound study that increase freeway capacity were incorporated into the new approach and the new study has design objectives of not increasing freeway capacity. Chair Siegal stated that the CAC voted unanimously to approve that 5YPP. Chair Siegal reported the CAC also voted unanimously to support the remaining



agenda items. Chair Siegal concluded by noting that CAC members including the District 8 representative had positive feedback on the Jane Warner Plaza report and had requested updates on near-term efforts to repair the plaza in response to public comment.

During public comment, Aleta DuPree stated she was interested in EV curbside charging pilots and that her biggest concern with EV curbside charging was vandalism, while acknowledging that not everyone has access to garages where they can charge EVs. She said she looked forward to a balanced approach.

During public comment, Roland Lebrun stated there has been a positive impact to the air quality in the Bay Area as a result of the increased usage of EVs. He stated the issue with curbside charging was that there was no level 2 charging which makes charging very slow. He restated his previous recommendation in light of the San Francisco Municipal Railway's (MUNI's) current fiscal situation which he speculated was caused by dropping revenue from parking was to turn over some off-street parking spaces to the private sector in order to generate some revenue for MUNI and have level 3 chargers which can charge his car in 15 minutes.

#### **4. Reappoint Sara Barz as the District 7 Representative to the Community Advisory Committee – ACTION**

Mike Pickford, Principal Transportation Planner, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Melgar stated Sara Barz was a Sunnyside resident, a new mother, and a dedicated transportation professional and had been serving on the CAC for years. Commissioner Melgar said she would nominate Ms. Barz for reappointment because her absences were not a reflection of disinterest, but a reflection of the complex lives we all lead, and she encouraged the need to embrace the kinds of people who serve the city with grace and few benefits.

Ms. Barz spoke to her interests and qualifications for serving on the CAC, stating that if she were reappointed to the CAC, she would be committed to representing the unique transportation interest of District 7 and champion initiatives that make San Francisco's transportation system more sustainable, equitable, and family friendly.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Melgar moved to reappoint Sara Barz to the CAC, seconded by Commissioner Chan.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioners Stefani (1)

#### **5. State and Federal Legislation Update – INFORMATION**

Mark Watts, Sacramento Advocate, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

During public comment, Aleta DuPree stated she has used autonomous vehicles, and they were working fine. She also stated she was happy Senate Bill 915 had been pulled because she disagreed with the idea of prohibition but agreed with sound regulation



and was looking forward seeing what Assembly Bill (AB) 1777 and AB 3061 would entail. She also said she thought the data could be helpful with trend analysis, but she expressed concern about any personal data being used.

During public comment, Roland Leburn stated he appreciated funding for transportation but that the budget suspended \$13.7 million in solutions effecting schools which would be supposedly compensated by a measure in the fall, which if approved, he speculated would restore an excess of \$4 billion.

**6. Adopt the 2023 Prop L 5-Year Prioritization Programs for Next Generation Transit Investments, Equity Priority Transportation Program, Development Oriented Transportation, and Citywide/Modal Planning and Amend the Prop L Strategic Plan Baseline – ACTION**

Nick Smith, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

During public comment Aleta DuPree expressed her support for EV charging and the T line extension. She indicated a desire for more information regarding the subway plan and said she supports a west side subway that wasn't redundant with the Twin Peaks tunnel, but rather paralleled 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Michael Petrelis called attention to how public engagement is described in the attachments. He said there was no requirement to hold open public meetings and indicated it was important that proposals and contracts mandate open public meetings that any member of the public could attend. He said that the Jane Warner Plaza project held invitation-only meetings and asked the Board to ensure that staff hold and publicize open public meetings.

Roland Lebrun called attention to the Next Generation Transit placeholder project which mentioned the Pennsylvania Avenue Extension and Link21 projects. He said mention of those projects was encouraging recommended, that as satellite projects of The Portal, that funds be used to study how to integrate what are essentially four separate projects into a single project. He cited an example where the federal government just announced a \$12 billion grant for the Hudson River Tunnels project and expressed his desire for San Francisco to leverage the \$3.4 billion already recommended from the federal government to The Portal to integrate all these projects together into a single full funding agreement.

Commissioner Melgar moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Walton.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioner Stefani (1)

**7. Allocate \$15,006,000 and Appropriate \$800,000 in Prop L Funds, with Conditions, for Five Requests – ACTION**

Mike Pickford, Principal Transportation Planner, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

During public comment Aleta DuPree said that paratransit was essential and suggested



dedicating funding to paratransit without going through an annual allocation process. She asked what the Essential Trip Card program was and how it worked, said that she supported funding for wheelchair accessible vehicles, and opined that there should be a card that allows any qualified disabled user to use on any automobile transportation service, including autonomous vehicle services.

Michael Petrelis noted that \$100,000 had been allocated to the Jane Warner Plaza project under the Neighborhood Transportation Program. He said that this allocation was not a good use of funds because there was no funding mechanism yet in place to implement the long term vision. He said that there were dangerous current conditions in the plaza, including the condition of the pavement; that fixing the current pedestrian conditions should have been a priority; and that there needed to be an open public meeting on the project.

Commissioner Peskin moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Walton.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioner Stefani (1)

**8. Adopt the 2023 Prop L 5-Year Prioritization Program for Managed Lanes and Express Bus, Amend the Prop L Strategic Plan Baseline, and Appropriate \$1,000,000 in Prop L Funds, with Conditions, for the SF Freeway Network Management Study – ACTION**

Aliza Paz, Principal Transportation Planner, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

During public comment, Aleta DuPree expressed interest in express buses and managed lanes and would like to put them together. She noted that when buses sit in congestion, they were not effective and therefore she supported the idea of tolling and MTC's efforts on toll lanes in the region. Ms. DuPree added she would like to see a dedicated bus lane in San Francisco.

Commissioner Dorsey moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Melgar.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, and Walton (10)

Absent: Commissioner Stefani (1)

**9. Authorize Borrowing of up to \$65,000,000 under the Revolving Credit Agreement with U.S. Bank National Association; the Extension of Such Agreement for up to Six Months; the Execution and Delivery of Related Legal Documents; and the Taking of All Other Actions Necessary or Desirable in Connection Therewith – ACTION**

Items 9 and 10 were called together.

**10. Approve a New Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse Certain Expenditures from the Proceeds of Indebtedness – ACTION**



Cynthia Fong, Deputy Director for Finance and Administration, presented items 9 and 10 per the staff memoranda.

During public comment, Aleta DuPree stated she was pleased the Transportation Authority had a very good credit rating and stated the cost of maintenance for the revolving credit agreement was low. She continued by saying that the credit and other financing should be used only with due diligence and when truly necessary.

Commissioner Peskin moved to approve Items 9 and 10, seconded by Commissioner Walton.

Items 9 and 10 were approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, and Walton (9)

Absent: Commissioners Safai, Stefani (2)

#### **11. Approve the Jane Warner Plaza [NTIP Planning] Final Report – ACTION**

Tony Esterbrooks, Section Manager-Bureau of Landscape Architecture with San Francisco Public Works (SFPW), presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Chair Mandelman thanked SFPW staff Bill Buckley and Julie Ahn for their work on the project. He said that he had been an eager supporter of a proposed redesign of Harvey Milk Plaza, but that the further they get on that project, the more it called into question what should be done at Jane Warner Plaza across the street. He said he thought it made sense to spend a relatively small amount of money to start that conversation via this project and commented that the initial thinking around where the curblines could be placed and some of the potential treatments of the plaza were worthwhile and that starting the conversation was a good thing. He asked Mr. Esterbrooks what next steps for the project would be to get it from the current highly conceptual status to being ready for construction and noted the project cost estimate of \$8 million.

Mr. Esterbrooks replied that they were thinking about a few strategies. He said that if they were provided with \$1 million, they could get the project environmentally cleared and shovel ready. He said that alternatively, they could work with SFPW finance staff to prioritize the project internally among other SFPW projects and work to pursue grants. He said that it could be possible to phase implementation of the project depending on the amount of available funding. He said that, for example, they could spend \$1.5 - \$2 million to move the curbs and adjust the profile of the pavement in the plaza. He said that the project also could try to pursue private funding, as Harvey Milk Plaza had done, and that there could be a lot of construction synergies if both plaza were constructed simultaneously, but that he was not certain that Jane Warner Plaza designs would be ready in time.

Chair Mandelman asked Mr. Esterbrooks to confirm that the process of getting from the current report to final design would involve a lot of public participation. Mr. Esterbrooks said that the current effort was a visioning exercise and that SFPW would need to take the project through a concept planning phase where public input would be fully taken into account.

Chair Mandelman said that he was hoping to work with SFPW to move this project forward, but that there were immediate pressing needs in the plaza. He asked what the



status was of efforts to repair pavement in the plaza. Mr. Esterbrooks responded that they were in the process of estimating costs and that repaving the full plaza would cost about \$1 million. He said that in mid-May, SFPW had done spot repair of potholes and repainting of the plaza surface and reported that he was having ongoing conversations with SFPW operations staff about identifying additional funds for further repairs.

During public comment Michael Petrelis said that \$100,000 was a lot of money to spend on a conceptual project that did not improve current dangerous conditions in the plaza. He criticized SFPW for not holding more open public meetings and expressed disappointed that the Castro Community Benefits District had not attending the meeting to speak about the project.

Chair Mandelman moved to approve the item, seconded by Vice Chair Melgar.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, and Walton (9)

Absent: Commissioner(s) Safai, Stefani, (2)

## **12. Approve the Fiscal Year 2024/25 Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program of Projects – ACTION**

Mike Pickford, Principal Transportation Planner, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

During public comment Aleta DuPree said she thought the City should buy an EV paratransit van and said that she had recently seen a video of New York City putting its first EV paratransit van into service. She said that she supported more bike racks all over the city and noted that they were also used for shared mobility, not just personal bikes. She continued by saying that the Emergency Ride Home program seemed like a good program, but that any transportation service should be eligible for reimbursement, especially if they were cheaper.

Commissioner Walton moved to approve the item, seconded by Commissioner Engardio.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, and Walton (9)

Absent: Commissioner(s) Safai, Stefani, (2)

## **Other Items**

### **13. Introduction of New Items - INFORMATION**

There were no new items introduced.

### **14. Public Comment**

During public comment, Aleta DuPree said that she spoke on all these different topics because they all affected her wherever she travelled which was why she looked for expansive and inclusive mobility concepts. She stated that with any benefit, there were



associated risks including motor vehicles on a road. She concluded by saying everybody needed to know their rights and responsibilities.

During public comment, Michael Petrelis stated he believed it was important that the supervisor for both Harvey Milk Plaza and Jane Warner Plaza hold an open public meeting about the many serious safety issues at both plazas for pedestrians. He said he was also very concerned that the Castro Community Benefit District (CBD) had not held an open public meeting about pedestrian safety at Jane Warner Plaza. He reiterated that stated he was disappointed that no one from the CBD joined this meeting to discuss this plan that he believed was not a good use of funds. Mr. Petrelis said he did not support putting a poetry sculpture in the middle of a plaza while potholes were creating danger for pedestrians who passed through the plaza.

#### **15. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.