



Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM 3

DATE: September 10, 2024

TO: Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Mandelman (Chair), Melgar (Vice Chair), Chan, Dorsey, Engardio, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, and Walton

FROM: Tilly Chang – Executive Director

SUBJECT: 9/24/2024 Board Meeting: Executive Director’s Report – **INFORMATION**

FEDERAL, STATE, AND REGIONAL ISSUES

FTA Discretionary Ferry Grant Awards - WETA Receives \$11.5 million for 2 Electric Ferry Vessels. The San Francisco Water Emergency Transit Authority (WETA) received \$11.5 million from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to build two new electric ferry vessels to support the zero-emission ferry service between downtown San Francisco, Treasure Island and Mission Bay. This grant builds on previous FTA and state funding and furthers WETA’s commitment to operating the cleanest vessels possible. FTA also awarded \$4.9 million to the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (GGBHTD) to purchase a low-emission vessel. These projects support the Bay Area’s water transit network and relieve congestion on the bridges. Congratulations to WETA and GGBHTD, and we look forward to seeing these clean ferries on the Bay soon.

California Strategic Growth Council Awards \$70.9 million in Housing and Transportation Funds to Two San Francisco Projects. I also want to congratulate the City and its co-applicant housing partners on receiving two grants totaling \$70.9 million from the state Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities program. The grants will fund affordable housing projects at 160 Freelon Street in District 6 and Sunnydale Block 7 in District 10, along with supporting transportation improvements. The 160 Freelon grant, awarded to the City, the Related Companies of California, LLC, and San Francisco Housing Development Corporation, will help fund two miles of permanent two-way bike lanes and five new bus bulb-outs in SOMA. The Sunnydale grant, awarded to the City and Mercy Housing California, will help fund a new safe and accessible sidewalk connecting the neighborhood to the pedestrian grid, as well as traffic signal improvements and bus boarding bulb-outs along Visitacion Avenue to optimize transit across the Sunnydale community.

Bay Area Transit Month - Explore the Bay Area on Transit. Chair Mandelman and I joined Transportation Authority Commissioners, State Senator Scott Wiener, Mayor Breed, SFMTA



Director Jeff Tumlin, and San Francisco Transit Riders on the steps of City Hall to celebrate the start of Transit Month, which the Transportation Authority is pleased to help sponsor. The event highlighted the efforts of transit systems to provide clean, reliable, and responsive service, and all the transit-related events across San Francisco and across the region, including a SF Transit Riders panel on transit funding featuring Deputy Director Maria Lombardo, among others. Heather Thomson, CEO of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) also attended the rally to present San Francisco with the Silver Certification Award for the Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit project, which the Transportation Authority planned and funded with over \$38 million from our sales tax program. The award is the highest-level rapid transit designation in the nation and we thank ITDP for this recognition.

LOCAL ISSUES

Eco-Friendly Goods Movement Working Group - Third Working Group Meeting Held.

Last month, we held the third meeting of the working group for the Eco-Friendly Downtown Deliveries Study. Funded by a Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance grant, the study will identify emission reduction strategies associated with goods movement in the city's downtown neighborhoods. The study emerged through recommendations in San Francisco's 2021 Climate Action Plan which found that transportation activities account for 47% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions. The study centers around a working group of representatives from shipping- and receiving-industry stakeholders and local businesses, particularly small- and mid-sized businesses located in Equity Priority Communities. The August convening focused on "micro" delivery hubs. Future discussions will consider e-cargo bike supportive infrastructure, curb management to support low-emission vehicles, and off-hour deliveries to increase the efficiency of goods movement; incentivize reductions in vehicle emissions; and promote zero carbon modes. The Eco-Friendly Downtown Deliveries Study is being coordinated with the e-bike food delivery pilot program led by the San Francisco Environment Department, which received grant funding from the California Energy Commission to provide delivery workers with e-cargo bikes free of charge. We expect recommendations from the working group later this fall.

Geary/19th Avenue Subway and Regional Connections Study Update. The project team hosted two virtual town hall events this summer and is continuing outreach with a multilingual survey to gather feedback on the potential of a Geary/19th Avenue Subway. We wish to thank Vice Chair Melgar for providing opening remarks in the first Town Hall event and invite the public to watch recordings of these events and to take the study survey at sfcta.org/geary19th. The project team is also available to give presentations to community groups. Please contact geary19th@sfcta.org to coordinate a presentation.

PROJECT DELIVERY



Hillcrest Road Improvement Project Groundbreaking Event - Project Will Improve Multimodal Access. Our Capital Projects and Communications Division, in partnership with TIDA, Caltrans and BATA hosted the Hillcrest Road Improvement Project Groundbreaking Ceremony on Yerba Island last week. SFCTA Chair Mandelman and TIMMA Chair Dorsey provided opening remarks highlighting the \$38 million in funding from local and state sources secured for the project, as well as spotlighting the vibrant community on the Island. We recognized our funders as well as our partners who all spoke in celebration of this project, which will upgrade the roadway to modern roadway and seismic standards and provide additional space for pedestrians and bicyclists traveling between the Islands and east span of the Bay Bridge. The project improves the connection between West Side Bridges and Southgate Road and enables construction of a future multi-use path for active transportation users, anticipated to be delivered through the Bay Skyway Phase 1 transbay project linking West Oakland to Treasure Island.

L-Taraval Improvement Project - Light Rail Service to Resume September 28. I am very excited to congratulate SFMTA, SF Public Works, and the Public Utilities Commission on their substantial completion of the L-Taraval Improvement project. Beginning September 28, the L Taraval trains will resume service providing riders with light rail service to and from the SF Zoo / Ocean Beach through the Muni Metro Subway out to Embarcadero. This marks a major milestone in safer streets, improved accessibility, and better Muni service along the L-Taraval line. The Transportation Authority contributed nearly \$19 million of sales tax and Prop AA funds to support the efforts on Segment B. Riders can expect smoother tracks and new boarding islands, bulb-outs, curbs ramps, and Accessible Pedestrian Signals along the corridor.

Caltrain Electrification - Celebrations Mark Historic Launch of Electrified Service. This past Saturday, Caltrain launched fully-electrified service between San Francisco and San Jose. Two days of events marked the occasion up and down the three-county Caltrain corridor this weekend, including an Electrification Service Launch Party at San Francisco's Fourth and King Station on Sunday at which Commissioner Dorsey offered remarks to welcome the community and celebrate the introduction of electric service. An earlier celebration of Caltrain Electrification was held on August 10 in San Francisco, at which Mayor Breed helped welcome Governor Newsom, Senator Padilla, Speaker Emerita Pelosi, Senator Weiner, and numerous federal, state, and local officials. The Transportation Authority contributed \$40 million to the Caltrain Modernization program, consisting of the Caltrain Electrification and Train Control project, which together bring faster service, less wait time, and amenities like free wifi and accessible bathrooms on board, while contributing to improved air quality corridor wide.

The Portal Project - State and Federal Officials Tour Salesforce Transit Center. Following the Caltrain Electrification celebration on August 10, I was pleased to join Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) Executive Director Adam Van de Water in welcoming California



Transportation Secretary Toks Omishakin, Federal Railroad Administrator Amit Bose, and FTA Executive Director Matt Welbes and their staffs on a tour of the Salesforce Transit Center. The tour included a visit to the below-grade trainbox structure, which is awaiting the completion of The Portal project to bring electrified Caltrain and high-speed rail into the Transit Center. The tour was a great opportunity to demonstrate the readiness of The Portal for delivery and to highlight the need to secure remaining funds to leverage the FTA's recent \$3.4 billion commitment to the project.

BART Tube Seismic Retrofit - Completed on 50th Anniversary of the Entire BART System.

We want to recognize BART for completing the seismic retrofit of the Transbay Tube, the most critical piece of infrastructure in BART's system, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary. The approximately eight-year, \$313 million construction project was part of a larger \$1.5 billion effort to seismically reinforce many aspects of the BART system, including trackways and stations and keeping the BART system in a good state of repair, including funding improvements at all of the San Francisco stations and new fire safety doors within the Transbay Tube. Funding sources included BART's RR bond, approved by San Francisco and BART district voters in 2016. Thank you and happy 50th BART!

BART Continues SF Station Faregates Installation - Civic Center Complete, 24th Street Underway. BART completed installation of the new fare gates at Civic Center Station at the end of August. Installation began at 24th Street Station this month, with the first set of new gates successfully installed now and the second set is in progress. The new faregates are designed to improve accessibility, reliability, and maintainability and to deter fare evasion at each BART station, and all BART stations are anticipated to have new fare gates by the end of 2025. The Transportation Authority is providing \$12.5 million in Prop L sales tax funding to this project.

Alemany Multiuse Path - Open for Use. SF Public Works has opened a new multiuse path providing a safe connection through the interchange from the Alemany Farmers Market to San Bruno Avenue in District 9. This project was a recommendation of the Transportation Authority's Alemany Interchange Improvements Study, which was funded through the Neighborhood Transportation Program (NTP). Commissioner Ronen recommended additional NTP funds to support design of the project, which helped it secure a \$2 million state Active Transportation Program grant for construction. We understand that some of the most challenging aspects of the project included coordinating construction of two new signalized crosswalks with PG&E and Caltrans, so thank you to all the partners who worked together to make this safety and accessibility improvement happen.

District 9 Traffic Calming - Construction Complete. SFMTA and Public Works recently completed traffic calming enhancements in the Mission and Bernal Heights neighborhoods in District 9. This project was funded by the Transportation Authority's Neighborhood Program at the request of Commissioner Ronen. The Mission neighborhood's enhancements include



four speed cushions at Folsom Street (between 20th and 22nd streets) and two traffic islands at Folsom Street at 21st Street. The Bernal Heights neighborhood's enhancements include one-speed table at Crescent Avenue (between Mission to Leese streets) and one raised-crosswalk at Crescent Avenue at Murray Street. These enhancements will help to reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety for people walking and biking.

28 New Paratransit Vans Funded by Prop L - Now Serving Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. The SFMTA recently finished procuring 28 new paratransit vans, replacing older vehicles that reached the end of their useful lives. There are two types of vans that are now in service to the SF Paratransit community. The larger van provides seating for up to 14 passengers with four wheelchair positions and the smaller van provides seating for up to 6 passengers with 2 wheelchair positions. Currently SF Paratransit provides about 550,000 passenger trips for approximately 11,000 registered clients. This project will improve passenger comfort, service reliability, and reduced maintenance costs. This project is funded by the Prop L transportation sales tax.

Salesforce Transit Center Wayfinding Phase 1 Completed - Upgrades Support Informational Kiosks. The TJPA recently replaced 200 media player kiosks throughout the Salesforce Transit Center. These new media players are faster and more responsive to touch and commands, which will help improve the reliability and functionality of the wayfinding system. The upgrades will also enhance commuter and visitor experiences by connecting them quickly and more efficiently to their transit connections and to the public open space and activities at the rooftop park. The project was originally meant to replace 100 media player kiosks, but the contractor was able to replace 200 media players within budget. This project is funded by the Prop AA vehicle registration fee.

38th and Geary Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons - Activation Celebration Held in August. Deputy Director Anna LaForte was pleased to join Commissioner Chan and SFMTA at the unveiling of a new Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon and its activation in District 1 at the intersection of 38th Avenue and Geary Boulevard on August 29th. The improvements include accessible pedestrian push buttons and updated signage to improve pedestrian safety, visibility, and slow traffic at the intersection. The new flashing beacons will help improve pedestrian safety by alerting motorists to the presence of pedestrians and encourage drivers to yield to pedestrians at this intersection. The new pedestrian activated flashing beacon was funded through the Neighborhood Program with Prop K sales tax funds at the request of Commissioner Chan.

Quick-Build Update - Sales Tax and TNC Tax Support Safety Improvements. SFMTA continues to make progress on implementing quick-build safety projects at various locations citywide. These projects improve transit reliability, bicycle access, and safety for all road users. SFMTA completed construction of the 17th Street Quick-Build Project (between Potrero



Street and Pennsylvania Ave) in late June. The improvements include a protected bikeway, daylighting, painted safety zones, and curb management. In early August, SFMTA finished the Frida Kahlo Way Quick-Build Project (between Judson Avenue and Ocean/Geneva Avenue and Judson Avenue from Frida Kahlo Way to Foerster Street). The new two-way bikeway is open for use, transit stop changes are operational, and traffic signal improvements and vehicle circulation changes are implemented. SFMTA also completed the Guerrero Street Quick-Build Project (between Market Street and 20th Street) in August. The project team implemented painted safety zones, advanced limit lines, left turn safety treatments, daylighting, and additional signage along the corridor. This program is funded by sales tax and TNC Tax funds. Learn more at [SFMTA.com/QuickBuild](https://sfmta.com/QuickBuild).

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Transportation Authority Receives Seventh Consecutive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to our agency for the seventh consecutive year. The award was given for our work on the Transportation Authority's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2022/23 (the annual financial audit report). This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. We are proud to achieve excellence in transparent reporting and stewardship of public funds. Congratulations to Deputy Director Cynthia Fong and the Finance Division staff!