



MINUTES

San Francisco County Transportation Authority

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

1. Roll Call

Chair Mandelman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present at Roll Call: Commissioners Chan, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Ronen, and Walton (7)

Absent at Roll Call: Commissioners Dorsey, Peskin, Safai (entered during Item 9), Stefani (entered during Item 3) (4)

2. Chair's Report - INFORMATION

Chair Mandelman stated that over summer recess, the Transportation Authority celebrated significant progress on several transportation projects and he note that September's Transit Month was also a success, thanks to the SF Transit Riders. He congratulated Caltrain on completing the Caltrain Electrification project and launching fully electrified service between San Francisco and San Jose this past weekend, noting that Commissioner Dorsey and the Transportation Authority's Rail Program Manager Jesse Koehler attended the celebration at 4th and King station. Chair Mandelman continued by stating that an earlier celebration of Caltrain Electrification was held on August 10 in San Francisco and that during that event Mayor Breed helped welcome Governor Newsom, Senator Padilla, Speaker Emerita Pelosi, Senator Weiner, and numerous federal, state, and local officials. Chair Mandelman thanked Directors Walton and Ronen for their work on Caltrain and MTC, respectively. He also stated that the Transportation Authority contributed \$40 million to Caltrain's Modernization project, which includes electrification.

Chair Mandelman then congratulated BART for completing the seismic retrofit of the Transbay Tube in mid-September during the 50th Anniversary of the whole BART system. He said that the \$313 million project was part of a larger \$1.5 billion effort to seismically reinforce many aspects of the BART system, including trackways and stations and was funded in part by BART's Measure RR. Chair Mandelman stated that BART had stabilized the Transbay Tube and that the Transportation Authority would now focus on stabilizing the region's transit systems and that the Transportation Authority would discuss this with all three major transit operators serving San Francisco.

Chair Mandelman stated he was happy to have attended the Transportation Authority's Hillcrest Road Improvement Project groundbreaking on Yerba Island, along with TIMMA Chair Dorsey and Transportation Authority Deputy Director for Capital Projects, Carl Holmes, who hosted the event. He stated that the \$38 million road safety and multimodal connection at the top of Yerba Island provided additional space for pedestrians and bicyclists traveling between the Islands and the east span of the Bay Bridge, via a future multi-use path known as the Bay Skyway. Chair Mandelman thanked the state Housing and Community Development agency, California Transportation



Commission, Caltrans, BATA, TIDA and City departments for their support of the project, which will create 500 jobs for local workers.

There was no public comment.

3. Executive Director's Report - INFORMATION

Tilly Chang, Executive Director, presented the Executive Director's Report.

There was no public comment.

4. Approve the Minutes of the September 10, 2024 Meeting - ACTION

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Preston moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Stefani.

The minutes were approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Ronen, Stefani, and Walton (8)

Absent: Commissioners Dorsey, Peskin, Safai (3)

Consent Agenda

5. [Final Approval] Appoint Sharon Ng as the District 3 Representative to the Community Advisory Committee – ACTION

6. [Final Approval] Allocate \$284,145 in Prop L Funds, with Conditions, and Allocate \$3,493,000 in Traffic Congestion Mitigation Tax Funds for Three Requests – ACTION*

Projects: Prop L. SFMTA: Great Highway Gateway Study [NTP] (\$159,145). SFPW: Clement St/6th Ave Intersection Improvements [NTP] (\$125,000). TNC Tax. Vision Zero Quick-Build Program Implementation FY25 (\$3,493,000)

7. [Final Approval] Amend Two Prop K Grants to Allow Cost Savings from the San Francisco Ferry Terminal Security Improvements (Design)(\$132,405) and Potrero Avenue Pavement Renovation (\$737,181) Projects to Fund, Respectively, San Francisco Ferry Terminal Security Improvements (Construction)(\$132,405) and De Long Street Pavement Renovation (\$350,000) and Sunset Boulevard Pavement Renovation (\$387,181 – ACTION

Projects: Prop K. GGBHTD: San Francisco Ferry Terminal Security Improvements (\$132,405, construction). SFPW: De Long Street Pavement Renovation (\$80,000 design, \$270,000 construction), and Sunset Boulevard Pavement Renovation (\$387,181 construction)

8. [Final Approval] Adopt I-280 Northbound Geneva Off-Ramp Study – ACTION

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Ronen moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Preston.



The Consent Agenda was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Engardio, Mandelman, Melgar, Preston, Ronen, Stefani, and Walton (8)

Absent: Commissioners Dorsey, Peskin, Safai (3)

End of Consent Agenda

9. Transit Recovery and Fiscal Cliff Update: BART, SFMTA, Caltrain - INFORMATION

Martin Reyes, Principal Transportation Planner with the Transportation Authority; Jeffery Tumlin, Director of Transportation for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA); Pamela Herhold, Assistant General Manager for the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART); Bree Mawhorter, Chief Financial Officer for SFMTA; Michelle Bouchard, Executive Director for Caltrain; and Casey Fromson, Chief of Staff for Caltrain presented the item.

Commissioner Preston asked for clarification from SFMTA about what the agency's current reserves were, whether that amount changed over time, and what kind of restrictions existed for use of the reserves. Ms. Mawhorter responded that SFMTA had about \$140 million in reserves, which had increased slowly over time and that the SFMTA Board of Directors had discretion on how much of it was spent in any given year. Commissioner Preston requested the reserves be reflected in future presentation materials for transparency and then asked for more details about the Muni Funding Working Group and why SFMTA's long-standing budget issues were only being dealt with now. Ms. Mawhorter explained that the Muni Funding Working Group, which had its first meeting earlier in the month, would produce recommendations in early 2025 and was a continuation of previous working groups. She added that the working group would have a holistic focus on new revenues, level of service, efficiencies, and potential service enhancements.

Commissioner Preston asked whether there was a chance that the federal government would continue providing financial support to transit operations beyond 2026. Ms. Mawhorter responded that, while they had been advocating for more federal transit operations funding, there was not a lot of appetite for it at the federal level.

Commissioner Preston expressed concern about how much in fees and fines transit riders and drivers were paying and asked for more information about how rates were set, emphasizing the different amounts that transit riders and drivers may pay. Ms. Mawhorter described the different kinds of parking citations and explained that, as a policy, SFMTA's citation penalty levels did not exceed the state citation penalty levels. Ms. Mawhorter went on to explain that transit fare inspectors were focused on compliance and education and were equipped to educate riders on paying fares and available discount programs.

Commissioner Preston concluded his remarks by encouraging SFMTA to seek support from the city budget in the future rather than increasing fees and fines given the relatively small contribution to the overall agency budget compared to the disproportionate impact on lower income populations.

Chair Mandelman commented that transit agencies should focus on describing the benefits riders would see on the transit system when advocating for new revenues,



expressed support for measures taken by SFMTA to address fare evasion, and suggested that there should be pathways to avoiding fares and fines for those that cannot afford to pay them.

Commissioner Walton expressed appreciation for Caltrain staff's efforts towards electrification of the Caltrain corridor.

Janice Li, member of the BART Board of Directors, made remarks offering collaboration with the Transportation Authority Board and noted her roles in working to address local and regional transit operating shortfalls.

Chair Mandelman expressed appreciation to the presenters and to Senator Wiener for his advocacy, and noted that future conversations were needed to deal with the transit agencies' fiscal challenges as there was no clear path forward.

Director Chang expressed appreciation for the transit agencies' presentations, emphasized the need for a simple financial package that voters could understand, and noted that staff would bring updates in winter or spring on this topic including more details on timing and decision points.

During public comment, Roland Lebrun stated that Caltrain should do things differently when going back to voters following Measure RR and asked Caltrain to discuss the system shutdown that happened the previous day.

10. Internal Accounting Report, Investment Report, and Debt Expenditure Report for the Nine Months Ending March 31, 2024 – INFORMATION

Items 10 and 11 were called together. See Item 11 for details.

11. Investment and Debt Expenditure Reports for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2024 – INFORMATION

Cynthia Fong, Deputy Director for Finance and Administration, presented items 10 and 11 per the staff memoranda.

There was no public comment.

Other Items

12. Introduction of New Items - INFORMATION

There were no new items introduced.

13. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.