



Memorandum

AGENDA ITEM 3

DATE: December 16, 2024
TO: Transportation Authority Board
FROM: Tilly Chang - Executive Director
SUBJECT: 12/17/2024 Board Meeting: Executive Director's Report - INFORMATION

FEDERAL, STATE AND REGIONAL ISSUES

TIMMA Receives \$20 million U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant. We are excited to report that the EPA awarded a \$20 million Community Change Grant for a collection of Treasure Island transportation improvements called Treasure Island Connects that we applied for at the request of Chair Dorsey. Congratulations to Assistant Deputy Director for Planning Suany Chough for securing funds for several priorities identified in the Prop K Neighborhood Transportation Program-funded District 6 Supplemental Transportation Plan including a micro transit pilot service to San Francisco, a free on-island shuttle, and a Transportation Resource Center to be operated by One Treasure Island to provide information on transportation services on the Islands. The grant also funds a new electric bus and enhanced Muni service on the 25 line, electric ferry charging infrastructure, and Bay Wheels expansion to Treasure Island. We thank all the EPA for this transformational grant along with Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi who advocated along with others for our application.

Electronic Bicycles - California Air Resources Board (CARB) Launches Rebate Program. CARB has announced the availability of vouchers for up to \$2000 to low-income California residents for the purchase of electric bicycles (e-bikes) and accessories as part of the California E-Bike Incentive Program. CARB is providing these vouchers as part of an effort to expand access to zero-emissions transportation modes, especially in low-income areas most affected by air pollution. We thank CARB for implementing this program, which reflects the importance of e-bikes to make bicycling attractive to a wider range of travelers, especially in hilly places like San Francisco. The agency will begin accepting applications on December 18 at 6.p.m, and vouchers will be awarded first come, first served. We strongly encourage interested parties to apply early, as only 1,500 vouchers will be available statewide. More information, including eligibility requirements and the application, can be found here: <https://ebikeincentives.org/eligibility/>.



Link21 Program - BART/Capitol Corridor Float Draft Recommendation for Rail Technology. Last month at meetings of both the BART Board and the Capitol Corridor JPA Board, the Link21 project team presented its assessment of rail technology options for the future second rail crossing of the Bay. The informational items at both boards reflected the Link21 team's staff recommendation that the future crossing serve standard gauge regional rail, as opposed to accommodating wider gauge BART trains. Director Janice Li requested that staff return in the new year to present more details of the analysis supporting this recommendation and to seek a formal board-level, stage gate decision with respect to rail technology. We are continuing to provide staff level input on the Link21 analysis, including requesting further engagement with Bay Area agencies and affected jurisdictions ahead of any formal decision-making process.

McLaren Park Access Improvements - MTC Approves \$750,000 in Regional Priority Conservation Area Funds for Safety Improvements. Last month, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approved the award of a Priority Conservation Area "Urban Greening" grant for the Visitacion Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Improvement Project. The \$750,000 award will support environmental review and construction of new pedestrian and bicycle facilities in southeastern McLaren Park to calm traffic, provide improved access to Visitacion Valley Middle School, and better connect Visitacion Valley and Sunnysdale neighborhoods to McLaren Park. The Transportation Authority previously provided \$400,000 in Prop K funds to implement recommendations from the [Visitacion Valley and Portola Community Based Transportation Plan](#), which recommended improvements such as speed humps/cushions, raised crosswalks, flashing beacons and pedestrian bulbouts, as well as new bikeways, among other improvements in the area. We thank MTC for the urban greening award and look forward to seeing the Recreation and Parks Department implement these safety and access improvements.

LOCAL ISSUES

Muni Funding Working Group - 4th Meeting Explores Flexing Capital Funds and Potential Program/Service Cuts. On November 20, SFMTA held their 4th Muni Funding Work Group meeting where Chair Mandelman, Vice Chair Melgar and I serve as members. We discussed potential ways that SFMTA could flex some of their capital funds towards operations, which could help reduce their projected deficit by \$38 to \$206 million per year. However, flexing higher amounts of capital for operations would have major impacts to street safety projects, vehicle maintenance and replacements, and transit reliability. Notably, vehicle procurements funded through our sales tax programs require SFMTA to maintain the vehicles in a state of



good repair, inclusive of mid-life overhauls needed to ensure that the vehicles can operate safely and reliably through the end of their useful lives. We are actively working with SFMTA to better understand the tradeoffs associated with potential flexing of certain capital funds to operations. SFMTA also developed scenarios for potential cuts to various programs such as the Muni Transit Assistance Program and Streets Division services such as garage security and janitorial services, the Shared Spaces program, transportation planning and engineering, the traffic signal shop, as well as many others. The next round of Working Group meetings is scheduled to begin on January 23, where SFMTA will discuss Revenue Enhancement options which we are also collaborating with them to prepare. More information on the Muni Funding Working Group can be found at www.sf.gov/muni-funding-working-group.

SFMTA Completes Draft of Citywide Biking and Rolling Plan. In November, the SFMTA brought a draft of the citywide Biking and Rolling Plan to the SFMTA Board. The draft plan is intended to provide a vision for a complete network of biking and rolling facilities in San Francisco and define supportive policies. The draft proposes what they have called a “North Star Network” which recommends new or upgraded bicycle facilities across much of San Francisco, while noting areas where connections are needed, but more detailed, additional community planning is necessary before naming specific roads or facility types for improvement. We look forward to working with SFMTA seeking to present a draft final version of this plan to the Transportation Authority Board, before adoption by the SFMTA Board, anticipated in February.

Inner Sunset Transportation Study - Online Survey Closes December 20. The Inner Sunset Transportation Safety Study, requested by Vice Chair Melgar, will identify ways to improve safety and access within the commercial core of the Inner Sunset neighborhood, so residents and visitors can enjoy its many amenities. As reported last month, we invite residents, employees, and visitors to the Inner Sunset to learn more and take our online survey and scavenger hunt, both available on our website at www.sfcta.org/inner-sunset. The survey will be open through December 20, and we plan to incorporate the feedback and return to the community in the spring to present draft concepts and recommendations, in coordination with SFMTA and other agencies. The study is funded through our Neighborhood Transportation Program.

PROJECT DELIVERY

BART Continues SF Station Fare Gate Installation - Civic Center, 16th Street, 24th Street, and Powell Street Stations are Complete. BART has completed installation of new fare gates at 4 San Francisco stations, including most recently at



Powell station. Montgomery station is underway, to be followed next by Embarcadero station. The new fare gates are designed to improve accessibility, reliability, and maintainability and to deter fare evasion at each BART station. BART anticipates completing installation of new fare gates systemwide (including Glen Park and Balboa Park stations) by the end of 2025. The Transportation Authority is providing \$12,525,000 in Prop L funding as local match toward this project.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Transportation Fund for Clean Aid (TFCA) - Clean Program Manager Fund Audit Released. The Transportation Authority is designated as the county program manager for the local share of funds available through the Bay Area's TFCA program. Funds from this program come from an annual \$4 vehicle registration fee on automobiles registered in San Francisco and are for transportation projects that benefit air quality by reducing motor vehicle emissions. The audit, conducted by Simpson & Simpson LLP, covered the period ended June 30, 2023, and reported that the Transportation Authority spent program funds appropriately and complied with the funding agreements. Congratulations to the Policy and Programming Division for its ongoing efforts to run an effective TFCA program in San Francisco and to the Finance and Administration Division for another clean audit. In particular, I'd like to thank Mike Pickford and Javier Altamirano from our staff for their hard work on this.

Appreciation for Commissioners Peskin, Preston, Ronen, and Safai - Thank you!

As we close out the year, on behalf of the Transportation Authority staff, I'd like to thank Commissioners Peskin, Preston, Ronen, and Safai, and their staffs for their many years of service and roles of leadership in the region and on the Transportation Authority. We have benefited greatly from your guidance over the years.

- **Commissioner Peskin** has served on the Transportation Authority a record 16 years spanning 2001-2008 and 2017-2024 including 4 years leading the agency as our Chair from 2017-2020. During this time, Chair Peskin co-chaired the Transportation 2045 revenue Task Force, spear-headed the effort for passage of Prop D - the TNC Ridehail tax, conducted a peer review of Salesforce Transit Center and called for regionalizing the partnership to deliver The Portal/Downtown Rail Extension. He was a strong voice in the city's response to new mobility, particularly on guiding San Francisco's engagement with legislators, regulators and industry on autonomous vehicles. Locally, Commissioner Peskin helped oversee delivery of Central Subway and Van Ness BRT and focused on pedestrian safety, requesting neighborhood studies and projects at Portsmouth Square and Columbus/Stockton/Green Streets as well as



on Broadway and many District 3 safe routes to school projects. We thank Commissioner Peskin for his leadership and support and wish to extend our appreciation to D3 staff as well, especially Sunny Angulo and Calvin Yan.

- **Commissioner Preston** served on the Transportation Authority from 2020 to 2024, representing District 5, and has been a strong advocate for transit and Vision Zero, including his efforts to restore Muni services, prevent fare hikes, improve transit priority through Geary BRT and numerous Muni Forward and bicycle projects on Paige, Haight, Fell, Oak and Fillmore Streets. He supported speed reduction and vehicle restrictions in the Tenderloin and on Market Street, oversaw delivery of the Western Addition Community Based Transportation Plan's investments, supported the Octavia Improvements Study and secured funding for Safer Taylor Street and the Golden Gate Greenway. Most recently, he advocated for our \$2 million federal grant to undertake the Geary-Fillmore Underpass Community Planning Study. We extend our appreciation to Commissioner Preston and D5 staff, and particularly Preston Kilgore.
- **Commissioner Ronen** has served on the Transportation Authority since 2017 and has been a strong local and regional advocate for equitable access and affordable transportation and housing for all. Commissioner Ronen has also served as the Board of Supervisors' representative on the MTC where she helped develop the affordable housing bond and pushed for equity and affordability policies such as creating FasTrak Start, MTC's express lane discount program for low income travelers, and leading reform of fines and penalty policies on the Bay Area toll bridges, which became particularly acute for travelers during the pandemic. Locally, Commissioner Ronen supported safety, traffic calming and transit projects throughout District 9, including the Alemany Maze bicycle lanes and pedestrian paths connecting the Portola to Bernal neighborhoods, Mansell bicycle and pedestrian path and myriad transit initiatives including the 9R and re-design of Potrero, and improving BART stations and Muni facilities the Mission corridor. Finally, Commissioner Ronen served for the 3 years on the TIMMA Committee and on the Transportation Authority's Personnel Committee for 6 years. We extend our appreciation to Commissioner Ronen and D9 staff and, in particular, Ana Herrera.
- **Commissioner Safai** served on the Transportation Authority from 2017 and served on our Vision Zero Committee in the early part of his term. He championed initiatives around pedestrian safety and traffic calming throughout District 11 including on major arterials and transit hubs. These included supporting Mansell bicycle and pedestrian pathways, neighborhood traffic



calming and safe routes to schools, and Balboa Station area multi-modal improvements including requesting funding for the Kapuso plaza at the Upper Yard and I-280 Northbound Geneva Off-Ramp Study. Commissioner Safai oversaw delivery of Mission-Geneva transit facility improvements, signals on Alemany and oversaw upgraded infrastructure on DeLong Street, and designs for Sickles and Sagamore. We extend our appreciation to Commissioner Safai and D11 staff, especially Esther Lee.

Thank you to Chair Mandelman, Vice Chair Melgar and the Board, CAC, Partners (special thank you to Director Tumlin) and Staff.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to our leadership Chair Mandelman and Vice Chair Melgar and their staffs Calvin Ho and Emma Heiken, Community Advisory Committee (CAC), partners and staff. I also want to add our thanks to Director Tumlin for his dedication and partnership over the past 5 years, during his impactful service to SFMTA, the city, and our region. His leadership began on day 1 to transform Muni's network and re-imagine streets, while improving safety, equity and economic recovery across the city. We wish him well in his next chapter and look forward to continuing to support Julie Kirschbaum as she prepares to take the helm of SFMTA as Acting Director.