



MINUTES

San Francisco County Transportation Authority

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

1. Roll Call

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

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

Absent at Roll Call: Commissioners Engardio (entered during Item 2), Melgar (entered during Item 3), and Safai (3)

2. Approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2024 Meeting – ACTION

There was no public comment.

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

The minutes were approved without objection by the following vote:

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

Absent: Commissioners Melgar and Safai (2)

3. Community Advisory Committee Report - INFORMATION

Kat Siegal, Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair, reported that during the November meeting, the CAC unanimously voted in support of the six allocations under the Prop L, Prop AA and TNC Tax. She stated that during discussion, members requested that the Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Resource Portal be built cooperatively with other cities. Regarding the sideshow deterrence project, she noted that members requested additional information about the effectiveness of bots and sought clarity on how other areas of the city struggling with similar street safety challenges could be provided with similar traffic calming treatments, particularly in District 9.

Chair Siegal also reported that the CAC had unanimously approved The Portal/Downtown Rail Extension MOU, and the related \$9 million allocation for Prop L, as well as the Prop K grant amendments. Additionally, she said the CAC received a presentation providing an update on Better Market Street as well as the AV update presentation, which had been a high interest topic for the CAC. She stated members asked numerous questions and had significant concerns, particularly regarding jobs lost by taxi and traditional transportation network companies (TNC) drivers, regulations on the use of AV batteries, the inability to cite AVs for moving violations, and the lack of licensing requirements for remote drivers. She added that members

expressed a belief that the regulations for AVs appeared to be less rigorous compared to those applied to traditional TNCs.

There was no public comment.

Consent Agenda

- 4. [Final Approval]** Allocate \$2,649,000 and Appropriate \$139,890 in Prop L Funds, with Conditions, for Two Requests – **ACTION**

Projects: SFMTA: Bus Transit Signal Priority (\$2,649,000). SFCTA: Bayview Street Safety and Truck Relief Study (\$139,890).

- 5. [Final Approval]** Adopt the District 1 Multimodal Transportation Plan Final Report – **ACTION**

- 6. [Final Approval]** Approve a Two Year Professional Services Contract with HNTB Corporation in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1,103,000 for Technical Services for the San Francisco Freeway Network Management Study – **ACTION**

There was no public comment.

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

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

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

Absent: Commissioner Safai (1)

End of Consent Agenda

- 7. Allocate \$3,300,000 and Appropriate \$350,000 in Prop L Funds, with Conditions, Allocate \$672,000 in Prop AA Funds, and Allocate \$4,929,000 in Traffic Congestion Mitigation Tax (TNC Tax) Funds, with Conditions, for Six Requests – ACTION**

Projects: Prop L: PCJPB: Maintenance of Way Track Equipment SOGR - FY25 (\$2,600,000). SFMTA: District 11 Traffic Calming and Sideshow Deterrence [NTP] (\$700,000). SFCTA: Westside Network Study (\$250,000), AV Resource Portal (\$100,000). Prop AA: SFPW: Innes Avenue Sidewalk Improvements (\$672,000). TNC Tax: SFMTA: Vision Zero Quick-Build Implementation FY25 (\$4,929,000).

Mike Pickford, Principal Transportation Planner, Policy and Programming; David Long, Senior Transportation Planner, Planning; Jean Paul Velez, Principal Transportation Planner, Technology Policy; and San Francisco Fire Department's (SFFD) Deputy Chief of Operations, Darius Luttrupp, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Walton inquired about the impact of AVs on the SFFD's ability to provide prompt fire service. He then thanked Deputy Chief Luttrupp for addressing the matter on behalf of the SFFD and asked whether AVs had been interfering with fire or emergency response efforts.

Deputy Chief Luttrupp reported that while the SFFD maintained a functioning relationship with various AV operators, including Waymo, incidents of incursion into or direct blocking of fire responses, though reduced, still occurred. He noted that despite collaborative efforts by the SFFD and San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) to help AV operators avoid such areas, the desired results were not achieved. He also shared that Waymo had agreed to meet and provide explanations for its lack of responsiveness to these efforts, and ongoing meetings aimed to further improve their partnership.

Commissioner Walton expressed concern about accountability for Waymo's unresponsiveness and inquired about the consequences for operators failing to respond to "avoid the area" messages.

Deputy Chief Luttrupp assured Commissioner Walton that Waymo had maintained an open and responsive dialogue with SFFD. He stated that there was little SFFD, along with SFPD, SFCTA, and SFMTA, could do beyond raising questions and seeking commitments from AV operators. He commended the SFCTA's and SFMTA's efforts to highlight information through a dashboard as a strong approach and noted that SFFD maintained close contact with AV operators, encouraging them to continue meeting.

Commissioner Walton expressed concerns about external companies influencing regulatory processes while community input remained limited, but he acknowledged and appreciated the collaboration between Waymo and the SFFD. He thanked Deputy Chief Luttrupp and remarked that it was disheartening for local jurisdictions to have no control over the safety of its residents while its streets were regulated by outside entities. He clarified that he did not oppose AVs operating on San Francisco streets, and reiterated that local jurisdictions should have some role in regulating them. Commissioner Walton thanked Deputy Chief Luttrupp for joining the meeting.

Commissioner Peskin said during briefings with Transportation Authority staff, he had raised concerns regarding two of the proposed projects in the SFMTA's Vision Zero Quick-Build project request for which he had not yet received satisfactory answers. He continued by specifying that \$410,000 was requested for Jefferson Street where the City had just spent \$26 million on pedestrian improvements and \$334,000 requested for a road diet on The Embarcadero between Bay and Chestnut where his office recently worked with SFMTA to put in bike lanes. He stated dissatisfaction with the responses previously provided and suggested removing these projects and associated \$744,000 in TNC funding from consideration until he or his successor received satisfactory answers.

Chair Mandelman observed that Waymo had adopted a more cooperative approach compared to Cruise and expressed appreciation for President Peskin, SFCTA, and SFMTA's efforts in the AV space. He stated he shared Commissioner Walton's frustration with the current regulatory oversight, which he noted fell short of San Francisco's needs, and he acknowledged the improved relationship between San Francisco agencies and Waymo. He mentioned his personal enjoyment of using Waymo and his desire for their success but emphasized the critical importance of ensuring they do not obstruct emergency response operations, calling for additional support from higher levels if the necessary tools were not provided locally.

Chair Mandelman said he had the same experience that Commissioner Peskin did

with seeing items under the SFMTA Vision Zero Quick-Build request that he did not think he had been sufficiently briefed on and that were potentially impactful and should have been brought to his attention, as a district Supervisor. He said that ultimately, he was provided more detailed information about the projects, and he thanked the SFMTA for the proposed Quick-Build project on Bosworth in Glen Park where a recent fatal crash had occurred. He said that he supported the project, but that he should hear about such projects earlier in their development.

There was no public comment.

Chair Mandelman severed The Embarcadero and Jefferson Street projects from the SFMTA's Vision Zero Quick-Build Implementation FY25 request from the vote.

Commissioner Peskin moved to approve the remainder of Item 7, seconded by Commissioner Melgar.

The item was approved unanimously without objection by the following vote:

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

Absent: Commissioner Safai (1)

8. Authorize the Executive Director to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, the California High-Speed Rail Authority, and the City and County of San Francisco to Support Implementation of The Portal Project, also known as the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX); Allocate \$9,000,000 in Prop L Funds, with Conditions, to the TJPA for The Portal Project Engineering Phase Activities; and Amend the Prop K Grants for the DTX Tunnel Engineering Options Study and DTX Project Development Activities Under Notice-to-Proceed #2B to Allow TJPA to Use the Combined Remaining Balance of \$921,395 for The Portal Project Engineering Phase Activities - ACTION

Jesse Koehler, Rail Program Manager presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Dorsey expressed his gratitude for Chair Mandelman's work on the item, including his service on the TJPA Board.

Chair Mandelman acknowledged the hard work of numerous individuals in advancing the project, including TJPA staff, Transportation Authority staff, Caltrain, and MTC. Executive Director Chang noted the involvement of the other partner agencies for the project, as well. Chair Mandelman also acknowledged Commissioner Peskin's leadership in calling for the regionalization of the project and for positioning it for success.

Chair Mandelman stated that a significant funding contribution from the state was necessary to move the project forward. He added that renewal of the cap-and-trade program was seen as the most likely source of state funding. Chair Mandelman asked if there were any indications that the state might consider the extension of cap-and-trade in 2025.

Executive Director Chang responded that there were not a lot of funding sources

available to support the approximately \$1 billion contribution from the state, and she noted that this amount was consistent with state investment in other mega-projects. She expressed hope that the State would advance cap-and-trade renewal next year and that there was an opportunity for an extension of more than ten years.

Chair Mandelman stated that the \$3.4 billion in federal grant funds would decrease in relative value over time if the project did not progress on the planned timeline.

Executive Director Chang explained that the goal was to secure these funds within the 2027 timeframe and that state funds were needed to provide the required match to the federal grant.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Dorsey moved to approve the item, seconded by Chair Mandelman.

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 Safai (1)

9. Award a Construction Contract to the Lowest Responsible and Responsive Bidder, Thompson Builders Corporation, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$8,965,637, with Conditions; Authorize an Additional Construction Allotment of \$896,564 for a Total Construction Allotment Not to Exceed \$9,862,201, with Conditions; and Authorize the Executive Director to Execute All Other Related Supporting and Supplemental Agreements for the Pier E-2 Parking Lot and Torpedo Building Retrofit Projects – ACTION

Carl Holmes, Deputy Director for Capital Projects, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Dorsey expressed his gratitude to everyone who had worked on the project.

There was no public comment.

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

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 Safai (1)

10. Accept the Audit Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024 - ACTION

Cynthia Fong, Deputy Director for Finance and Administration, and Eide Bailly LLP's Nathan Edelman CPA, and, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Chair Mandelman thanked Deputy Director Fong and her staff for the hard work done on the audit report.

There was no public comment.

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

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 Safai (1)

11. Internal Accounting Report, Investment Report, and Debt Expenditure Report for the Three Months Ending September 30, 2024 - INFORMATION

Cynthia Fong, Deputy Director for Finance and Administration, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

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 11:57 a.m.