



MINUTES

San Francisco County Transportation Authority

Tuesday, January 28, 2025

1. Roll Call

Chair Mandelman called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Present at Roll Call: Commissioners Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Engardio, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, and Walton (11)

Absent at Roll Call: 0

2. Chair's Report - INFORMATION

Chair Mandelman welcomed colleagues to the new year and acknowledged the five new Board members: Commissioners Sherrill, Sauter, Mahmood, Fielder, and Chen. He also extended best wishes to Mayor Lurie and expressed support for Alicia Jean-Baptiste, the incoming Chief of Infrastructure, Climate, and Mobility.

He emphasized the Transportation Authority's commitment to ongoing discussions, including addressing operating shortfalls at Muni, BART, and other transit systems, advancing Vision Zero, and supporting economic recovery. He also expressed sympathy for folks impacted by the Los Angeles wildfires and reaffirmed support for rebuilding efforts while seeking statewide infrastructure funding. He then congratulated several agencies on securing grants earlier in the month including \$25 million to BART for its Train Control and Modernization program and \$9.2 million to SFMTA for its Presidio Bus Yard Reconstruction in U.S. Department of Transportation RAISE grant funding. He then expressed appreciation to former Secretary Buttigieg and the Federal delegation for their support.

Chair Mandelman reported that two grants for electric vehicle charging were expected to be secured by San Francisco Environment (SFE): \$15 million from the Federal Highway Administration and \$1.2 million from the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation. He stated that on January 20, President Trump issued an Executive Order titled "Unleashing American Energy," which sought to pause the disbursement of funds for electric vehicle charging and that SFE was awaiting further guidance from federal partners on how to proceed. The Chair congratulated BART, SFMTA, and SFE on their grant awards and pledged continued support for all agencies in their implementation.

Chair Mandelman said he had been able to join SFMTA, San Francisco Public Works, former Board member Dean Preston, and community leaders to celebrate the completion of the Safer Taylor Street project earlier that month. He said that the Transportation Authority contributed \$2.5 million in sales tax funds to the project, which aimed to enhance traffic safety, access, and livability in this Equity Priority Community.



He stated that over 1,000 Tenderloin community members provided input on the design, which included widened sidewalks, curb extensions, a traffic lane reduction, streetscape improvements, and upgraded loading zones. Chair Mandelman said that the Transportation Authority, alongside Commissioner Mahmood, would monitor the project's impact and other similar initiatives in District 5 and citywide.

Chair Mandelman concluded by announcing that he would soon step down as Chair and thanked previous Board members for the opportunity to serve as the Transportation Authority Chair for the past four years and Vice Chair for the two years prior. He expressed gratitude to Director Chang and her team for their efforts and highlighted the work done on the sales tax renewal. Chair Mandelman appreciated the chance to gain a deeper understanding of the Transportation Authority's work during his tenure as Chair and also thanked his legislative aide Calvin Ho for their assistance.

During public comment, a commenter stated his discontent with the Transportation Authority's 2024 Annual Report.

3. Executive Director's Report - INFORMATION

Chair Mandelman noted that the Executive Director's Report was posted on the Transportation Authority website but there was no presentation planned since Executive Director Chang would present on the 2024 Annual Report (Item 6) later in the meeting.

During public comment, a commenter stated his discontent with the state of affairs.

4. Approve the Minutes of the December 17, 2024 Meeting - ACTION

During public comment, a commenter stated his discontent with the state of affairs.

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

The minutes were approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Engardio, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, and Walton (11)

Absent: 0

5. Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2025 - ACTION

Chair Mandelman called the nominations to order for Chair and Vice Chair. He said that he would not be seeking reappointment. He then nominated Vice Chair Myrna Melgar as the next Chair and praised the Vice Chair as a fantastic partner over the past several years in addressing transportation issues and emphasized the critical work ahead. Chair Mandelman noted the importance of the coming year, particularly in light of the transit fiscal cliff and changes to the national administration and their potential impacts.

Commissioner Sherrill seconded the motion and Commissioner Melgar accepted the nomination.

During public comment, a commenter stated his displeasure with the state of affairs.

A commenter opposed Vice Chair Melgar's appointment as Chair, arguing that anyone supporting a \$100,000 study for a gondola from Laguna Honda to Forest Hill Station amid SFMTA's fiscal crisis should not oversee the budget. The commenter urged pausing all non-Muni spending.



A commenter opposed the nomination of Commissioner Melgar, echoing concerns raised by the previous commenter. They cited the West Portal situation and opined that Commissioner Melgar disregarded community input.

Chair Mandelman closed nominations.

The motion to elect Commissioner Melgar as Chair for 2025 was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Engardio, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, and Walton (11)

Absent: 0

Chair Melgar expressed appreciation to her colleagues and opened nominations for Vice Chair. She nominated Commissioner Sauter and highlighted his strong interest in affordable transportation and understanding of its importance to climate and equity.

Commissioner Mandelman seconded the motion and Commissioner Sauter accepted the nomination.

During public comment, a commenter stated his displeasure with the nomination of Chair Melgar.

The motion to elect Commissioner Sauter as Vice Chair for 2025 was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Engardio, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, and Walton (11)

Absent: 0

6. [Final Approval on First Appearance] Adopt the 2024 Annual Report - ACTION

Tilly Chang, Executive Director, presented the item.

During public comment, a commenter expressed his displeasure with Vision Zero.

Marie Hurabiell expressed concern about the public's lack of understanding regarding the distinction between the SFMTA and the Transportation Authority. She noted that this confusion made it more challenging for San Francisco, regardless of the organization involved. She emphasized that the best approach to support economic recovery was to stop making it harder for people to live and shop in the city. She criticized congestion pricing, stating it would harm retail businesses. She acknowledged the efforts of staff who had worked on securing funding and on projects but cautioned that the city was facing a significant challenge. She opined that cutting costs should be the primary focus and cautioned that eliminating car usage would also impact revenues raised from cars.

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

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Engardio, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill, and Walton (11)

Absent: 0



Other Items

7. Introduction of New Items - INFORMATION

There were no new items introduced.

8. Public Comment

During public comment, a speaker expressed dissatisfaction with the government.

A commenter noted that while the presentation contained valuable points, a few issues stood out, including the \$100,000 spent on a gondola study between Laguna Honda and Forest Hill Station, which they deemed a poor use of funds. They speculated that over half of the city relied on cars, including families and caregivers who couldn't rely on public transportation or biking. They questioned the Transportation Authority's focus on reducing car use, suggesting that it was detrimental to economic recovery. The commenter speculated that forthcoming recommendations from the Muni Funding Working Group would worsen the economic situation and urged that actions making it harder to park and move around San Francisco should be stopped.

Marie Hurabiell, Executive Director of ConnectedSF, stated no city agencies had ever contacted her for outreach. She also addressed fiscal concerns, advocating for cost-cutting measures and criticized the effectiveness of Vision Zero.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.