



DRAFT MINUTES

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Tuesday, January 28, 2014

1. **Roll Call**

Chair Avalos called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. The following members were:

Present at Roll Call: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee (11)

Absent at Roll Call: (0)

2. **Approve the Minutes for December 17, 2013 Meeting – ACTION**

There was no public comment.

The minutes were adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee (11)

Absent: (0)

3. **Chair's Report – INFORMATION**

Chair Avalos reported that the tragic pedestrian fatalities at the start of the year were a wake-up call to act now to prevent these terrible crashes. He thanked Commissioner Campos for the joint SFPD hearing he held with many community members participating, and Commissioners Kim and Yee for their leadership on Vision Zero and the role the Transportation Authority could play. He said that he appreciated the Mayor's emphasis on taking action and prioritizing funding to pedestrian safety. Chair Avalos stated that to help boost response, he had asked staff to investigate how to advance an additional \$10 million in Prop K funding for immediate projects on the ground. He thanked Vice Chair Wiener for supporting this goal and working with him to guide the Transportation Authority and various city agencies in this effort.

Chair Avalos highlighted that the start of the year also saw a new approach to the management of employer shuttles by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA). He acknowledged the SFMTA's good work on the issue, and staff's 2008 Strategic Analysis Report on the subject, requested by then-Commissioner Bevan Dufty, which laid the groundwork for the new pilot.

Chair Avalos announced that the prior week, the Mayor outlined his plans for restoring the Vehicle License Fee and putting forward a General Obligation Bond for transportation this fall among other major proposals in his State of the City Address, including his call to make the free Muni for Youth Pass permanent. He said that the transportation funding was

certainly needed and he was working with community groups and agencies to add equity goals and provisions to that work, and to ensure that investments from these proposals would advance the recently adopted San Francisco Transportation Plan goals and priorities.

Chair Avalos reported that the day before, California Alliance for Jobs and Transportation California announced that it would put the proposed statewide Vehicle License Fee on hold for the 2014 election year, meaning that it wouldn't be in competition with the San Francisco measure. He explained that the proponents felt that 2014 wasn't good timing for a statewide measure – in part because of the passage of Prop 30 in 2012. He said that the Alliance was redirecting its efforts in the short-term to a partial-funding fix to redirect truck weight fees back to the state highway account where it historically was used for road repair and rehab. He said that in recent years, it was diverted to offset state general fund obligations.

Chair Avalos congratulated Caltrain on its 150th Anniversary. He said that Commissioners Wiener and Mar attended the celebration, along with Caltrain Chair Tom Nolan and Executive Director Tilly Chang. He said that Caltrain's baby bullet services had major successes and the Transportation Authority was committed to electrifying the service, to advancing the addition of a Caltrain station in the Bayview, as well as bringing the Downtown Extension of Caltrain to Transbay.

During public comment, Jackie Sachs, Citizens Advisory Committee member, stated that bicyclists should be licensed, similar to drivers, so that identification and information can be easily exchanged in the event of an accident. She also commented that a fee of \$1 per stop, per day for private shuttles was too low. She stated that private shuttle riders should be charged a fare and the private shuttle owners should be charged a fee, in order to generate more money. Madeleine Savit, founder of Folks for Polk, commented that bicyclists were not a menace to society, and time, effort and money would be better spent addressing where the real casualties happen. She said that there were more bicyclists than before, which might frighten people who were not accustomed to bicyclists sharing the road, whereas people were used to drivers behaving badly. She asked that safety be focused on an area of highest importance and impact.

4. **Executive Director's Report – INFORMATION**

Chair Avalos requested that this item be heard with Item 13.

Tilly Chang, Executive Director, presented on the Annual Report (Item 12) in lieu of the Executive Director's Report.

There was no public comment.

5. **Election of Chair and Vice Chair – ACTION**

This item was called after Item 3.

Commissioner Kim moved to nominate Commissioner Avalos for Chair of the Transportation Authority, seconded by Commissioner Mar. There were no additional nominations for Chair.

Commissioner Avalos thanked the commissioners for their support.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Campos moved to nominate Commissioner Wiener for Vice Chair of the Transportation Authority, seconded by Commissioner Breed. There were no additional

nominations for Vice Chair.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Avalos was re-elected Chair of the Transportation Authority and Commissioner Wiener was re-elected Vice Chair of the Authority, without objection.

The chair and vice chair were elected by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee (11)

Items from the Finance Committee

6. **Approve the Revised Administrative Code – ACTION**
7. **Approve the Revised Rules of Order and the Revised Debt, Fiscal, and Procurement Policies, and Ratify the Investment Policy – ACTION**

Items 6 and 7 were called together.

There was no public comment. These items were approved without objection.

These items were adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee (11)

8. **Authorize the Executive Director to Execute an Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement with Treasure Island Development Authority for the I-80/Yerba Buena Island Interchange Improvement Project to Defer the Initial Loan Payment by One Year and Restructure the Repayment Schedule While Maintaining the Deadline for Full Repayment of the Loan by December 31, 2016 – ACTION**

There was no public comment. This item was approved without objection.

The item was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee (11)

Items from the Plans and Programs Committee

9. **Appoint Eleanor Batiste to the Geneva-Harney Bus Rapid Transit Community Advisory Committee – ACTION**

There was no public comment. This item was approved without objection.

The item was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee (11)

10. **Appoint Richard Hashimoto to the Geary Corridor Bus Rapid Transit Citizens Advisory Committee – ACTION**

There was no public comment. This item was approved without objection.

The item was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee (11)

11. **Allocate \$146,825 in Prop K Funds, with Conditions, to the Department of Public Works for Sloat Boulevard Pedestrian Improvements, Subject to the Attached Fiscal Year Cash Flow Distribution Schedule and Amend the Relevant 5-Year Prioritization Programs – ACTION**

During public comment, Bob Planthold, Officer on the California Walks Board of Directors, spoke in support of this item. He said that if it helped this process, California Walks could be counted as a local supporter and was willing to provide a letter.

This item was approved without objection.

The item was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee (11)

12. **Allocate \$13.1 Million in Prop K Funds, with Conditions, to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency for Preliminary Engineering and Detailed Design for the Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP), Subject to the Attached Fiscal Year Cash Flow Distribution Schedule and Amend the Bus Rapid Transit/MUNI Metro Network 5-Year Prioritization Program – ACTION**

Commissioner Breed said that the commissioners all received the draft TEP outreach plan and she looked forward to the final plan for distribution. She said that a significant amount of money was being spent on outreach and on TEP in particular. She said that one of the challenges for outreach with the 5-Fulton in implementing the 5-Fulton Limited line, was ensuring sufficient outreach to the senior developments in the area where a bus stop was removed. She said once her office received information about the issue with removing the stop and reevaluated the situation, the bus stop was restored. She said that she would like to avoid these situations and ensure that outreach efforts reached as many people as possible, especially those most impacted in the areas being changed. She thanked everyone for their support and for bringing information that the commissioners needed to feel a lot more comfortable with moving it forward.

Commissioner Cohen concurred. She said she also wanted to make sure that seniors, public housing residents, and non-English speakers were included in the outreach. She added that the draft outreach plan was emailed out that morning and she would have liked to have a little more time to go over the materials.

Commissioner Mar also concurred. He said that he hoped to improve outreach from the SFMTA, an agency he enjoyed working with on many projects. He said that the TEP was moving away from being misinterpreted as a plan that took away from the transportation system, to what it actually was intended to deliver, namely an improved, more efficient system that was being fine-tuned for everyone in every neighborhood. He thanked the SFMTA for agreeing to provide regular updates at the Plans and Programs Committee meetings, and for its consistent use of bilingual outreach.

Commissioner Wiener spoke in support of this item. He said that changes to the public transportation system typically caused concern, but it was important to keep the big picture in mind. He stated that the reason that the TEP existed was because Muni was the slowest

major public transportation system in the country, with an average vehicle speed of 8.5 miles an hour. He said that had dramatic consequences in terms of people being able to rely on the system to get places and in terms of the cost of operating the system. He said that slower buses meant needing more buses on a line to maintain service, resulting in more spending on vehicles and more drivers. He said that by speeding up the system, even by just a few miles per hour on average, it would have dramatic impacts on reducing Muni's cost in addition to getting people to their destinations faster. He said that all of these choices and changes were challenging, but they would dramatically improve service in San Francisco. He thanked the SFMTA for its work.

During public comment, Bob Planthold said that there were many good things about the TEP, which he helped to develop as a member of its citizens advisory committee some years ago. He said that specific stops were being eliminated, which would cause people to have to cross additional intersections to get to a bus stop. He said this could cause difficulty for someone pushing a baby in a stroller, children, seniors, or people with disabilities. He said neither the commissioners nor the SFMTA had adequately addressed the reason for these and other changes or their impacts on folks with mobility challenges

Jacqueline Sachs said that the stopping buses from running at midnight demonstrated a disregard for late night workers and the elimination of bus stops demonstrated a disregard for the senior and disabled communities. She spoke in opposition to the TEP. She asked for increased service.

This item was approved without objection.

The item was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee (11)

Items for Direct Board Consideration

13. **Adopt the 2013 Annual Report – ACTION**

Tilly Chang, Executive Director, provided a presentation on the Annual Report.

For the Prop K Activity Detail on page 46 of the report, Commissioner Yee asked why there was a subtotal for each category but not a grand total of all the categories. Anna LaForte, Deputy Director for Policy and Programming, responded that the grand total was on page 47.

Commissioner Mar thanked Ms. Chang and the staff for its increased communications and coordination with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency. He lauded the agency's outreach efforts to the community, including the MyStreetsSF online tool.

During public comment, Jacqueline Sachs spoke in support of adopting the annual report. Roland Lebrun, San Jose resident, said that presentation slide 30 indicated the Central Subway tunnel contract cost was for \$234 million, which was how much that should cost for this type of tunnel work, but the Caltrain downtown extension project shows a cost of \$2.6 billion cost. He asked why a tunnel of an equivalent distance cost \$2.6 billion, which was approximately ten times as much as Central Subway's cost. He added that slide 32 indicated a total cost of \$1.5 billion for Caltrain Electrification, which would essentially provide an extra train a day. He asked the Board to look more closely at the project, commenting that

electrification would cost approximately \$600-650 million dollars more than it would cost to do the same work in Europe.

Chair Avalos stated the monthly progress reports for the Geary Corridor and Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit projects were the commissioners' desks.

This item was approved without objection.

The item was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee (11)

Other Items

14. Introduction of New Items – INFORMATION

There were no new items or public comment.

15. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.