




Memorandum

Date: 03.25.14 **RE:** Authority Board
March 25, 2014

To: Authority Board: Commissioners Avalos (Chair), Wiener (Vice Chair), Breed, Campos, Chiu, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Tang and Yee

From: Tilly Chang – Executive Director 

Subject: **INFORMATION** – Executive Director’s Report

REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

Bay Area Delegation Visits D.C. – Outlook for Federal Transportation Funding Remains Unclear: During the second week of March, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce each organized advocacy trips to Washington, D.C. Commissioners Wiener, Yee, Breed and Kim attended these meetings along with Deputy Director for Policy and Programming Anna LaForte and I. Together with other Bay Area transportation and business leaders, we discussed the importance of infrastructure investment with various federal transportation policymakers, members of Congress, and the Obama administration. The Bay Area delegation conveyed the importance of a quick renewal of the expiring federal transportation authorization (MAP-21), advocated for funding for Bay Area transportation priorities, and urged lawmakers to address the pending insolvency of the federal Highway Trust Fund which will begin operating “in the red” by August. While Senator Boxer and Leader Pelosi are committed to drafting a multi-year transportation bill, given the climate in Washington, many observers anticipate only temporary fixes (e.g. borrowing from the general fund) until after the mid-term elections this fall. However, there is a degree of optimism that the impending insolvency may provide motivation for Congress to approve new long-term revenue sources for transportation. In his 2014 budget proposal President Obama asked Congress to pass a four-year \$302 billion reauthorization bill, with increased funding levels for transit, which would provide additional funds to help modernize the country’s aging transportation system.

Local Housing Trust Fund Program - California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Makes \$8.1 Million in Matching Funds Available: In late February, HCD issued a Notice of Funding Availability of approximately \$8.1 million in funding for a new Local Housing Trust Funds Program (LHTFP), which will provide one-to-one matching grants to eligible city, county, and nonprofit applicants for the purpose of supporting the development of affordable multi-family rental and ownership housing and emergency shelters. To qualify to receive these matching funds, the applicant must have created and funded and continue to operate a local housing trust fund dedicated to the creation or preservation of affordable housing. The qualifying fund must have been formed on or after September 30, 2006 or have received a new dedicated revenue source identified or created on or after June 30, 2012. HCD will accept applications beginning on April 21, 2014 and grants will be distributed on a first-come first-served basis until the fund is depleted. Details are available on the HCD website <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/ahif/lhtf.html>, or contact Amber Crabbe, Principal Transportation Planner at amber.crabbe@sfcta.org for more information.

Mileage-Based User Fees for California Explored at California Councils of Government (CALCOG) Regional Leadership

Forum: Earlier this month, Amber Crabbe, Principal Transportation Planner, attended the CALCOG Regional Leadership Forum on behalf of the Transportation Authority. The conference included panels of experts that discussed relevant topics such as cap-and-trade, state and federal legislation, Caltrans reform, and the California experience with shared mobility programs (such as car, bike, and scooter sharing, carpooling, vanpooling, shuttles, and new models such as Lyft and Uber). The focus of the conference, however, was a summit on mileage based user fees (MBUF), formerly referred to as vehicle miles traveled (VMT) fees, and the challenges of adopting such a measure in California. Both Oregon and Washington are studying and, in the case of Oregon, actually piloting MBUF programs as a replacement to the state gas tax. With state and federal gas taxes declining in real value because of the difficulty of increasing them to keep pace with inflation, and the rising prevalence of hybrid and electric vehicles that do not pay their fair share in gas taxes at the pump, states are looking for new ways to link vehicle use with a user fee that pays for the transportation systems they use. Stakeholders from throughout California and other western states discussed Oregon's and Washington's experiences dealing with the multitude of challenges they are facing and, in some cases, have resolved, including: political opposition, privacy concerns, equity concerns, technology choices, how to set the fee, and collection methods. While most participants were dubious of the possibility California could ever implement an MBUF at the beginning of the summit, most left with a greater understanding of the challenges but a greater sense of optimism that they aren't insurmountable.

Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project - Caltrain Releases Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR): The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) has released the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Caltrain's Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The project would electrify the Peninsula Corridor from the Caltrain San Francisco 4th and King Station to approximately 2 miles south of the Tamien Caltrain Station, convert diesel-hauled to Electric Multiple Unit trains, and increase service up to six Caltrain trains per peak hour per direction by 2019. Property owners and residents along the corridor have been notified of the availability of the DEIR and interested parties are invited to several public hearings. The public hearing for San Francisco is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2014, at UCSF Mission Bay, Genentech Hall, Room N 114, 600 16th Street at 6-8 pm. Comments on the DEIR are due to Caltrain by April 29, 2014. We are currently reviewing the document and will be preparing formal comments for submission to Caltrain in coordination with other City agencies. Additional project information can be found at www.sfcta.org/caltrain_electrification. The DEIR is available from Caltrain at www.caltrain.com/PeninsulaCorridorElectrificationProject/DEIR.

LOCAL ISSUES

Transportation Authority Honors Memory of Citizens Advisory Committee Vice-Chair Joseph Flanagan: Earlier this month, we were all saddened to learn of the passing of Joseph Flanagan, our friend and long-time Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) member and Vice-Chair. Joseph was a thoughtful leader on the CAC, representing District 6 and advocating for senior and disability issues. In fact, at the time of his passing, Joseph had been working with Transportation Authority and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency staff (SFMTA) on convening a joint meeting of our CAC and the Arc of San Francisco (a non-profit service and advocacy organization for people with developmental disabilities), in order to highlight the mobility and transit needs of the senior and disability community. We will continue to honor his memory, in part, by carrying forward with the upcoming joint event. Members of the public are also welcomed to attend a celebration of Joseph's life and memorial service at the Arc of San Francisco on Wednesday, April 2, from 1 – 2 p.m., at 1500 Howard Street.

I-80/Yerba Buena Island West Bound Ramps Project - Commencement Ceremony: On March 7, 2014 Chair Avalos, Commissioner Kim's representative and my staff joined the Treasure Island Development

Authority (TIDA) Caltrans, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in celebrating the start of construction for the I-80/Yerba Buena Island West Bound Ramps Project. A celebratory commencement ceremony was held on Treasure Island with over 100 attendees including numerous DBE and SBE construction contractors. The Contractor, Golden State Bridge, exceeded the DBE goal of 12.5% for the project, which means that more local small and disadvantaged businesses are able to grow and create jobs. Several local media outlets ran stories regarding the project and its positive impacts to public safety. The Transportation Authority is administering the construction contract with completion anticipated by the summer of 2016. Construction activities started in January 2014 including clearing and grubbing, tree removal, building demolition and historic building relocation site work in the Clipper Cove area. For more information on the project, visit www.sfcta.org/YBI_Ramps_Project.

Strategic Analysis Report (SAR) on Bike Sharing - Draft Released: At the March 18 Plans and Programs Committee we released a draft of our latest SAR on potential organizational structures and business models for the expansion of bike sharing in San Francisco. The report is timed perfectly to inform ongoing discussions at the regional level on the future of the existing Bay Area Bike Share pilot. We are currently planning to bring the final report to our Citizens Advisory Committee in April and through our Board process in May. Between now and the CAC meeting we will continue to conduct research and meet with stakeholders to finalize our recommendations and address important issues such as equity in greater detail. The SAR is available for review at www.sfcta.org, and we welcome comments through Friday April 4. Please contact Michael Schwartz, Senior Transportation Planner at (415) 522-4823 or michael@sfcta.org or Amber Crabbe, Principal Transportation Planner, at (415) 522-4801 or amber@sfcta.org with any questions.

Waterfront Transportation Assessment - Needs Assessment Nearing Completion: The Waterfront Transportation Assessment (Assessment) reviews and analyzes transportation conditions over the next 25 years along the San Francisco waterfront in anticipation of proposed developments at Piers 30-32/Seawall Lot 330, Seawall Lot 337/Pier 48, and Pier 70. The Assessment is led by the SFMTA with Transportation Authority support to identify the package of transportation improvements that best address existing and projected transportation issues. The team has completed an analysis of existing and future travel patterns today and in future scenarios with and without the proposed developments. By April, the team will have completed a Needs Assessment to identify capacity, reliability, safety, and flexibility needs within the Waterfront transportation network and turn to screening and evaluating effective strategies in May. The team has been participating in a wide range of outreach activities to stakeholders. Last week, the team made presentations on this work at both the Piers 30-32 Citizens Advisory Committee Transportation Subcommittee and the Maritime Commerce Advisory Committee, and this afternoon, Tuesday, March 25, project team members will appear before the Port Commission (2:30pm, Ferry Building). For more information about the Transportation Authority's participation in the Assessment, contact Liz Brisson, Senior Transportation Planner, (liz@sfcta.org, 415.522.4838) or visit the Study website (www.sfmta.com/projects-planning/projects/waterfront-transportation-assessment-0).

Prop AA Update - Projects Start Rolling Out, Call for Projects Underway: On March 12, 2014, Commissioner Farrell and my staff joined the Presidio Trust in celebrating the completion of the Arguello Gap Closure project which constructed a new pedestrian path and bicycle lanes at a key connection point at Arguello Boulevard between the Presidio and the Richmond district. Pedestrians and bicyclists used to navigate the area by walking or bicycling along the narrow roadway shoulder, but now can enjoy a much safer facility. This \$1.1 million project was funded by Prop AA, the Presidio Trust, and Trails Forever (a tri-organization initiative of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Presidio Trust, and National Park Service). This project is among the first completed using Prop AA vehicle registration fee revenues since voters approved the measure in 2010. This fall I am looking forward to the completion of more Prop AA-funded projects, including 9th Street Pavement Renovation, 28th Street Pavement Renovation,

and Pedestrian Countdown Signals. In other Prop AA-related news, in January, we issued a call for projects to program \$1.15 million in Prop AA funds that are available due to San Francisco State University's cancellation of the Winston Drive Pedestrian Improvements project. By the March 10, 2014 deadline we received 6 candidate projects from 5 sponsors requesting over \$5 million in Prop AA funds. I anticipate bringing staff programming recommendations to the Plans and Programs Committee and Board in April 2014. For more information on Prop AA visit www.sfcta.org/propaa or contact Chad Rathmann, Senior Transportation Planner, at chad.rathmann@sfcta.org.

Vision Zero and Mayor's Transportation Task Force – Interagency Coordination Continues: As noted in our staff memorandum on expanding the Vision Zero Committee, the work of the Board and multiple agencies to initiate a comprehensive program of road safety initiatives continued this past month with the release of SFMTA's WalkFirst report, a hearing at the Board of Supervisors Neighborhood Services and Safety Committee and meetings of the Vision Zero Steering Committee. In addition, we are working closely with the SFMTA and DPW on the next steps for the recommendations from the Mayor's Transportation Task Force including a proposed \$500 million general obligation bond and vehicle license fee increase and accompanying City Charter amendment. These measures are being advanced for the November 2014 election ballot. To support the Task Force effort, we have loaned one member of our staff to work directly at SFMTA's offices for one day per week, and senior staff continue to closely monitor the City's proposed expenditure plan for the new revenues. Over the next few weeks, SFMTA Director of Transportation Ed Reiskin, DPW Director Mohammed Nuru, and I will be briefing each member of the Board on the current proposals which must be introduced at the Board of Supervisors by May.

Treasure Island Mobility Management Agency (TIMMA) – Board of Supervisors to Consider Resolution Recommending Designating SFCTA as the TIMMA: On January 8, 2014, the Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA) Board approved a resolution recommending that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors designate the Transportation Authority as the Treasure Island Mobility Management Agency (TIMMA) to implement the Treasure Island Transportation Implementation Plan (TITIP) in support of the Treasure Island/Yerba Buena Island Development Project. Next Wednesday, March 26, the Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee will consider this resolution to designate the Transportation Authority as TIMMA. The purpose of the TIMMA is to implement a comprehensive and integrated program to manage travel demand on the island as it develops. The centerpiece of the TITIP's innovative approach to mobility is a multimodal congestion pricing demonstration program that applies motorist user fees – a toll on peak period driving and parking fees – to support enhanced transit service and bicycling. In its role as TIMMA, the Transportation Authority would operate the toll for driving, and would manage the revenues from the toll, parking fees and fines, and mandatory pre-paid transit voucher to provide the expanded transit service and bicycling options. SFMTA would manage the parking pricing program in coordination with TIMMA. For more information, visit the Study website (www.sfcta.org/timma) or contact Rachel Hiatt, Principal Planner (rachel.hiatt@sfcta.org, 415.522.4809).

Geneva Harney Bus Rapid Transit – Second Community Advisory Committee Meeting Held: The bi-county Geneva-Harney Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study (Study) is proceeding on pace to present recommendations by February 2015. In February, the Study's Community Advisory Committee and Technical Advisory Committee met for the second time to review a draft project Goals and Alternatives Analysis Framework, and to hear an update from SFMTA and the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure on the Candlestick Point and Hunters Point Shipyard Development Project. The Study team began documenting existing conditions, conducted a field visit along the Geneva corridor, and held an initial alternatives development charrette. The Geneva-Harney BRT Community Advisory Committee (GHCAC) is also recruiting for a new member to represent the Outer Mission and Ingleside neighborhoods. The GHCAC's thirteen members include five appointed by the City/County

Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG), and eight members appointed by the Transportation Authority. The next meeting of the GHCAC is scheduled for April 10. For more information, please visit www.genevabrt.org or contact Rachel Hiatt, Principal Transportation Planner (Rachel.Hiatt@sfcta.org).

TDM Partnership Project – Draft TDM Strategy Nearing Completion. The Travel Demand Management (TDM) Partnership Project is a multi-agency effort to test innovative approaches to reducing single occupant vehicle driving and greenhouse gases through information, incentives, pricing, and policy change. The project includes development of a strategy document that describes shared inter-agency goals for TDM and identifies priority projects and funding needs. A draft is now complete and is being circulated for management review. The recommendations are being used to inform development of the Prop K 5-Year Prioritization Program for TDM. The document also identifies mechanisms for improved coordination among the four agencies responsible for TDM activities, including the SFMTA, City Planning, the Department of Environment and the Transportation Authority. For more information, contact Ryan Greene-Roesel, Senior Transportation Planning (ryan@sfcta.org, 415.522.4808), or visit the study web site (www.sfcta.org/tdm).

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

Contracting with the Transportation Authority - Upcoming Opportunities: We anticipate release of Request for Proposals, Request for Qualifications and Invitations to Bid for several contracting opportunities in the upcoming months. We will be inviting proposals and bids from interested firms to provide an actuarial valuation of our other postemployment benefits program; planning and engineering services for the 19th Avenue/M-Ocean View Project; construction services for Folsom and Fremont Streets Off-Ramp Realignment Project; on-call technical professional services consultant for website development; Disadvantaged Business Enterprise/Small Business Enterprise/Local Business Enterprise outreach consulting services; Systems Engineering Management services for the Treasure Island Mobility Management Program; and general legal counsel services. For more information, please visit <http://www.sfcta.org/doing-business-us> or contact Lily Yu (lily.yu@sfcta.org).

Transportation Authority Increases Regional Profile - Executive Director Joins ABAG Regional Planning Committee and SPUR Board: I was honored to be appointed to the ABAG Regional Planning Committee and Board of the San Francisco Urban Research Association (SPUR) this past month. In plan to focus on San Francisco's role in developing regional approaches and solutions to our pressing transportation and affordable housing challenges, and I look forward to working with Transportation Authority Board, City agencies, and San Francisco stakeholders on effectively advancing San Francisco's priorities through these venues