



# Memorandum

**Date:** 03.24.15

**RE:** Transportation Authority Board  
March 24, 2015

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

**From:** Tilly Chang – Executive Director 

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

## REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

**Federal Vision Zero Act - H.R. 1274 Introduced:** Last week Chair Wiener participated in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's annual trip to Washington, DC. While there, one of the topics he discussed was the proposed Federal Vision Zero Act which was recently introduced by Representatives Earl Blumenauer and Vern Buchanan. The act would create two Vision Zero grant programs within the Department of Transportation: \$5 million per year for planning grants, and \$25 million per year for implementation. The source of funding is not yet clear. It is good to see this issue which has been driven by local initiatives in cities such as San Francisco, gaining attention at the federal level.

**Self-Help Counties Coalition (SHCC) Sponsored Sacramento Day:** Meetings with Legislators, Caltrans and CalSTA: On March 18, I joined members of the SHCC for a day of meetings with the Department of Transportation (Caltrans), members of the state legislature and Secretary Brian Kelly who leads our State Transportation Agency (CalSTA). At Caltrans, we heard an update about the Department's California Transportation Improvement Program (CTIP) reform efforts including proposals to better align investments with sustainability goals and to facilitate design flexibility to support complete streets and safety initiatives. In addition, major themes throughout the day were the opportunity to provide statewide tolling authority to develop managed lanes to improve freeway operations and safety, and the need to increase transportation revenues for the state transportation system which has a \$59 billion backlog on the highway side alone. In terms of long-term solutions, Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission are already leading a Road User Charge study and pilot effort. In the near term, we are encouraged that leadership in the legislature and administration appear focused on a package of potential revenue solutions for "fix it first" maintenance efforts, and advocated for funding measures to include support for transit state of good repair in addition to highways.

**SB 378 (Mullin)- Focus on U.S. 101 Corridor:** Last week Assistant Deputy Director Amber Crabbe and myself met with Assemblymember Mullin's legislative staff to discuss his spot bill SB 378 which calls for regional cooperation to improve the US101 corridor. We expressed our appreciation for his leadership and updated him on our local efforts to study managed lanes on US101 and HWY280 in coordination with San Mateo and Santa Clara counties' related efforts. We discussed ways to ensure that transit and transit-oriented land use development are part of the corridor planning efforts, as well as how best to ensure regional partnerships with Caltrans, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and a range of civic and community groups to accelerate and maximize our efforts.

## LOCAL ISSUES

**Freeway Corridor Management Study (FCMS) - Phase 2 Prepares to Begin:** The Transportation Authority is undertaking a study to explore and recommend potential operational strategies for managing San Francisco's freeways to move more people more reliably to and from San Francisco, particularly in the U.S. 101 and I-280 corridors. These corridors are congested now and in the San Francisco Transportation Plan are forecast to see significant growth in demand. We have divided the study into two phases. Phase 1 is focused on institutional background and goals. This month's Board agenda includes an item to adopt the Final Report. Phase 2 will be the technical analysis of potential strategies. Transportation Authority staff have met with SFMTA staff and regional counterparts to coordinate our efforts. We will release a request for proposals for technical consultant services for Phase 2 next month, with the study scheduled to kick off this summer. This work is funded by Prop K sales tax funds and a Caltrans Planning grant. For more information, please contact Chester Fung at 415.522.4804 or [chester.fung@sfcta.org](mailto:chester.fung@sfcta.org).

**Geneva Harney Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Feasibility Study - Draft Recommendations Anticipated this Spring:** In partnership with SFMTA, the Transportation Authority-led Study Team has completed initial performance analysis of near-term alternatives for Geneva-Harney BRT and presented these findings to the project Community Advisory Committee earlier this month. We anticipate conducting outreach on study recommendations in late April, and we will be coordinating with the offices of District 10 and 11 Commissioners regarding workshops and community meetings. A final report will be presented to the Plans and Programs Committee and Board in June. For more information, please contact Sarah Fine at 415.522.4819 or [sarah.fine@sfcta.org](mailto:sarah.fine@sfcta.org).

**Vision Zero Committee and Task Force Meetings Held in March - 12 of 24 Near-Term Projects Complete:** The Transportation Authority's Vision Zero Committee Meeting was held on March 13th and the Vision Zero Task Force Meeting was held on March 17th. SFMTA staff reported that 12 of the 24 near-term Vision Zero capital projects are now complete. Additionally, SFMTA has recently identified 159 Walkfirst intersections that will receive at least one safety upgrade in 2015. SFMTA is also improving project delivery processes through close coordination with the Department of Public Works and by requiring that all capital projects along high injury corridors be screened to make sure that appropriate safety measures are being included. The Vision Zero education subcommittee is working on a citywide safety education strategy that is expected to be complete by May, 2015. At the state level, City staff worked to find a sponsor for automated safety enforcement legislation, but were unable to find support prior to the February deadline for introducing bills this session. A coordinated campaign will be needed to build support in future sessions. The Vision Zero Committee has asked for a briefing on this topic at its next meeting. For more information, visit the Vision Zero website ([visionzerosf.org](http://visionzerosf.org)) or contact Ryan Greene-Roesel at 415-522-4808 or [ryan@sfcta.org](mailto:ryan@sfcta.org).

**Potrero Hill Neighborhood Transportation Plan (NTP) - Outreach Conducted, Final Report Nearing Completion, and Pedestrian Improvements Projects Underway:** The Transportation Authority is leading this community-based transportation plan funded by grants from the MTC and Caltrans intended to fund planning efforts in Communities of Concern. Over the past month, the project team conducted a final round of outreach, garnering input on potential designs for pedestrian safety improvements at five intersections throughout the Potrero Terrace and Annex housing sites. We are finishing the final report, anticipated to be submitted to the Board for approval in May, 2015. Meanwhile, funding for the two sets of pedestrian improvement projects (the ones mentioned above as well as a lighting project along the back of the Potrero Hill Recreation Center) are fully identified. SF Planning - through SFMTA - will deliver the intersection parklet/stoplet treatments, and SF Recreation and Parks will implement the lighting project.

by the end of 2015. For more information, please contact Michael Schwartz (michael.schwartz@sfcta.org) or visit [www.sfcta.org/potrero](http://www.sfcta.org/potrero).

**Prop K Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Program (NTIP) – Additional Allocations Anticipated in April/May:**

Transportation Authority and SFMTA staff continue to work closely with several of your offices to identify and assist with scoping of potential NTIP planning and capital grants. We have continued vetting planning project proposals for Districts 6, 10, and 11 and exploring initial ideas for District 3. We anticipate bringing two requests to the April CAC and May Transportation Authority Board meetings. The first is a District 2 NTIP planning project to look at managing visitor access and circulation on the 1000 block of Lombard Street (i.e., the crooked one-block stretch of Lombard on Russian Hill) with a goal of a more livable environment and increased safety for all users. The second request is for an NTIP capital project to design and construct several key pedestrian and bicycle improvements at the Cesar Chavez/Bayshore/Potrero intersection under Highway 101, which were recommended in the Cesar Chavez East Community Design Plan. For more information, please contact NTIP Coordinators Anna LaForte (Transportation Authority) at 415.522.4805 or [anna@sfcta.org](mailto:anna@sfcta.org) or Craig Raphael (SFMTA) at 415.701.4276 or [craig.raaphael@sfmta.com](mailto:craig.raaphael@sfmta.com).

**Transportation Authority Convenes Transit Coordination Group – Goal to Ensure Coordination and Synergy Across Multiple Local and Regional Planning Efforts:**

Given numerous local and regional long range planning efforts that are underway or in the early planning stages – many of which have a heavy focus on transit, Transportation Authority staff convened representatives from BART, SFMTA, SF Planning, and the Mayor’s Office to ensure coordination and synergy. Relevant efforts discussed include MTC led Bay Area Core Capacity Transit Study, BART’s Metro Vision, and SFMTA’s Rail Capacity Strategy, SFMTA/Transportation Authority led Waterfront Transportation Assessment, the San Francisco Transportation Plan, and the Transportation Element of San Francisco’s General Plan among others. The goal of these meetings, which will take place quarterly, is to ensure all agencies can be aware of the latest developments in these related planning processes and coordinate to create the best solutions to meet our significant regional transit needs, both in the near term and the longer term. At appropriate points, we will bring presentations on these efforts before the Board and its Committees. In April, we have invited SFMTA staff to present an update on the Rail Capacity Study to the Plans and Programs Committee.

**Treasure Island Mobility Management – Survey Results Presented:**

Last Wednesday, we met with Treasure Island residents at the bimonthly Community Meeting. We presented the findings from our survey, conducted throughout winter 14/15, to understand the travel needs of current TI residents. The survey saw participation from about 15% of all residents, including respondents in Chinese and Spanish. The survey found that while a majority of Treasure Island residents have access to a car, most use Muni to travel off-island. The TIMMA team anticipates another round of outreach this spring to share findings from the analysis currently underway of policies to guide the future transportation system serving Treasure Island, encompassing a congestion toll that will fund new bus and ferry services and more. For more information, visit [www.timma.org](http://www.timma.org) or contact Rachel Hiatt, principal transportation planner, at 415.522.4809 or [rachel.hiatt@sfcta.org](mailto:rachel.hiatt@sfcta.org).

**PROJECT DELIVERY**

**Prop AA Vehicle Registration Fee – Two McAllister Street Projects Nearing Completion:**

Smoother pavement, easier access to Muni, and wider sidewalks are just some of the improvements included in two Prop AA-funded projects nearing completion on McAllister Street. San Francisco Public Works’ (SFPW) McAllister Street Pavement Renovation project will result in 11 blocks of new pavement from Divisadero Street to Polk Street and construction of over 40 accessible curb ramps. SFPW staff

anticipates the project to be open for use by the end of May 2015. The project is funded with \$2.21 million in Prop AA funds and \$272,000 in state gas tax funds.

The University of California Hastings College of the Law (UC Hastings) is creating a wider, safer, and more pleasant streetscape adjacent to campus on the north side of McAllister between Larkin and Leavenworth Streets. The streetscape includes sidewalk widening, a bus bulb, new lighting, landscaping, and curb extensions to reduce crossing distances for pedestrians, which were improvements called for by neighborhood residents during a Tenderloin-Little Saigon neighborhood study led by the Transportation Authority. The improvements advance the city's Vision Zero policy of building safety and livability into our streets as San Francisco works to eliminate traffic-related fatalities citywide by 2024. The campus streetscape project is funded by UC Hastings and the Transportation Authority's Prop AA program. A ribbon cutting and community tree planting event is scheduled for June 13, 2015.

## **MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ISSUES**

**Project Delivery Management - Joint Training with SFMTA:** This Thursday and Friday we will hold the first of four joint project delivery management training sessions with SFMTA and Transportation Authority staff. Working with instructors from PSMJ Resources, Inc., 120 staff will participate in two full days of a project management "bootcamp" training course. The curriculum covers the fundamentals of project management from project initiation through the construction phase. Other benefits of the joint training are learning the same vocabulary and terminology to facilitate communications and help build relationships between the two agencies. The second session is scheduled for March 30-31, the third for May 4-5, and the last session to be scheduled in July and to include recent SFMTA hires. This builds on recommendations from the SFIP and is a welcomed training opportunity for both agencies. A special thanks to Eric Cordoba from Cordoba/Zurinaga Joint Venture for suggesting the company and coordinating this effort and for Cynthia Fong for negotiating the sessions to accommodate both agencies.

**CMAA Annual Award Gala to Recognize YBI Project:** The Transportation Authority is being recognized as a Distinguished Owner Honoree for the I-80/Yerba Buena Island Interchange Improvement Project. The Construction Management Association of America is hosting its Annual Awards Gala on May 21, 2015 at the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco and will recognize the Transportation Authority for its commitment to the construction management industry. We are grateful to our construction management partners Parsons Brinkerhoff and contractor Golden State Bridge, for their excellent work on this job.

**Activity-Based Travel Modeling:** The Transportation Authority is nationally recognized for using advanced analytic methods to help inform policy and investment decision making. Our SF-CHAMP activity-based travel demand modeling system was the first activity-based model in the nation. It can consider a wide range of policies and investments and provide robust estimates of the benefits and impacts of these alternatives than traditional forecasting models. In order to further disseminate activity-based modeling practice, the Federal Highway Administration recently published a report entitled "Activity-Based Travel Demand Models: A Primer". Joe Castiglione, the Transportation Authority's Deputy Director for Technology, Data and Analysis, was the lead author of this report. The report explores ways to inform policymakers' decisions about developing and using activity-based travel demand models to better understand how people plan and schedule their daily travel. It describes activity-based model concepts and provides practical guidance for practitioners considering developing an activity-based model. Kudos to Joe!