



# DRAFT MINUTES

## SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

### 1. **Roll Call**

Chair Wiener called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. The following members were:

Present at Roll Call: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Christensen, Cohen, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee (9)

Absent at Roll Call: Commissioners Campos (entered during Item 5) and Farrell (entered during Item 6) (2)

### 2. **Approve the Minutes of the February 24, 2015 Meeting – ACTION**

There was no public comment.

The minutes were adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Christensen, Cohen, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee (9)

Absent: Commissioners Campos and Farrell (2)

### 3. **Chair's Report – INFORMATION**

Chair Wiener reported that the week prior he traveled to Washington D.C. as part of a regional delegation with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and several transit operators, including the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, Bay Area Rapid Transit, Caltrain, and the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District. He said the delegation had the opportunity to meet with members of Congress in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as with senior staff and representatives of the Federal Transit Administration. He said the delegation spoke on the critical importance of the federal government to fund transportation projects and the challenges faced in the San Francisco Bay Area, including the need to expand capacity and invest in its transit systems, and for the federal government to be a strong partner in that endeavor.

Chair Wiener stated that the federal gas tax, which funded the Highway Trust Fund, was diminishing and that it had not been raised even for inflation since 1993. He said the delegation advocated strongly for Congress to take action by increasing the federal gas tax and indexing it to inflation. He said there were several bills pending that would address the issue, including one by Representative Blumenauer from Oregon, for which the delegation made a strong case to move them forward. He said that fortunately there was some momentum in both the Republican and Democratic parties that increasing the gas tax to fund transportation made sense. Chair Wiener said overall it was a successful trip, though lobbying for any cause in Washington D.C. was frustrating given the current political

dynamic. He added that it was important to constantly remind members of Congress that their decisions or failure to make decisions had real consequences for local communities. He concluded his remarks by encouraging participation in Walk to Work Day on April 9, Bike and Roll to School Week from April 20 to 24, and Bike to Work Day on May 14.

There was no public comment.

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

Tilly Chang, Executive Director, presented the Executive Director's Report.

Commissioner Mar commented that he looked forward to the implementation of stoplets and parklets as part of the Vision Zero initiative, which he thought were creative methods to improve intersections. He voiced concern over potential further delays in the Geary Corridor bus rapid transit (BRT) project and asked how the delays would impact the citywide movement of BRT systems, especially in areas that didn't have access to light rail. Commissioner Mar stated that the delay would have the greatest impact on residents along Geary Boulevard, because the 38-Geary line was the busiest bus line west of Chicago and had over 55,000 riders per day, which was greater than the entire Caltrain system. He said he was appreciative of the efforts of Ms. Chang and Ed Reiskin, Director of Transportation at the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, to address the federal procedural delays affecting the project. Commissioner Mar said he was pleased that an effort was underway to fund early design work and that he hoped staff would do everything possible to challenge the rationale for project delays, though he understood the challenges of the Federal Transit Administration's processes.

Chair Wiener seconded Commissioner Mar's remarks.

There was no public comment.

**Items from the Finance Committee**

5. **Adopt Positions on State Legislation – ACTION**

There was no public comment.

This item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Campos, Christensen, Cohen, Kim, Mar, Tang, Wiener and Yee (10)

Absent: Commissioner Farrell (1)

6. **Amend the Adopted Fiscal Year 2014/15 Budget to Increase Revenues by \$2,959,881 and Decrease Expenditures by \$29,750,654 for a Total Net Increase in Fund Balance of \$32,710,535 – ACTION**

There was no public comment.

This item was approved without objection by the following vote:

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

**Items from the Plans and Programs Committee**

7. **Appoint Myla Ablog to the Citizens Advisory Committee – ACTION**

There was no public comment.

This item was approved without objection by the following vote:

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

8. **Allocate \$1,824,502 in Prop K Funds, with Conditions, for Seven Requests, Subject to the Attached Fiscal Year Cash Flow Distribution Schedules – ACTION**

There was no public comment.

This item was approved without objection by the following vote:

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

9. **Adopt the San Francisco Freeway Corridor Management Study Phase 1 Report – ACTION**

There was no public comment.

This item was approved without objection by the following vote:

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

**Items for Direct Board Consideration**

10. **Increase the Amount of the Professional Services Contract with S&C Engineers, Inc. by \$118,340, to a Total Amount Not to Exceed \$669,040, for Construction Management Services; Authorize the Executive Director to Modify Contract Payment Terms and Non-Material Contract Terms and Conditions; Authorize an Additional Construction Allotment of \$1,081,660 to a Total Amount Not to Exceed \$1,482,460 for the Folsom and Fremont Street Off-Ramp Realignment Project; and Revise the Amended Fiscal Year 2014/15 Budget to Increase Revenues by \$1,200,000 and Increase Expenditures by \$1,200,000 – ACTION**

Liz Rutman, Senior Engineer, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Cohen asked if the entire project site was contaminated or if the contaminants were contained in a limited area. Ms. Rutman responded that the contaminants were contained in different portions of the project site and it had been determined that most of the excavated material was contaminated by oil or lead. Commissioner Cohen asked what the site was previously used for that could have led to the contamination. Ms. Rutman responded that the source of the contamination wasn't known, but that it could have been from the infill after the earthquake in 1906, or from an ironworks foundry that was located at the site in the 1930s. Commissioner Cohen asked if there had been any reports of people feeling ill that lived or worked near the project site. Ms. Rutman responded that there had been no such reports and that for a number of years the site had been used for parking.

There was no public comment.

This item was approved without objection by the following vote:

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

11. **Introduction of New Items – INFORMATION**

There were no new items or public comment.

12. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

13. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.