



Memorandum

Date: 05.19.15

RE: Transportation Authority Board
May 19, 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

CityTripDC2015 – SFCTA joins SF Chamber to advocate for transportation: Last week, I traveled to Washington, D.C. with the SF Chamber of Commerce to advocate for a federal transportation bill and to press for support of our local capital projects. As the May 31 federal authority for transportation funding programs looms, Congress still has not come to consensus on a dedicated source of funding for capital investments. A few bright spots: the Senate Finance Committee passed appropriations of \$150 million for Muni's Central Subway project and \$30 million for the Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. And, Senator Boxer and Chair Inhofe of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee announced they would be holding hearings in June to mark up a 6-year federal transportation bill.

State Budget – Governor Brown Releases May Budget Revise: On May 14, Governor Brown released his May Revise of the state's Fiscal Year 2015/16 budget. It included a significant increase in cap and trade revenue from the January budget - the amount was revised from \$1 billion to \$2.2 billion. Governor Brown proposed that transportation receive 73% of the funding available, including \$100 million for transit operations, \$265 million for transit capital (a statewide competitive program), \$400 million for affordable housing, transit, and active transportation, and \$500 million for high-speed rail. This also represents a significant increase over the cap and trade funds available for transportation in Fiscal Year 2014/15 and we will continue to work to advance San Francisco's interests as the funds are allocated.

Caltrain/High Speed Rail Compatibility Analysis – Approaching Key Decision Milestone: We have been a proponent and advocate of same-height platform compatibility for Caltrain and high-speed rail on the peninsula for many reasons. Platform-height compatibility is a policy imperative that will provide operational flexibility, more convenient schedules, easier transfers between systems, and reduced delays when there is an incident. Platform compatibility will also save a significant amount of taxpayer dollars by eliminating the need for very expensive dedicated-platform stations at Millbrae and San Jose. Over the last few months, Caltrain and the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) have been working together towards the goal of achieving compatibility. They have studied potential vehicle configurations and consulted with vehicle manufactures about possibilities. They have also performed capacity and operational analyses, with encouraging results. As is usually the case, there are tradeoffs, and those have been identified as well. On May 20, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (PCJPB) will hold a full-board informational workshop in which Caltrain and CHSRA staff will jointly present their findings and answer questions. We are cautiously optimistic that the PCJPB will conclude that same-height platforms are the right path to a better rail service in the peninsula and the state. We are planning on having a

presentation on this subject at our Citizens Advisory Committee meeting on May 27, and anticipate that the Board of Supervisors will hold a hearing on the topic in the near future.

Plan Bay Area 2040 – San Francisco Open House Kicks Off Update of the Regional Transportation Plan: On May 13, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments hosted an open house in San Francisco as part of an initial round of outreach to kick off the update of Plan Bay Area, the regional transportation plan/sustainable communities strategy. We thank Commissioner Mar for attending the event and participating in the open house. We used the opportunity to share with the public the relationship between the San Francisco Transportation Plan and Plan Bay Area. We also announced our process for updating San Francisco's Plan Bay Area 2040 project list, which is due to MTC at the end of September. We will be working closely with agency staff to update existing projects and select new ones to include in the plan, and members of the public are also welcome to submit project ideas through the web form at www.sfcta.org/rtp or by calling 415-522-4801. We intend to present on Plan Bay Area 2040 at the June Plans and Programs Committee (June 16) Citizens Advisory Committee meetings (June 24) and bring the final project list for Board approval in September. For more information, or to request a presentation, please contact Amber Crabbe at 415.522.4800 or Amber.Crabbe@sfcta.org.

LOCAL ISSUES

Vision Zero – Special Budget Meeting Held: On April 24, the Vision Zero Committee held a special meeting to hear about how new and existing revenues will be spent on Vision Zero projects in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015/16. Staff from the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) presented the work the agency will be doing with funding from Props A (bond) and B (general fund), as well as other sources next fiscal year. SFMTA staff also highlighted some funding gaps and indicated that with additional funding, the City could do more follow-the-paving projects, implement e-citations to improve enforcement efficiency and data collection, build evaluation capacity within the Department of Public Health, and implement a large scale education/outreach/advertising campaign to get the message of Vision Zero across to San Francisco residents and visitors. Our own staff presented our draft FY 2015/16 work program through which we will support Vision Zero goals as we plan, fund and support delivery of projects citywide. The next Vision Zero Committee meeting is scheduled for May 21 at 3:00 p.m. in City Hall, Room 263.

School Transportation – Information Exchange and Data Inventory Meeting Held: Earlier this month, Commissioner Tang held a meeting among several city departments and the San Francisco Unified School District to discuss citywide school transportation needs. Today, transit accounts for about half of middle and high school trips and about 25% of elementary school student trips. Commissioner Tang is interested in better understanding parents' and care-givers' views on the topic, and in what we can do to better address both public and private school student's needs. The SFMTA, Department of Public Health and our agency presented existing limited data on school trip travel trends and attitudes. The group agreed to keep working collaboratively to scope a more comprehensive survey and study effort over the coming months.

Geary Bus Rapid Transit – Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Coordination Progressing: On May 4, we submitted to the FTA a revised Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) incorporating prior FTA comments. After two further rounds of FTA review, we will be ready to publish the Draft EIR/S. We have also been working with the SFMTA to prepare for that agency's initiation of engineering work for the near-term improvements and full project, including a Prop K sales tax fund request that is expected this summer. For further information, please contact Chester Fung (chester.fung@sfcta.org, 415.522.4804).

Chinatown Neighborhood Transportation Plan (NTP) – Final Outreach Round Held: The Chinatown NTP is wrapping up and we are preparing the final report for board approval in the June/July cycle. The report provides pedestrian safety improvement concepts for two high pedestrian injury corridors in Chinatown: Broadway and Kearny Street. The recommendations for Kearny Street will be further refined and developed by the SFMTA and the Planning Department as part of a larger study expected to begin this summer. To support that work, the Transportation Authority and SFMTA held meetings with community members representing key stakeholder organizations in Chinatown, including the Chinatown Transportation Research and Improvement Project (TRIP), the Chinese Newcomer’s Service Center, the Chinatown Neighborhood Association, and others. The interviews focused on identifying community perspectives and concerns to be addressed during the next phase of study. For more information, please contact Ryan Greene-Roesel, at 415-522-4808 or ryan@sfcta.org.

West Side Transit Access Strategic Analysis Report (SAR) – Community Focus Group Planned: Supervisor Katy Tang will be hosting a community focus group on May 21 to inform development of the Improving West Side Transit Access SAR. The event will focus on soliciting community experiences accessing key west-side transit hubs, especially West Portal and Daly City BART. Attendees will be asked how they currently use these hubs, what access challenges they typically face, and which challenges they see as the highest priority for improvement. Staff from the Transportation Authority, the SFMTA’s Muni Forward team, and BART will be in attendance. For more information, please contact Ryan Greene-Roesel at 415-522-4808 or ryan@sfcta.org.

Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Program (NTIP) – District 9 Planning Proposal on Deck for June Board Consideration: We continue to work closely with the SFMTA and Commissioners to further NTIP planning and capital project concepts in multiple districts. At this point, we have confirmed that the Alemany Interchange Multimodal Improvement Study for District 9 NTIP planning will go before the Citizens Advisory Committee in May and the Plans and Programs Committee and Board in June for approval. This planning study will develop and evaluate two proposed improvements: a multimodal pathway connecting San Bruno Avenue to the Alemany Farmer's Market, and bicycle lanes along Alemany Boulevard between Putnam Street and Bayshore Boulevard. We are anticipating upcoming potential allocation requests for NTIP capital projects in District 10 (based on Potrero Hill Neighborhood Transportation Plan Improvements to increase safety for pedestrians and access to transit in Potrero Terrace and Potrero Annex and potentially in District 6. For more information, please contact NTIP Coordinators Anna LaForte (Transportation Authority) at anna@sfcta.org or 415.522.4805 or Craig Raphael (SFMTA) at 415.701.4276 or craig.raaphael@sfmta.com.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Doyle Drive Reaches Major Milestone – Final Traffic Switch to New Facility Slated for June 1: We are excited to announce that on June 1, the northbound alignment of Doyle Drive will be opened to traffic. This marks a significant milestone for this project, which is being built by Golden Link Concessionaire on behalf of Caltrans and the SFCTA. The roadway reached seismic safety in 2012 with the opening of the Phase 1 southbound alignment project. The opening of Phase 2 marks the construction of the permanent northbound roadway and connections to the Presidio National Park and local neighborhoods in the Marina and surrounding area. Deputy Director for Capital Projects Lee Saage and I participated on recent tours of the project by Commissioner Farrell and by several members of the California Transportation Commission, one of several public agencies that approved funding. To allow workers to finalize roadway completion, Doyle Drive must be closed temporarily from May 29 until June 1. We are spreading the word about this closure and working with public safety, transit and construction officials to make sure the last of the roadway work gets done in a timely manner. Once the roadway is complete, construction activity continues into 2016 and includes removing the temporary

roadway, reconstructing Halleck Street, replacing historic buildings and covering newly built tunnels with landscaping. More information about the extended weekend closure is available on the project website at www.presidioparkway.org.

Central Subway – Tunnels Contract Reaches Substantial Completion: On April 19, Barnard Impregilo Haley, the contractor for the 1.4-mile twin tunnels for the project, completed work at the portal, the final element of the contract that also included five cross passages, headwall construction, and an extraction pit. At a total cost of \$251 million, the work was completed on schedule and within budget. Significantly, due to the careful planning and execution of the work, damage to adjoining buildings was avoided. Mayor Lee and Commissioner Christensen marked the milestone yesterday, noting that work on the stations continues, with revenue service anticipated for December 2018. Congratulations to SFMTA and the Central Subway project team!

I-80/Yerba Buena Island West Bound Ramps – Project Remains on Schedule at 60% Complete: On May 6, 2015 Chair Wiener, Commissioner Kim and my staff toured the I-80/Yerba Buena Island West Bound Ramps Project. The Transportation Authority is administering the construction contract and is on schedule for completion by August of 2016. Construction contract work is approximately 60% complete, major ongoing activities include: final foundations, bridge superstructure, and utility relocations. The prime contractor Golden State Bridge Inc. is meeting the 12.5% DBE participation goal set in the contract. For more information on the project visit <http://www.sfcta.org/delivering-transportation-projects> or contact Lee Saage, Deputy Director for Capital Projects, at lee.saage@sfcta.org.

Improved Boarding Island for Balboa Park – J-Church and K-Ingleside Riders Enjoy Safer, More Accessible Islands: Riders of the J-Church and K-Ingleside have a safer and more accessible area to board trains at Balboa Park. In recent weeks the SFMTA erected a new elevated boarding platform with an Americans with Disabilities Act-accessible ramp along the San Jose Avenue side of the Balboa Park BART/Muni Station. The Transportation Authority supported this project with planning efforts and with Prop K half-cent sales tax allocations that support the larger Green Light Rail Center Track Replacement Project, which will enhance Muni reliability and efficiency when completed. Along with the new ADA features, this stop has LED-lighting for a better night experience. The elevated platform is safer for everyone, replacing the former boarding area which put customers waiting to board within an arm's length of moving trains.

9th Street Pavement Restoration – Prop AA Vehicle Registration Fee Funds Make for Smoother Roadway, Safer Crossings: San Francisco Public Works (SFPW) recently completed the repaving of 9th Street in Western SoMa from Market Street to Division Street. SFPW's project results in nearly a mile of new pavement over 40 new curb ramps, and pedestrian bulbouts at the intersection of 9th and Folsom Streets. The project was built in coordination with PUC utility work. Pedestrian bulbouts at 9th and Folsom, which shorten crossing distances, improve visibility between vehicles and pedestrians, and slow turning, were identified through WalkFirst as a high priority location for pedestrian safety improvements. For more information on this and other Transportation Authority-funded projects, visit www.MyStreetSF.com.

McAllister Street Pedestrian Safety – Project Reaches Conclusion: On Saturday, June 13 the Transportation Authority, UC Hastings College of the Law, Friends of the Urban Forest, Tenderloin Community Benefit District and Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation will celebrate the completion of the McAllister Streetscape project. The \$2.5 million project resulted in a series of pedestrian safety and streetscape improvements, including sidewalk widening, new pedestrian lighting, landscaping, tree plantings and corner curb extensions to reduce crossing distances for pedestrians. These improvements will help the City achieve its Vision Zero policy goal of reducing traffic-related fatalities. To mark the occasion, Friends of the Urban Forest will lead a group of volunteers in tree plantings at 30+ sites in

the neighborhood. The McAllister Streetscape project was funded from San Francisco's Prop AA vehicle registration fee program supplemented by funding from UC Hastings.

Bike to Work Day 2015 - New Bicycle Projects Underway: Last week on Thursday, May 14, Mayor Lee and members of the Board of Supervisors participated along with record numbers of the public in San Francisco's 21st annual Bike to Work Day, funded in part with Prop K sales tax. We also celebrated the opening of the Polk Street demonstration project and the Fell/Oak Streets bikeways, both partially funded with Prop K sales tax. These projects will result in improved safety and comfort for cyclists along these heavily biked corridors. Prop K and other Transportation Authority-programmed fund sources (e.g., Transportation Fund for Clean Air and the OneBayArea Grant Program) are providing funding for a number of underway bike infrastructure projects including enhanced bike facilities on King Street, traffic calming around Twin Peaks, green lanes on Market Street from Duboce to Castro, a raised cycletrack on Market Street between Gough and 12th, and bike racks citywide. These fund sources have also provided funding for significant improvements that are in the works on Masonic Avenue, Second Street, and Mansell Street. For more information on these and other Transportation Authority-funded projects, visit www.MyStreetSF.com.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

San Francisco Freeway Corridor Management Study (FCMS) Phase 2 - Strong Interest in Planning and Engineering Services Procurement: The FCMS is an effort to explore new technology and demand-based approaches to managing our freeway system toward better efficiency and productivity. For the Phase 2 study, slated to begin later this summer, we are procuring a planning and engineering consultant team that will produce the technical analysis. On May 8, we released the Request for Proposals, with proposals due June 8. Our pre-proposal conference held on May 14 fielded over 20 firms, 25% of which identified them as representing Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, indicating strong industry interest even at this very early, conceptual planning stage. We will bring an award recommendation to the Board in July. For more information, contact Chester Fung at chester.fung@sfcta.org.