



Memorandum

Date: 12.13.16 **RE:** Transportation Authority Board
December 13, 2016

To: Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Mar (Acting Chair), Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Peskin, Tang and Yee

From: Tilly Chang – Executive Director *TJC*

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

REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

Washington Transition in Progress – Nominee for Secretary of Transportation Named: In late November, President-Elect Trump announced Elaine Chao as his nomination for the next federal Secretary of Transportation. Ms. Chao previously served as the U.S. DOT Deputy Secretary during the George H. W. Bush administration and Labor Department Secretary under George W. Bush. She and Mr. Trump have indicated an interest in promoting new infrastructure as a means to promote economic development and create jobs. However, details are scant about the source of any new infrastructure funding. In fact, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell this week expressed skepticism that there would be any ‘trillion-dollar stimulus’ package, stating that he was interested in seeing what the administration will recommend with respect to paying for the desired investments. We will track these developments closely as the new Administration and its policies take shape.

State Legislative Fix Proposed to Maintain National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Authority – Urgency Bill Introduced: California currently participates in a federal pilot program where Caltrans is able to approve environmental documents on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration. The state authorization waiving sovereign immunity for this program lapses on January 1st 2017, and without a legislative fix there is potential for significant project delays if environmental document review is held up. Fortunately, Assemblymember Frazier has introduced Assembly Bill 28 as an urgency bill to address this problem, which we hope will pass expeditiously and return the authorization in early 2017.

State Legislative Session Begins – Two Transportation Funding Bills Introduced: The 2017 state legislative session began on December 5th, and on the first day two transportation funding bills were introduced, Assembly Bill (AB) 1 (Frazier) and Senate Bill (SB) 1 (Beall). These two bills closely resemble one another with approximately \$6 billion in new annual funding for transportation and an additional \$700 million in one-time funding from repaid loans. Similar to funding bills introduced in the prior Extraordinary Legislative session, both proposals include revenues from gas tax and diesel fuel tax increases, higher vehicle registration fees, and the as-yet unallocated Cap and Trade funds. In addition to new funding, these bills also include a number of process reforms, including streamlining environmental review processes and staffing at Caltrans, promoting alternative delivery methods for transportation, re-establishing California Transportation Commission independence, and creating an Office of Inspector General for transportation. Our state legislative advocate, Mark Watts, has indicated there may be a related constitutional amendment proposed to allow local jurisdictions to approve transportation sales taxes with a 55% majority instead of the current two-thirds. It is promising that these bills were introduced at the start of the session, but it is still too early to say whether a transportation funding bill

will be able to garner enough support to pass. We will continue to track these funding bills and other transportation-related bills in our monthly legislative matrix for the Board.

Focus on the Future Conference California Transportation Sales Tax Counties Held in Los Angeles: With Federal and state transportation funding prospects uncertain, it is all the more important for local and regional governments to remain active in passing revenue measures to fund transportation system maintenance and improvements. Last week, several deputy directors and I attended the annual meeting of county transportation sales tax agencies at the 'Focus on the Future' Conference in Los Angeles. This conference is hosted by the Self Help Counties Coalition (SHCC) and typically focuses on an analysis of the November election and a look ahead to the coming legislative sessions at the state and federal levels. This was a momentous election for SHCC with the addition of four new counties that now have a dedicated transportation sales tax – Merced, Monterey, Santa Cruz and Stanislaus counties. We received insights on the two transportation funding bills, developed legislative advocacy strategy for the aforementioned NEPA delegation issue, and had the opportunity to learn from sales tax authorities and industry consultants statewide. I served on a panel entitled 'Attracting Choice Riders for Transit Success'. The 2017 conference will be held in San Francisco where the Transportation Authority will be one of the host agencies.

LOCAL ISSUES

Proposition AA Vehicle Registration Fee – Applications Due January 17th: In early November, we released a call for projects for the 2017 Proposition AA Strategic Plan, with \$23.2 million available for the five-year programming period of Fiscal Years 2017/18 through 2021/22. Per the voter approved Expenditure Plan, funds are divided between the three categories of Street Repair (50% of funds available), Pedestrian Safety (25%), and Transit Reliability and Mobility Improvements (25%). Staff has been reaching out to public agencies to solicit applications for this competitive program, and we welcome thoughts and ideas on potential projects from your offices in advance of the January 17th deadline. We will be presenting project recommendations for Board approval in March.

Prop K Sales Tax Supports Vision Zero – Pedestrian Safety Improvements Completed at Over 300 Intersections: The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) recently completed a two-year effort using Prop K sales tax and Prop B General Funds to install quick and effective safety improvements such as high visibility crosswalks, painted safety zones, and leading pedestrian intervals, at over 300 intersections along the High Injury Corridors throughout the city. Locations and treatments were identified through the Prop K-funded WalkFirst Investment Strategy which examined safety-related data at various locations including the number and types of collisions, and matched those locations with effective countermeasures. The strategy to use quick and effective treatments complements the work that the City is doing to implement more complex, longer-term, and higher cost improvements to reach Vision Zero.

Vision Zero – Task Force and Vision Zero Committee Meetings This Week: Earlier this morning, Anna LaForte, our Deputy Director for Policy and Programming, attended the Vision Zero Task Force meeting with representatives from some of your offices, city staff, and advocates. The meeting agenda included many of the topics that will be discussed at the Transportation Authority's Vision Zero Committee meeting this Thursday, December 15th from 2-3:30 p.m. in City Hall, Room 250. Topics include the 2017-2018 Two-Year Action Strategy update; an update on the 57 Vision Zero projects and the status of automated speed enforcement legislation; and discussion about an open letter to transportation network companies (TNC's, such as Uber and Lyft), tour bus companies, commuter shuttle agencies, etc., urging their support and assistance in achieving Vision Zero.

PROJECT DELIVERY

Geary Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Released – To Be Considered at Special January 5 Board Meeting: The Geary BRT Project reached a major milestone on Friday, December 9th with release of the Final EIR for the project. The Final EIR includes responses to each of the nearly 300 comment letters received on the draft document, as well as three modifications to the staff-recommended design alternative made in response to community feedback. We are notifying the public of the document's release and upcoming meetings through a variety of multilingual communications, including a radius mailer to residential and business addresses near the corridor, emails, social media, newspaper ads, posters along the corridor, and ambassadors at transit stops. Members of the public can view the Final EIR on the project website, www.gearybrt.org, at the Transportation Authority, SFMTA, and Planning Department's offices, at library branches near the corridor, or by obtaining a print or electronic copy from the Transportation Authority. The Geary BRT Citizens Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on January 4th to consider a project approval recommendation to the Board. A Board hearing is scheduled for January 5th to consider certification of the EIR, approval of the project, and selection of a preferred alternative, marking the completion of the state environmental review process. The project team will continue to work with the Federal Transit Administration to complete the federal environmental review process in early 2017. SFMTA is designing the project in parallel with the environmental process, allowing phased project implementation to begin later in 2017.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

Record Number of Responses Received – 43 for On-Call Project Management Oversight and General Engineering Consultant Services: On November 1st we released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for On-Call Project Management Oversight and General Engineering Consultant Services. We held a pre-proposal conference on November 9th which had 94 attendees. By the deadline of November 30th we received a record number of 43 responses, or Statements of Qualifications (SOQs). The number of SOQs is a result of a new procurement technique for this particular contract of unbundling the scope of services and establishing an eligible list of specialty consultants to provide professional services on a task order basis, which allows smaller firms to submit proposals independently. The evaluation panel, comprised of Transportation Authority and SFMTA staff, is in the process of reviewing and evaluating the SOQs. The recommendation to award contracts for this RFQ is expected to go before the Finance Committee and Board in January.

December Board Recess – December 16–December 31: As we close out the year, on behalf of the Transportation Authority staff, I'd like to thank Commissioners Avalos, Campos and Mar and their staffs for their many years of service and roles of leadership with the City and on the Transportation Authority. We have benefitted greatly from your leadership and guidance over the years:

- Commissioner Campos served as Chair of the Transportation Authority in 2012, and Chair of the Plans and Programs Committee in 2010 and 2011. During this time, Doyle Drive's phase 1 project was opened to traffic and the Central Subway received a full-funding grant agreement from the FTA, Van Ness BRT was approved, Blended Electrified Caltrain and High Speed Rail took shape. Commissioner Campos also served on the MTC since 2011, was a member of the GGBHTD and sat on our TIMMA subcommittee this year. While on MTC, he led the effort to approve Free Muni for Youth which received regional funding in 2013 and has pressed for equity, affordable housing and anti-displacement policies region-wide. At the neighborhood level, Commissioner Campos championed traffic calming and street redesigns such as those of Cesar Chavez, Mansell Avenue, Folsom, Bartlett, San Jose Avenue/off-ramp and Alemany, as well as numerous Home and School Zones. Finally, we appreciate Commissioner Campos' consistent focus on ensuring thorough and accessible public engagement in all of our projects and his strengthening of oversight across all of our operations.

- Commissioner Avalos served as Chair of the Plans and Programs (2012) and Finance Committees (2015), and led the Transportation Authority as our Chair in 2013 and 2014. He also served as Chair of the Air District and on GGHBTD. During his time as Chair, our long-time Executive Director stepped down and Chair Avalos led the appointment process that led to my tenure as Director. Thank you Commissioner for your mentorship and support to me during that transition. That year, in late 2013, we also adopted the countywide transportation plan update known as the San Francisco Transportation Plan, in which Commissioner Avalos championed the Equity Analysis that led to further equity assessments and policies at the SFMTA and to our popular Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Program (NTIP). Commissioner Avalos was a citywide advocate for Bicycling, Bikeshare and BRT, and led the Authority as we passed the \$1 billion allocations mark in administering Prop K, as well as our 25th Anniversary milestone as an agency. Within District 11, Commissioner Avalos focused on pedestrian safety and access improvements at Balboa Park Station, appointing a CAC to oversee multiple projects, and helped implement improvements to major arterials including Mission Street, Persia Triangle, Geneva, Alemany, San Jose Avenue and Mansell Avenues.
- Commissioner Mar served as Finance Chair in 2010, 2011 and 2016, as well as Plans and Programs Chair in 2013 and 2014, and Acting Chair this year. He also provided regional leadership on the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) serving as Chair of the Air District this year. Throughout his time on the Board, Commissioner Mar championed safe, affordable and accessible transportation such as Muni Forward, and the Van Ness and Geary BRT projects, Bikeshare and bicycle network improvements, Better Market Street and Vision Zero, exemplifying the moniker Multi-Modal Mar. He worked to build coalitions locally and regionally for equity and social justice, such as through the Free Muni for Youth, Seniors and Disabled program, and helped shape the region's first two Plan Bay Area and Sustainable Communities Strategies. In District 1, Commissioner Mar championed the TA's first NTIP capital project of bike lanes and resurfacing of Arguello Boulevard, as well as districtwide traffic calming, safe routes to school, transit, bicycle and pedestrian projects on Anza, Balboa, Clement Street, Arguello, Fulton, Park Presidio and of course Geary Boulevard.

In closing, we thank all of our Commissioners and your staffs a safe and relaxing holiday season. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!