



DRAFT MINUTES

SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Tuesday, December 13, 2016

1. Roll Call

Vice Chair Mar called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

Present at Roll Call: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Campos, Cohen, Mar, Peskin and Yee (7)

Absent at Roll Call: Commissioners Farrell and Kim (entered during Item 2) and Mar (3)

2. Chair's Report – INFORMATION

Vice Chair Mar reported that with the adoption of Plan Bay Area's preferred scenario last month by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments, the city was well poised to advocate for its priority projects in the upcoming Regional Measure 3 bridge toll talks. He thanked Commissioner Campos for representing the city in those discussions to be held later in the week. He said the region looked forward to seeing the culmination of this work through 2017 and into 2018, when voters would have the opportunity to approve much-needed new regional funds for transportation. He said he was hopeful that the city would come together over the next year to develop a companion local transportation funding measure that would integrate closely with the regional measure in 2018. He said this measure would fund the city's local contributions to BART, Caltrain and High-Speed Rail improvements as well as fund critical local investments in infrastructure repair and maintenance, pedestrian safety, repaving, transit, bicycling and neighborhood traffic management citywide.

Vice Chair Mar reported that there would be a Special Board meeting on January 5th to consider environmental and planning approvals for the Geary Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. He said this was a Prop K signature project that was 10 years in the making and was coordinated with the Van Ness BRT project which has just gone into construction. He said he was glad that these milestones could be overseen by the current Board, which had reviewed and supported the comprehensive outreach and technical work on both projects. He said as the city envisioned its countywide transportation plan, the Van Ness and Geary BRT projects would fill major gaps in the city's regional transit network and would upgrade several miles of Vision Zero high-injury networks, while leveraging significant state and federal funds.

Vice Chair Mar thanked each of the Commissioners for their camaraderie, leadership and collaboration on the Board over the prior year and over the past 8 years. He said together, the Board planned, funded and delivered critical transportation improvements in every neighborhood in the city and across the region. He thanked the Citizens Advisory Committee, led by Chair Chris Waddling, for reviewing every item that came before the Board, and for providing valuable input and ideas. He also thanked the hard-working staff at the Transportation Authority, and said that

he would continue to work to improve equitable access and sustainable transportation options for all.

During public comment, Peter Warfield, Executive Director of the Library Users Association, commented that the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's 7th and 8th Street safety improvement project lacked evidence of accident and safety records on the existing routes. He said that in particular, there was no study conducted on the extra distances people would have to walk and the extra streets they would need to cross as a result of reduced bus stops and rerouting of stops as part of the project. He said he was concerned with converting curb bus stops into island bus stops, which made it more difficult for people with mobility problems. He also said that a recently released report on Vision Zero showed no improvements in pedestrian fatalities.

Diana Scott commented that both the Van Ness and Geary BRT projects needed more attention, and that the buses on Van Ness Avenue would be more difficult for people with limited ability to use because of the removal of bus stops and the center island boarding. She urged the Board to delay approval of the Geary BRT Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to provide the public with more time to read the report. She said that many people still did not realize that lanes on Van Ness Avenue would be cut off and that bus stops would be removed. She said the project would increase the carbon footprint in the air, as the cutting of trees released carbon, especially mature trees. She urged the Board to look at the cumulative effects of these projects, and said there had to be a better way to evaluate the projects prior to any groundbreaking.

Bob Starzel, Director of San Franciscans for Sensible Transit, commented that he had sent a letter to the Board requesting an extension of the review time for the Geary BRT Final EIR. He said the letter focused on the fact that the Board would need to read over a thousand pages of the document to demonstrate an independent judgement rather than acting based on input provided by staff. He said that voters in the Richmond District heavily voted in favor of the two leading candidates who had doubts about the recommended hybrid alternative, but that the date of the Board meeting would exclude the incoming District 1 Supervisor from questioning or voting on the recommendation. He said the city's transportation agencies lacked a process to challenge ideas of planners and consultants and that there was not enough review by management. He requested an additional 60-day review period of the Geary BRT Final EIR from the date of its release and to meet with staff to discuss issues.

Glen Urban commented that he was a small business owner on Geary Boulevard and questioned the timing of the Special Board meeting on January 5th when the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was still being reviewed by the Federal Transit Administration.

David Hertz commented that he was a resident of the outer Richmond District and noted that had extra time and proper due diligence been taken regarding the Millennium Tower, the city may not be in the current predicament. He said he felt the same about the Geary BRT project, which needed to be updated to reflect feedback from the community. He said the project needed more time for input in order for it to be a usable product and to avoid having to spend more money and resources several years from now.

Corey Urban commented that he owned the Shell gas station at Geary Boulevard and Cook Street, and said the Board of Supervisors should visit Geary Boulevard west of Masonic Street. He said that traffic flowed freely every day except for an hour in each direction and that buses sped through the corridor so the Geary BRT project would be a waste of money.

Vice Chair Mar stated that significant community outreach had been done for the Geary BRT project and that there had been many meetings with the community and with members in the

audience. He said that the Final EIR was years in the making and that the project had faced many delays already, so it was important for the process to move forward expeditiously.

3. Executive Director's Report – INFORMATION

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

During public comment, Bob Starzel stated that the approval schedule for the Geary BRT project said that the federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) had to be finished before the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) could be considered. He noted that the EIS was still under review and questioned why that might be. He said the Board should know why prior to the Special Board meeting on January 5th or else it would lack independent judgement, which was a requirement under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director of the Library Users Association, commented that at a recent Citizen Advisory Committee meeting a member had mentioned a report on Vision Zero that showed there was no reduction in pedestrian fatalities year over year. He said projects that converted curb bus stops to island bus stops were a degradation of pedestrian safety, as was the removal of bus stops due to the extra walking involved. He added that the 7th and 8th street safety improvement project did not consider the extra streets needed to be crossed from the old bus stops to the new stops, resulting in approximately 400,000 extra crossings per year.

Diana Scott commented that according to traffic fatality scorecards on www.sfgov.org, city statistics showed a record 38 traffic fatalities for the fiscal year ending 2016, compared to 28 in 2015 and 34 in 2014. She questioned whether the Vision Zero effort was reducing injuries by reducing traffic flow speeds, and said that the city may need to increase traffic flow speeds in order to prevent pedestrian fatalities and achieve the vision.

Vice Chair Mar asked if Director Chang would like to respond to some of the comments made. Director Chang stated that the original intention was to bring the federal EIS and the state EIR for review and approval together, however due to conflicting direction from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regarding the responses to public comments the documents were split for approval. She noted there was three areas where the Geary BRT project was modified in order to respond to public comments heard during the Draft EIR/S review. She said these additional changes were in response to community requests and input which caused additional documentation and review by the FTA and therefore additional time and discussion with the State Historic Preservation Office. She added that the FTA did not anticipate any issues and had no objection with the Board taking local action prior to the federal government taking its action. She noted that the EIR was only delayed due to administrative reasons in terms of how the content was documented, but that there would be no change in content between the two documents, and that the current Board was ready and qualified to take local action.

Vice Chair Mar called Item 13 before Item 4.

4. Election of Chair for Remainder of Current Term – ACTION

Vice Chair Mar opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Avalos stated that Commissioner Peskin had extensive experience at City Hall and that based on his prior service as President of the Board of Supervisors he would recommend him for Chair. He said that Commissioner Peskin understood the transportation needs of underserved neighborhoods throughout the city, had conducted fiscal oversight for the Transportation Authority in the past, and as Chair of the Plans and Programs Committee had

implemented project financing plans which enabled projects to be completed on time and on budget.

Commissioner Avalos moved to nominate Commissioner Peskin to serve as Chair for the remainder of the current term, seconded by Commissioner Campos.

There were no further nominations.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Peskin was elected Chair of the Transportation Authority by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed Campos, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin and Yee (9)

Absent: Commissioner Tang (1)

Chair Peskin stated that the Transportation Authority had evolved from being only a funding agency 20 years ago to an agency that conducted public policy and oversight and that he wanted to build on that. He noted that the outgoing Commissioners Avalos, Campos and Mar had put policy in place around transit equity and justice, and he hoped to build on that as well. He said he had the pleasure of representing an area of the city that was rich in transit services, but that it should be the Board's primary focus to extend those services to underserved areas of the city. He noted that in times of budgetary uncertainty, the Board needed to have robust conversations about what its priorities were. He said there was a number of remarkably challenging projects on the horizon, including the Downtown Rail Extension, bus rapid transit projects, and extensions of subway routes, and that the Board needed to make sure it was fiscally prudent in moving forward with those projects.

5. Approve the Minutes of the November 29, 2016 Meeting – ACTION

There was no public comment.

The minutes were approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin and Yee (8)

Absent: Commissioners Campos and Tang (2)

Items from the Finance Committee

6. Approve the 2017 State and Federal Legislative Program – ACTION

There was no public comment.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin and Yee (8)

Absent: Commissioners Campos and Tang (2)

7. Increase the Amount of the Professional Services Contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc. by \$960,000, to a Total Amount Not to Exceed \$1,210,000 through December 31, 2019 for System Engineering Services for the Treasure Island Mobility Management Program, and Authorize the Executive Director to Modify Contract Payment Terms and Non-Material Contract Terms and Conditions – ACTION

There was no public comment.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin and Yee (8)

Absent: Commissioners Campos and Tang (2)

Items from the Plans and Programs Committee

8. Reappoint Chris Waddling to the Citizens Advisory Committee – ACTION

There was no public comment.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin and Yee (8)

Absent: Commissioners Campos and Tang (2)

9. Allocate \$6,507,592 in Prop K Funds, with Conditions, for Five Requests, Subject to the Attached Fiscal Year Cash Flow Distribution Schedules – ACTION

Commissioner Yee asked regarding the replacement of paratransit vehicles, whether the new vehicles would have adequate safety protections for pedestrians, especially in the front of the vehicles. He said that in light of the city's Vision Zero efforts, the paratransit vans were large vehicles and should have crossover mirrors that help with pedestrian visibility. Tilly Chang, Executive Director, replied that staff did not know off-hand but would find out and report back.

Commissioner Yee commented that if the vehicles did not have adequate safety protections for pedestrians he would not support the request. Director Chang replied that the request could be sent back to the Plans and Programs Committee for further discussion or a condition could be added to the request requiring confirmation of safety features.

Commissioner Yee moved to amend the item to add a special condition to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Replacement of 27 Paratransit Vans projects to require that the new vans include crossover mirrors or other comparable design features, seconded by Commissioner Breed.

There was no public comment.

The amendment to the item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin and Yee (8)

Absent: Commissioners Campos and Tang (2)

The amended item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin and Yee (8)

Absent: Commissioners Campos and Tang (2)

Items from the Personnel Committee

10. Adopt the Proposed Agency Reorganization Plan and Job Classifications – ACTION

There was no public comment.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin and Yee (8)

Absent: Commissioners Campos and Tang (2)

Chair Peskin called Items 11 and 12 together.

- 11. [POTENTIAL CLOSED SESSION] Public Employee Performance Evaluation and Approve the Executive Director's Performance Objectives for 2017 – ACTION**
- 12. Amend the Existing Employment Agreement and Set Annual Compensation for the Executive Director for 2017 – ACTION**

Chair Peskin asked if any Commissioners would like to go into Closed Session. Seeing no motions, Chair Peskin stated that the Board would remain in Open Session.

Vice Chair Mar stated that on behalf of the Personnel Committee, Cynthia Fong, Deputy Director for Finance and Administration, was prepared to report out on the Committee's recommendations. He stated that the Personnel Committee had deliberated extensively about the Executive Director's goals and objectives and congratulated Executive Director Tilly Chang on her accomplishments.

Ms. Fong stated that the Personnel Committee met on November 30th and had recommended a rating of Exceptionally Good for the performance of Executive Director for 2016, and noted that the rating was between Exceptionally Good and Outstanding. She said in terms of the amendment to the employment agreement, the Committee proposed extending the contract for 3 years to December 31, 2019, increasing salary by 4.5%, increasing the severance period from 6 to 9 months, rolling over the unused \$10,000 relocation assistance allowance from the current agreement, and increasing professional development from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

There was no public comment.

Items 11 and 12 were approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Cohen, Farrell, Kim, Mar, Peskin and Yee (8)

Absent: Commissioners Campos and Tang (2)

Items for Direct Board Consideration

Item 13 was called before Item 4.

- 13. Recognize Commissioners John Avalos (past Chair 2013-14), David Campos (past Chair 2012) and Eric Mar (Acting Chair 2016) for outstanding service to the Transportation Authority from 2009 to 2017 – INFORMATION**

Tilly Chang, Executive Director commended Commissioners Avalos, Campos and Mar for their service to the Transportation Authority, and individually recognized the projects they championed and the numerous accomplishments during their tenure.

During public comment, Peter Warfield, stated that he was a frequent public transit user and had noticed many improvements to the city's public transit system. He said he appreciated the Board's role in accomplishing or supporting those improvements, as well as the acknowledgement of the public comments made and the subsequent response by staff. He wished that the willingness to provide a measure of responsiveness was more widespread citywide.

Diana Scott commented that she hoped that future meetings of the Board would recognize the issues she raised during public comment and in the letter she submitted.

Other Items

14. Introduction of New Items – INFORMATION

No new items were introduced.

15. Public Comment

During public comment, Andrew Yip commented on destiny.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.