



# Memorandum

**Date:** 03.20.18 **RE:** Board  
March 20, 2018

**To:** Transportation Authority Board: Commissioners Peskin (Chair), Tang (Vice Chair), Breed, Cohen, Fewer, Kim, Ronen, Safai, Sheehy, Stefani and Yee

**From:** Tilly Chang – Executive Director *TC*

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

## REGIONAL, STATE AND FEDERAL ISSUES

**Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) – Moving Forward at State and Federal Levels:** In late February, prior to last weekend's fatal crash between a driverless Uber vehicle and pedestrian in Arizona, the California Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) established new regulations for testing or deploying services with AVs without a human driver behind the wheel. The DMV can begin issuing permits on April 2, when the regulations become effective, subject to certain permit conditions being met, including manufacturer's submittal of law enforcement interaction plans. On March 5, Transportation Authority staff participated in a meeting of relevant stakeholders, convened by the Mayor's Office, to review the regulations and discuss how the City will coordinate with state and local first responders. Soon after, the Mayor sent a letter to AV manufacturers asking all who intend to apply for a driverless testing or deployment permit to participate in a safety assessment exercise in San Francisco. At the federal level, the Senate is discussing the AV Start bill (Senate Bill 1885) to establish an interim framework for the deployment of self-driving technology before it is mature enough to enable specific new federal safety standards. We would like to thank Senator Feinstein and other Senate leaders for expressing our and other cities' strong concerns about the bill, as it could preempt state and local safety regulations even if federal safety standards are never developed, as currently written.

**Autonomous Vehicle Crash and Fatality in Arizona** – We would like to express our condolences to the family of Elaine Herzberg, the pedestrian who was hit and killed as she walked her bicycle across a street by an autonomous vehicle over the weekend in Tempe, Arizona. Any loss of life is one too many. We appreciate that Uber has suspended its testing not only in Arizona but also in California and other states. Given that traffic safety is one of the primary goals of autonomous vehicle development, it is imperative to understand what went wrong. The National Transportation Safety Board has sent a team to Tempe to investigate the crash and Uber has indicated its commitment to cooperating in the investigation. We hope that the investigation proceeds in a timely and thorough fashion. Safety must be the highest priority when developing any AV system.

**Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) – SFMTA Light Rail Lines Project Update:** In October 2017, the Board approved \$13,752,000 in San Francisco's 2018 RTIP funds for the Restoration of the SFMTA Light Rail Lines project. At the time, the project had a fairly generic description of the types of improvements that could be funded. At the request of California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff, the SFMTA subsequently refined the scope. It now focuses on upgrading all 83 rail-side axle counters to current technology and installing at least 20 additional axle counters to reduce the block length between Forest Hill and Eureka and outbound Embarcadero to Montgomery. These improvements will help SFMTA achieve its goal of 1-2 minute train frequencies and reduce risk of non-communicating trains

slowing frequencies to 5-10 minutes during peak loads. The CTC is scheduled to approve the RTIP program of projects at its March 21-22 meeting, and is recommending advancing the funds to Fiscal Year 2020/21, one year sooner than we anticipated. As a condition of the Board's RTIP action, the SFMTA will provide a project update to the Board for approval prior to submitting an allocation request to the CTC, but no later than September 30, 2020. Additionally, SFMTA will provide quarterly reports once the project is underway.

## LOCAL ISSUES

**District 4 Route 66 Quintara Connectivity Study [NTIP Planning] – Study Headed for Approval in April:** In July 2016, the Board approved \$100,000 in District 4 Prop K Sales Tax NTIP funds for the Route 66 Quintara Reconfiguration Study. Following Board approval, the SFMTA analyzed reconfiguration options and identified a set of strategies to improve the service and routing of the 66 Quintara and related routes in the Sunset. The project and its recommendations were informed by technical analysis, neighborhood travel behavior surveys, and public and rider outreach. The Citizens Advisory Committee will consider the Final Report at its March 28 meeting. The report includes an indication of each recommended strategy's cost and potential impact. The SFMTA has included the proposed recommendations in its draft FY18/19 budget.

**Improving Safety at SoMa Freeway Ramp Intersections - Study Outreach Launching:** Following a prior Vision Zero Ramps Phase 1 planning effort that is almost complete, staff is preparing to begin public outreach on a second Vision Zero Ramps study of how to improve traffic safety at 10 freeway ramp intersections in SoMa that are on the Vision Zero High-Injury Network. We will be reaching out to neighborhood stakeholders and groups who use the intersections to distribute a multilingual survey, gather input on users' experiences at the intersections, and solicit ideas for how to improve them. This input will inform draft designs that we plan to develop and then share with the community this summer. We aim to finalize recommendations by January 2019. Anyone interested in learning more and taking the survey can visit the project website, [www.sfcta.org/ramps-2](http://www.sfcta.org/ramps-2), and sign up for email updates. This project builds on the NTIP-funded Pedestrian Safety in SoMA Youth and Family Zone – Vision Zero Ramp Intersection Study. It is funded by a Caltrans Planning Grant and Prop K sales tax appropriation.

**2019 Prop K Strategic Plan and 5-Year Prioritization Program (5YPP) Update – Board Action on Overall Approach, Including Schedule and Outreach, Anticipated in April:** As I reported last month, we are rapidly ramping up activities to support the Prop K Strategic Plan and 5YPP update, which will be the primary focus of the Policy and Programming Division through the end of the calendar year. Among other objectives, the 2019 update is the mechanism for the Board, public and project sponsors to identify the projects that will receive Prop K funding over the five-year period starting July 1, 2019. The update also ensures we have enough cash on hand or through debt financing to meet project delivery needs through the end of the Expenditure Plan period in Fiscal Year 2033/34. Our schedule calls for Board input on and approval of the overall update approach, including the schedule and outreach strategy in April. The Citizens Advisory Committee will get a chance to weigh in on this topic at its March 28 meeting at 6 p.m. in our hearing room. We are also offering a workshop on Prop K Strategic Plan and 5YPP basics (What are they? Why are they important?) to Board aides later this week. Any questions or requests for briefings may be directed to Anna LaForte, Deputy Director for Policy and Programming at 415-522-4804 or [anna.laforte@sfcta.org](mailto:anna.laforte@sfcta.org).

**Walk to Work Day to Take Place on April 5 -** This year we are pleased to again help sponsor WalkSF's Walk to Work Day on April 5. Last year, close to 10,000 people participated in this festive day showcasing the many benefits of walking. Anyone can participate by walking or wheelchair rolling 15 or more minutes during their commute on Walk to Work Day. This year's theme is "Discover your city!" Several routes

and hubs will be set up around town, and a program will take place on the morning of April 5 at City hall, please visit <http://walksf.org/take-action/walk2work/> for more information.

## **PROJECT DELIVERY**

**Prop K Sales Tax Provides Local Match to Purchase New Muni Buses – Prototype for New 40-foot Electric Trolley Buses Arrives:** In early February, the SFMTA received the first of the new standard-length 40-foot trolley buses and is currently testing the prototype. The new buses replace vehicles that have reached the end of their useful life. They will increase Muni reliability and safety, and they feature systems and sensors allowing for full integration into the SFMTA's new Radio Communications data network as well as increased back-up battery capacity allowing several miles of off-catenary travel. All 40-foot trolley buses in Muni's current fleet will be replaced by 2019.

**Prop K Sales Tax Supports SFMTA's Paratransit Program - 27 New Accessible Vans in Service, 7 More to be Funded by Cost Savings:** In 2017 the SFMTA purchased 27 lift-equipped paratransit vans, funded by Prop K and other sources. These vans, which have been in service since last spring, are part of the SFMTA's paratransit program which provides mobility for seniors and persons with disabilities who are unable to use the SFMTA's fixed route transit. Last week, Transportation Authority staff approved a grant amendment allowing the SFMTA to use cost savings from the original (27) paratransit van procurement to purchase 7 additional lift-equipped paratransit vans to replace vans that are long past their expected useful lives.