



DRAFT MINUTES

PLANS AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 16, 2015

1. Roll Call

Chair Tang called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m. The following members were:

Present at Roll Call: Commissioners Christensen, Farrell, Tang and Yee (4)

Absent at Roll Call: Commissioner Breed (entered during Item 4) (1)

2. Citizens Advisory Committee Report – INFORMATION

Chris Waddling, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), reported that at its May 27 meeting the CAC considered and passed Items 4 and 5 from the agenda. Mr. Waddling said that on Item 4, the \$33.4 million request by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) was not brought before the CAC but that it had already been passed by the SFMTA Board and the Board of Supervisors. He said that because of this, the \$12.4 million request for buses required a waiver to the Proposition K Strategic Plan policies. He said going forward he would like to see the Strategic Plan policies adhered to more strictly.

Mr. Waddling reported that the policy of shifting street tree maintenance to property owners continued to be an issue for the CAC that deserved consideration. He said that he was excited to see the District 9 Neighborhood Transportation Improvement Program project moving forward in the Alemany area. Regarding the Potrero Hill Neighborhood Transportation Plan, Mr. Waddling said that CAC members and members of the public commented that bringing back service on the former 53-bus route could resolve a lot of transportation issues in the area.

Chair Tang thanked him for bringing up the issue regarding street tree maintenance and said that regarding the \$33.4 million request, she hoped staff could provide justification.

During public comment, Jacqueline Sachs stated that the Potrero Hill final report needed to take into account the senior and disabled residents of the area.

3. Approve the Minutes of the May 12, 2015 Meeting – ACTION

There was no public comment.

The Minutes were approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Christensen, Farrell, Tang and Yee (4)

Absent: Commissioner Breed (1)

4. Recommend Allocation of \$74,083,386 in Prop K Funds, with Conditions, and Appropriation of \$162,400 in Prop K funds, Subject to the Attached Fiscal Year Cash Flow Distribution Schedules – ACTION

Maria Lombardo, Chief Deputy Director, Liz Brisson, Senior Transportation Planner, and Colin Dentel-Post, Transportation Planner, presented the item.

Chair Tang asked about the timeline for the M-Ocean View rail line project.

Ms. Brisson responded that the goal was to have the California Department of Transportation approve the Project Study Report by the end of the year and that they were currently procuring for the consultant team to assist with the environmental review phase. She said that the Park Merced development agreement specified that a decision on whether to implement a surface alignment or another alignment would have to be made by July 2018. She said beyond that date the schedule was speculative and that full funding for the project was not currently in place.

Commissioner Yee thanked staff for moving the project along and complemented their efforts in working with the community.

During public comment, Andrew Yip commented on transportation and land use.

Jacqueline Sachs asked why funds were being used for bike facilities on corridors like Alemany Boulevard that she heard had infrequent bike usage.

Commissioner Christensen thanked staff for the presentation and noted her anticipation for the opening of the Presidio Parkway, as well as the crossing beacon at the intersection of Columbus Avenue and Francisco Street given the public housing, pre-kindergarten facility, and number of visitors in that area. She voiced her support for funding to sidewalk repairs and noted that the city had not met its obligation in repairing sidewalks on Columbus Avenue, adding that she would support Prop K funds to be used in those locations. Commissioner Christensen also voiced her support for traffic calming projects in general and noted her anticipation for continuing dialogue with the San Francisco Fire Department on how to make conditions safe for pedestrians while at the same time accommodating emergency vehicles.

Commissioner Yee asked if the Prop K funds leveraged for the Muni vehicles projects were required by another agency or if the Prop K funds required other funds. Ms. Lombardo responded that the federal funds required a 20 percent local match.

Chair Tang noted that Sunset Boulevard could be fully signalized through the approval of this item.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Breed, Christensen, Farrell, Tang and Yee (5)

5. Recommend Adoption of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood Transportation Plan Final Report – ACTION

Michael Schwartz, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Christensen said that topography was often missing from studies of the Potrero Hill area and anticipated travel choices. She asked about long-term maintenance of the area and said that maintenance around pedestrian improvements at Castro and Market Streets had been challenging. She asked if the community was engaged in long-term maintenance.

Mr. Schwartz responded that the city had been working on maintenance funding and that a prerequisite for the Pavement-to-Parks program was having maintenance funding in place. He said BRIDGE Housing would be responsible for maintenance under an existing contract. He added that in the very long term, the infrastructure being proposed could be relocated and reused.

Chair Tang commented that she was interested in the shuttle proposal, as that was something being considered to connect West Side neighborhoods to transit hubs.

During public comment, Andrew Yip commented on Potrero Hill and Chinatown.

Thu Banh, Rebuild Potrero program manager with BRIDGE Housing, commented that BRIDGE Housing was the master developer to rebuild public housing in Potrero Hill and said that it was important for residents to see interim improvements, such as the traffic calming being proposed. She also described the “walking schoolbus” that residents had developed to get kids safely to school and how the proposals would shorten the route that children must walk to school and would install lighting along the path to improve safety. She said that she looked forward to the next phase of the project.

Uzuri Pease-Green, resident of Potrero Hill, requested that those present imagine the difficulty seniors have in getting around Potrero Hill without adequate transit service and without shelters and benches at transit stops.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Breed, Christensen, Farrell, Tang and Yee

6. Recommend Approval of the Fiscal Year 2015/16 Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program of Projects – ACTION

Mike Pickford, Transportation Planner, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

During public comment, Andrew Yip commented on modes of transportation used to travel to San Francisco General Hospital.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Breed, Christensen, Farrell, Tang and Yee

7. Bay Area Bike Share Update – INFORMATION

Maria Lombardo, Chief Deputy Director, introduced the item and Doug Johnson, Metropolitan Transportation Commission, presented the item.

Commissioner Breed said that she had heard concerns over unclear pricing and asked if there were plans to increase the clarity of bike share costs for users. Mr. Johnson responded that there would be ongoing efforts to educate potential bike share users on using the system. Commissioner Breed asked if those efforts could include updating information at the bike stations to make it clearer for users, and asked how long it would take to update that information. Mr. Johnson responded that information at the bike stations would be updated, but that he wasn't sure about the timeline. Kansas Waugh, Bay Area Bike Share General Manager, added that the decals on the kiosks had been redesigned over the last year to make costs clearer for users. He said they were in the process of reviewing another design, but that there was not a set date for when the new decals would be installed or how soon the new information could be posted.

Commissioner Breed noted that the service focused mainly on local residents and expressed her concern that bike share did not exist in the city's outer neighborhoods. She noted the recent bike share service location survey and asked that outreach to the outer neighborhoods include more than just online surveys. Mr. Johnson responded that Motivate had launched a website where residents could suggest locations for bike share stations and said that they would be working with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency on community outreach over the next 18 months, including engaging with community based organizations.

Commissioner Breed noted her concern over tourists using the bike share system in regards to safety and confidence. She said there was a difference between bike share and bike rental companies in that rental companies often had staff available to explain safety issues and challenges in using a bike. Commissioner Breed asked if the bike share system could increase its efforts to communicate safety issues to users who may not be San Francisco residents. Mr. Johnson responded that Motivate had a lot of experience working with tourists using its system in New York City and that new signage would help communicate to all users how to use the system and how to navigate San Francisco. He agreed that the system should convey to all users what bike share can and cannot do. Mr. Johnson added that the bike share station maps would also be updated to include features like street grade.

Commissioner Breed stated she did not see bike share as appropriate for targeting tourists without an on-site attendant to work with people who were unfamiliar with the biking environment.

Chair Tang voiced her support for the expansion of bike share to additional areas of San Francisco, including the west side neighborhoods.

During public comment, Andrew Yip commented on bicycles and social interactions.

Aja Monet commented that bicycle infrastructure would have to be paid for and that bicyclists should have to pay some of that cost directly through fees.

8. Plan Bay Area 2040 and Call for Projects – INFORMATION

Amber Crabbe, Assistant Deputy Director for Policy and Programming, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

During public comment, Jacqueline Sachs stated that she had been involved in the Geary Corridor Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project since 1986. She said that light rail had been on the ballot in 1989 but that the project didn't receive any funding. She said that people were skeptical of the bus rapid transit idea and that light rail on Geary Boulevard was the only project in Prop B that was brought into Prop K but did not have any funding. She expressed concern that the design of the Geary Corridor BRT system would not allow it to accommodate light rail.

Andrew Yip commented on Plan Bay Area.

9. Introduction of New Items – INFORMATION

There was no public comment.

10. Public Comment

During public comment, Jacqueline Sachs stated that bus drivers she had spoken with were concerned about the design of bike lanes. She said that on Arguello Boulevard there had been conflicts with bicycles when buses had to pull up to the curb to deploy the wheelchair ramp.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.