



DRAFT MINUTES

PLANS AND PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

1. Roll Call

Chair Tang called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. The following members were:

Present at Roll Call: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Peskin and Tang (4)

Absent at Roll Call: Commissioner Farrell (entered during Item 5) (1)

2. Citizens Advisory Committee Report – INFORMATION

Chris Waddling, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), reported that at the June 22 meeting, the CAC unanimously approved Items 6 and 8 on the agenda. Regarding Item 6, the Prop K/AA allocations, he said that on the Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit request, John Larson asked about the status of \$61 million in funding from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, to which the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency said it would follow-up. Regarding the Great Highway request, Mr. Waddling said the CAC's questions centered around the project timeline, traffic impacts and bicycle facility maintenance. Mr. Waddling said that on Item 7, the update on the I-80/Yerba Buena Island East Side Ramps Project, John Larson commended the Transportation Authority for delivering the project on-time and under budget. On Item 8, the Late Night Transportation Plan, Mr. Waddling said that Peter Sachs had commented that a lot of late night travel took place between San Francisco and San Mateo County and inquired about expanding BART service to accommodate those commuters. Lastly, Mr. Waddling noted that the CAC held two special meetings on the proposed sales tax expenditure plan, and thanked the CAC for their time and input.

There was no public comment.

Consent Calendar

3. Approve the Minutes of the June 21, 2016 Meeting – ACTION

4. Plan Bay Area 2040 Update – INFORMATION

There was no public comment.

The Consent Calendar was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Peskin, and Tang (4)

Absent: Commissioner Farrell (1)

End Consent Calendar

5. Recommend Appointment of Two Members to the Citizens Advisory Committee – ACTION

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

Chair Tang requested that Brian Larkin and Santiago Lerma, who were seeking reinstatement to the CAC, as well as other applicants seeking appointment come to the podium to speak to their interest and qualifications.

Brian Larkin spoke to his interests and qualifications in being reinstated to the CAC. He said that he had missed three CAC meetings due to being out of town, and that on one of those occasions he was actually out of the country and another was to attend a transportation related conference related to his job. Chair Tang asked about his service on the CAC and why he would like to continue to serve. Mr. Larkin responded that he would like to continue to represent the interests of District 1. He added that had a background in public transportation, including at BART and the American Public Transportation Association.

Chair Tang stated that Santiago Lerma was not yet present and continued the item to later in the agenda.

Chair Tang continued Item 5 until after Item 6.

Chair Tang stated that Mr. Lerma was still not present and that she would like to continue the vacancy for a District 9 representative to the following month. She added that she would support Mr. Larkin's reinstatement, recognizing that the District 1 Supervisor was supportive of his reappointment, under the condition that absences would not become an issue again.

During public comment, Jacqueline Sachs said that she had known Mr. Larkin for twenty years, and noted that he helped write Proposition B and had served the CAC as Chair and Vice Chair during his tenure. She said she strongly supported his reappointment to the CAC.

Chris Waddling, Chair of the CAC, commented that he relied on Mr. Larkin and respected his longevity on the CAC, and looked forward to continue working with him.

Commissioner Breed moved to recommend reappointment of Brian Larkin and continue the remaining vacancy, seconded by Commissioner Farrell.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Farrell, Peskin and Tang (5)

6. Recommend Allocation of \$45,417,062 in Prop K Funds and \$141,794 in Prop AA Funds, with Conditions, for Eleven Requests, Subject to the Attached Fiscal Year Cash Flow Distribution Schedules, and a Commitment to Allocate \$3,810,006 in Prop K Funds – ACTION

Anna LaForte, Deputy Director for Policy and Programming, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

During public comment, Alice Rogers with the South Park Improvement Association said that traffic calming in South Park was very important because navigation applications were routing many additional cars through the area, which had a large senior citizen population.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Farrell, Peskin and Tang (5)

7. Update on the I-80/Yerba Buena Island East Side Ramps Project – INFORMATON

Dale Dennis, Consultant for the Transportation Authority, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Breed asked about the status of the Nimitz House and the other historical buildings in its vicinity. Mr. Dennis responded that the Quarters 10 building was relocated to Clipper Cove, but that the other historical buildings were protected in place. Commissioner Breed asked if anyone lived in the buildings or if they were vacant, to which Mr. Dennis replied that they were currently vacant but that they would eventually be available to rent for events.

Commissioner Breed asked what the plan was for the area up above on Yerba Buena Island once the ramps were completed. Mr. Dennis replied that the Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA) would be developing that part of the Island.

Commissioner Breed commented that the new ramps would make it safer for drivers to enter and exit Yerba Buena Island from the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (Bay Bridge) but that she was concerned that it could be unsafe for bicyclists trying to get to the other side of the Island. She asked if there would be a designated route for bicyclists who wanted to get a view of San Francisco. Mr. Dennis replied that TIDA's development plan for Yerba Buena Island included a two-way, 16-foot bicycle and pedestrian pathway from the Bay Bridge that would connect to Macalla Road all the way to Treasure Island, which would also have lighting installed.

Tilly Chang, Executive Director, added that while Macalla Road was closed for reconstruction over the next two years there would be a Caltrans shuttle allowing folks to get down to the Clipper Cove area, including bicyclists, which would provide a connection to the side of the Island facing San Francisco.

Commissioner Breed asked if there was currently Muni service on Yerba Buena Island. Director Chang replied that Muni operated the 25-line, but that it currently did not go to the top of Yerba Buena Island. Mr. Dennis added that the Muni line that went to the top of the Island was currently suspended by Caltrans during construction but that Caltrans was operating a shuttle in its place, and that once construction was completed the Muni service would be restored.

Commissioner Breed commented that a lot of Treasure Island residents did not have vehicles and that a lot of them relied on Muni. Mr. Dennis stated that there was currently Muni service to Treasure Island and that it was not going to decrease during the construction period. He said that as part of the Treasure Island development, there would be a transit center on the Island, which would include Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District service, as well as an on-island shuttle.

During public comment, Danny Klosta with the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition said that on behalf of the Coalition's 10,000 members, they were very excited that the east-side ramps project was nearing completion which would enable people to bicycle from Oakland to the outer edge of San Francisco at Yerba Buena Island. He said the project would create a new landing and vista point at Quarters 9 which would ensure that people walking and biking would have an adequate destination. He said that there were projections of 10,000 people biking on the Bay Bridge once the connection was complete, which would make the landing at Yerba Buena Island critical. He added that it was the dream of many of the Coalition's member to bike across the entire Bay Bridge from Oakland to San Francisco and that they looked forward to making that a reality.

8. Update on Late Night Transportation Plan – INFORMATION

Adam Taylor introduced the item on behalf of Commissioner Wiener and expressed the importance of late night transportation and Commissioner Wiener's support for the continued implementation of recommendations from the Late Night Transportation Working Group.

Colin Dentel-Post, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

During public comment, Jacqueline Sachs emphasized the importance of late night service to workers and people with disabilities and recommended that staff review bus schedules that were in place prior to service reductions implemented in 2009.

9. Recommend Adoption of the San Francisco Parking Supply and Utilization Study Summary Report – ACTION

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

Commissioner Breed asked when people traveling in San Francisco would start to experience the benefits of the many studies and projects that have been underway. She noted that the city was more congested than ever and that several studies and projects had been supported to address safety and mode shift, but she would like to see some on the ground results.

Mr. Schwartz said that the long-range plan, which was the next item on the agenda, would address some of these concerns. He noted that the strong economy brought with it increased travel demand and congestion and that the transportation improvements had not been able to keep up. He added that when the Mobility Access and Pricing Study was adopted in 2010, many members of the public said they did not perceive that there was bad congestion, which was only six years prior. Mr. Schwartz acknowledged the frustration over congestion however, and said that major expansion projects were near or under construction, such as the Central Subway, Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit, and Muni Forward, and that the public would definitely feel the benefits of those. He said that the city needed to continue prioritizing and funding projects, including consideration of revenue measures that could help expand some of the constraints on transportation infrastructure growth.

Commissioner Breed commented that congestion was increasingly getting worse and said she was concerned it was going to get even worse before it got any better.

Tilly Chang, Executive Director, said that in addition to the challenges of keeping up with the changes in the economy, the city had grown tremendously in recent years, including a significant increase in housing and jobs. She said that the good news was that strategies had been working, noting that more people were walking and taking transit and that collisions had not grown in recent years even though there were more users of all modes on San Francisco streets. She noted that transit was at capacity, including Muni and Caltrain, and that the local and state funding for new vehicles was critical for Muni expansion.

Commissioner Breed said the public also needed to consider the fact that there was a lot of construction on the city's streets which made congestion worse, and said that staff should take that into account in the long-range plan.

Director Chang agreed that the city needed to work on informing travelers of construction projects. Overall she said that travelers appeared to be driving less, and noted that the shifting of lanes from general traffic to bicycle or transit-only lanes supported the city's Transit First policy, which also reduced the number of lanes available to drivers in addition to construction. Director Chang said that this allowed mode shift in the longer-term but also could cause some increased congestion in the short-term as people made changes to their travel behavior.

There was no public comment.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Breed, Farrell, Peskin and Tang (5)

10. Introducing Connect SF Long-Range Vision and Initial Round of Public Outreach – INFORMATION

Michael Schwartz, Principal Transportation Planner, presented the item along with Marisa Espinosa, Senior Manager of the Long-Range Transportation Planning Program at the San Francisco Planning Department.

Chair Tang commented that she appreciated the hard work of staff and that she looked forward to a lot of the improvements being implemented.

There was no public comment.

11. Introduction of New Items – INFORMATION

There was no public comment.

12. Public Comment

During public comment, Andrew Yip spoke about loyalty and forgiveness.

Ace Washington commented that the Commissioners should come together around progressive causes.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.