THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO: 10.5

SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

DIVISION: Transit

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Authorizing the Director of Transportation to accept from Market Street Railway a gift of Blackpool Boat Tram #226 (aka Boat Car #226 or #226) worth an estimated $50,000.

SUMMARY:

- The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's (SFMTA) Boat Cars are an iconic part of its historic service and the addition of Boat Car #226 will allow greater opportunities to make popular Boat Cars available to the riding public.
- Blackpool Boat Tram #226 is a rare historic vehicle and a unique opportunity to expand the SFMTA's Boat Car count from two to three.
- Restoration of Boat Car #226 is necessary and is already being planned as part of an existing grant-funded project which involves restoration of similar system on its sister car, Boat Car #228.
- Market Street Railway is a registered California non-profit and long-standing partner of the SFMTA dedicated to supporting the Historic Rail vehicle program. Market Street Railway and the SFMTA have negotiated the deed of gift and agreed to transfer as an unrestricted gift to the SFMTA.

ENCLOSURES

1. SFMTA Board Resolution
2. Deed of Gift for Blackpool Tram #226
3. Gift Agreement Between Market Street Railway and SFMTA

APPROVALS: **DATE**

DIRECTOR Julie Kirschbaum November 12, 2026

SECRETARY November 12, 2026

ASSIGNED SFMTAB CALENDAR DATE: November 17, 2026

PURPOSE

Authorizing the Director of Transportation to accept from Market Street Railway a gift of Blackpool Boat Tram 226 (aka Boat Car #226 or #226) worth an estimated $50,000.

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND TRANSIT FIRST PRINCIPLES

This request supports the following SFMTA Strategic Plan Goals:

Goal 5: Deliver reliable and equitable transportation services.
Goal 6: Eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions by increasing use of transit, walking, and bicycling.
Goal 10: Position the agency for financial success.

This item will support the following Transit First Policy Principles:

1. To ensure quality of life and economic health in San Francisco, the primary objective of the transportation system must be the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.
2. Public transit, including taxis and vanpools, is an economically and environmentally sound alternative to transportation by individual automobiles. Within San Francisco, travel by public transit, by bicycle and on foot must be an attractive alternative to travel by private automobile.

10. The City and County shall encourage innovative solutions to meet public transportation needs wherever possible and where the provision of such service will not adversely affect the service provided by the Municipal Railway.

DESCRIPTION

The SFMTA's existing Boat Cars #233 and #228 are iconic, popular, and well-recognized parts of the its historic service. The addition of Blackpool Boat Tram #226, a sister vehicle to #228, offers the SFMTA the opportunity to make this open-top transit experience even more available to the public for special events and occasional service. Increasing the Boat Car fleet to three cars will make Boat Car service easier to provide for special events or regular service.

Boat Car #226 is not currently in service-ready-condition. Refurbishment of #226 will be required and is already being planned. The refurbishment of #226 will be grant-funded and is estimated to cost $3-5 million. The work is part of project FT122 which also includes refurbishment of Boat Car #228 already owned by SFMTA. Because Boat Car #228 is currently undergoing system restorations, the restoration of major systems of #226 (such as trucks) is expected to be more efficient and less risky.

While adding Blackpool Boat Tram #226 to the fleet is desirable, the refurbishment is scheduled to take place after refurbishment of #228. Refurbishment is being managed to avoid any impact to current operations or maintenance and make responsible use of

appropriate capital dollars – not operating dollars.

Market Street Railway is a registered California non-profit and long-standing partner of the SFMTA dedicated to supporting the historic rail vehicle program. Market Street Railway and the SFMTA have negotiated the deed of gift and agreed to transfer Boat Car #226 as an unrestricted gift to the SFMTA.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Market Street Railway is the SFMTA's primary stakeholder and longstanding partner in historic vehicle service. The SFMTA has helped to realize the opportunity to bring Blackpool Boat Car #226 into the fleet. While the acceptance of this gift has not undergone separate public outreach, the Boat Cars are an emblematic and popular part of SFMTA's historic rail service featured regularly in visual depictions of San Francisco's dynamic and diverse streetscape.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

SFMTA staff considered the alternative of not accepting the gift of Blackpool Tram #226. While this would avoid any future renovation work, it would mean giving up the capital dollars awarded and planned for this project. Furthermore, not bringing #226 into the fleet would make it more difficult to provide Boat Car service to the riding public.

FUNDING IMPACT

The SFMTA will be receiving a vehicle valued at $50,000 as a gift with no expectation or obligation for payment. Blackpool Tram #226 will require between $3M and $5M in rehabilitation efforts split between internal SFMTA resources and contracted services. Like much of the historic program, these rehabilitation efforts will be grant funded, with much of the funds coming from the San Francisco County Transportation Authority's historic vehicle category funding, in addition to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) formula funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

On May 19, 2026, the SFMTA, under authority delegated by the Planning Department, determined that the proposed gift acceptance is not a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Sections 15060(c) and 15378(b).

A copy of the CEQA determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors and is incorporated herein by reference.

OTHER APPROVALS RECEIVED OR STILL REQUIRED

The City Attorney's Office has reviewed this calendar item.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the SFMTA Board authorize the Director of Transportation to accept from Market Street Railway a gift of Blackpool Boat Tram 226 (aka Boat Car 226).

SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION No. _____

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's (SFMTA) Boat Cars are an iconic part of SFMTA's historic service and the addition of Blackpool Tram #226 will allow greater opportunities to make popular Boat Cars available to the riding public; and,

WHEREAS, Blackpool Tram #226 is a rare historic vehicle and a unique opportunity to expand SFMTA's Boat Car count from two to three; and,

WHEREAS, Restoration of Blackpool Tram #226 is necessary and already being planned as part of an existing grant-funded project which involves restoration of similar system on its sister car #228; and,

WHEREAS, Market Street Railway is a registered California non-profit and long-standing partner of the SFMTA dedicated to supporting the Historic Rail vehicle program; and,

WHEREAS, Market Street Railway and the SFMTA have negotiated the deed of Gift and agreed to transfer as an unrestricted gift to the SFMTA; and,

WHEREAS, On May 19, 2026, the SFMTA, under authority delegated by the Planning Department, determined that the proposed gift acceptance is not a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Sections 15060(c) and 15378(b); and,

WHEREAS, A copy of the CEQA determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors and is incorporated herein by reference; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors authorize the Director of Transportation to accept from Market Street Railway a gift of Blackpool Tram #226 ("226" AKA – the Boat Car).

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its meeting of November 17, 2026.

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Secretary to the Board of Directors
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency