Statement of Needs:
Challenges to Making the ConnectSF Vision a Reality

ConnectSF Draft Transit Strategy
SFMTA Board of Directors – July 20, 2021
Today’s Informational Presentation

- ConnectSF background
- Transit Investment Strategy
- Streets & Freeways Strategy
- Integrating the Strategies into future planning:
  - San Francisco Transportation Plan
  - Transportation Element
About ConnectSF

Phase 1
Vision
ConnectSF Vision

Phase 2
Needs
Statement of Needs
Transit Corridors Study
Streets and Freeways Study

Phase 3 Policies & Priorities
San Francisco Transportation Plan
Transportation Element of SF General Plan
Prior Work: Key Findings Recap

Challenges to Address

Create Equitable Transportation Outcomes
- Improve transportation connections for outer neighborhoods
- Improve jobs access via sustainable modes

Improve Sustainability
- Reduce emissions by shifting trips
- Further expand transit capacity
- Manage congestion

Accommodate Forecasted Growth
Transit Investment Strategy
Transit Investment Strategy Goals

▪ Build upon pandemic recovery efforts
▪ Prioritize communities and individuals that are most dependent on transit
▪ Adapt to changing travel needs between neighborhoods, not just to downtown
▪ Address state of good repair backlog
▪ Continue to reduce crowding and delay
▪ Improve connections to the region
Key Recommendations

1. Make the system work better with maintenance and restoration
2. Build a five-minute network for reliable transit service citywide
3. Increase speed, reliability, and capacity for a modern rail system
4. Build more rail where bus service won’t be able to meet demand
1. Maintain and Restore our Transit System
Five-Minute Network
Improved Speed & Reliability

Street and signal improvements to preserve transit speed and reliability

Fast, frequent service and easy transfers throughout SF

ConnectSF
Regional and Local Express Service

Local and regional transit service that runs on freeways and highways

Dedicated express lanes to destinations within San Francisco and throughout the Bay Area

Complements rail and ferries
Renew and Modernize Our Rail System

Subway renewal addresses crowding and congestion

Rebuild our aging rail network

Expand critical infrastructure that keeps trains moving

Longer trains and more reliable service

ConnectSF
Build Rail to SF’s Busiest Places
Streets & Freeways Strategy
We have limited street space

Freeways divide some communities, create negative impacts

Respond to the climate crisis

Challenges for our Streets and Freeways
Recommendations

1. Maintain and reinvest in the current transportation system
2. Prioritize transit and carpooling on our streets and freeways
3. Build a complete network for walking and biking
4. Prioritize safety in all investments and through targeted programs
5. Repair harms and reconnect communities
1  Maintain and Reinvest in the Current Transportation System
2 Prioritize Transit and Carpooling on our Streets & Freeways

- Exploring pricing to help transit and carpools move more quickly and reliably in congested areas

- Lead with equity
  - Robust community involvement
  - Discounts for people with low-incomes
  - Use revenues to improve transit
3 Build A Complete Network for Walking and Biking
4 Prioritize Safety in all Investments and through Targeted Programs
4 Prioritize Safety in all Investments and through Targeted Programs

Where successful and needed, make quick build permanent

Develop comprehensive speed management, focused on auto-oriented streets

Improve freeway ramps throughout the City
5 Repair Harms & Reconnect Communities

**Short**
- Urban greening
- Reduce truck impacts

**Medium**
- New grade-separated pedestrian crossings

**Long**
- Explore transformative projects
Outreach

▪ July – Streets and Freeways Strategy Outreach
  – Citywide online survey
  – Available in four languages – English, Chinese, Spanish, and Filipino

▪ Presentations planned to
  – Futures Task Force, Community-based organizations
  – Neighborhood and community groups as requested
  – Citywide Workshop
Timeline

- **Summer**
  - Share findings from Transit Corridor Study and Streets and Freeway Study outreach
  - Describe remaining outreach and technical analysis to support San Francisco Transportation Plan (SFTP) development

- **Fall/Winter**
  - Transit Corridor Study publication
  - Develop SFTP constrained and vision investment scenarios
  - Conduct citywide outreach
  - Adopt final SFTP 2050
  - Begin development of Transportation Element of the General Plan
What’s Next?

● **San Francisco Transportation Plan**
  ○ Long-range, multimodal investment & policy blueprint for SF
  ○ Financially constrained plan based on reasonably expected funding sources
  ○ Visionary investment strategy that considers how to invest new revenues

● **Transportation Element Update**
  ○ Guides policy implementation in City codes and project approvals
  ○ Integrates transport, land use, environmental justice, and resiliency
  ○ Receives environmental clearance
Thank you

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Reference Slides
ConnectSF Background

**ConnectSF** is a multi-agency process to build an effective, equitable, and sustainable transportation system for San Francisco's future.
When the pandemic began, congestion on our streets vanished, demonstrating the time savings riders get when buses aren’t stuck in traffic.
Renew and Modernize Our Rail System

Subway renewal addresses crowding and congestion

Envisions the next generation of subway service for San Francisco

Upgrades such as a new train control system will allow four-car trains and consistent, predictable service.
Survey Information

- Distributed via ConnectSF and related project email lists
- Paid distribution through community organizations
- Offered individual community group meetings
- Available in four languages – English, Chinese, Spanish, and Filipino
- 549 completed responses
- 3 main questions on long-range transit trade-offs, reasons why you made that choice, and an open-ended question
Initial Survey Response Summary

- All components of the strategy were popular
  - Making the system work better
  - Five Minute Network
  - Rail Modernization
  - Rail Expansion
- Five Minute Network and Major Rail Investments received the most 1st choice votes (~40% each)
  - Many said “do both”, reinforcing the need to build quick, low-cost transit improvements while we advance the long-term rail projects
- 70% listed Rail Modernization as 1st or 2nd choice
Transit Investment Strategy Timeline

Transit Investment Strategy Storymap remains available for public viewing

Staff available to present to community groups and other online meetings upon request

Outreach results being incorporated in Transit Corridors Study Report

Anticipated publication of report in Fall 2021
All Strategy Components were Popular

What types of transit projects listed below are most important to you? Please rank your choices from 1-3, with 1 being your highest priority.

- Cost-effective improvements to prioritize buses
- Improvements to our light rail system
- Major rail investments (10+ years)

[Bar chart showing rankings]
Grouped responses by demographics

% of demographic that ranked specific transit investment first

Cost-effective improvements to prioritize buses 1st
- All
- 65 Years Old and Over
- Non-male
- Annual Household Income Under $50,000

Improvements to our light rail system 1st
- Under 45 Years Old
- People of Color
- People with Disabilities

Major rail investments 1st
- All
- 65 Years Old and Over
- Non-male
- Annual Household Income Under $50,000
3 Build A Complete Network for Walking and Biking