



SAN FRANCISCO  
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

January 6, 2022

**WATCH:** (link can be found online [Citizens' Advisory Council \(CAC\) regular meeting, January 6, 2022 | SFMTA](#))

**PUBLIC COMMENT CALL-IN:** (415) 915-0757 | Conference ID: 761 115 52#

REGULAR MEETING  
5:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Michael Chen (Chair), Aaron Leifer (Vice Chair),  
Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Queena Chen, Steve Cornell, John Lisovsky, Obai Rambo, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, Susan Vaughan, Dorris Vincent, and Frank Zepeda

COUNCIL LIAISON  
Christine Silva

COUNCIL SECRETARY  
Keka Robinson-Luqman

Due to the COVID-19 health emergency and to protect our Council Members, SFMTA staff, and members of the public, the SFMTA Meeting Room (Union Square Conference Room) is closed.

**Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely. If you want to ensure your comment on any item on the agenda is received by the Council in advance of the meeting, please send an email to [CAC@sfmta.com](mailto:CAC@sfmta.com) by 5pm on Wednesday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, or call (415) 646-2388.**

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Chen called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

CAC members present at Roll Call: Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Queena Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, Susan Vaughan,

CAC members absent with notification: Dorris Vincent and Frank Zepeda

CAC members absent without notification: Obai Rambo

### 3. Announcement of prohibition of sound-producing devices during the meeting.

No announcement was made.

### 4. Approval of Minutes:

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Pilpel stated that he approved of the minutes.

On motion to approve the minutes of December 2, 2021:

ADOPTED: AYES –Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Queena Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Karim Salgado, Susan Vaughan, and Yensing Sihapanya

ABSENT – Obai Rambo, Dorris Vincent, and Frank Zepeda

### 5. Report of the Chair (For discussion only)

Chair Chen reported on upcoming presentation topics. He also spoke about the passing of former CAC Council member Daniel Murphy and adjourned the meeting in his honor.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Pilpel stated that he was very sorry to hear about the passing of Daniel Murphy. He first worked with him in the Sunset Community Democratic Club in the late 1980s. He also worked with him in the 1990s in Rescue Muni, helping develop what would later become Proposition E which, ultimately, created the SFMTA, including the CAC. He stated that losing Daniel Murphy was a loss of a great transit supporter, Muni advocate, and believer in the SFMTA.

### 6. Public Comment:

Edward Mason spoke about the issue of rail slapping at 24<sup>th</sup> and Church Streets. He stated that rail slapping is when the rail separates from the cross ties and vehicles pass over them and cause a clanging noise.

David Pilpel stated that he is having a difficult time with some of the SFMTA Public Outreach & Engagement staff. After three months, he was finally able to briefly speak with Deanna DeSedas and it was not their best conversation. He stated that he was unclear of the source of the recommendation from item 10.

#### REGULAR CALENDAR

7. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding findings under new state urgency legislation to allow remote meetings during the COVID-19 emergency; continuing remote meetings for the next 30 days; and directing the Council Secretary to agendize a similar resolution at a council meeting within 30 days. (Explanatory documents include a resolution.)

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Pilpel stated that the explanatory document was not posted online.

#### CAC MOTION 220106.01

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 54953(e) empowers local policy bodies to convene by teleconferencing technology during a proclaimed state of emergency under the State Emergency Services Act so long as certain conditions are met; and

WHEREAS, In March 2020, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a state of emergency in California in connection with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and that state of emergency remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco (the City) declared a local emergency, and on March 6, 2020, the City's Health Officer declared a local health emergency and both those declarations also remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, On March 11 and March 23, 2020, the Mayor issued emergency orders suspending select provisions of local law, including sections of the City Charter, that restrict teleconferencing by members of policy bodies; those orders remain in effect, so City law currently allows policy bodies to meet remotely if they comply with restrictions in State law regarding teleconference meetings; and

WHEREAS, On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, a bill that amends the Brown Act to allow local policy bodies to continue to meet by teleconferencing during a state of emergency without complying with restrictions in State law that would otherwise apply, provided that the policy bodies make certain findings at least once every 30 days; and

WHEREAS, While federal, State, and local health officials emphasize the critical importance of vaccination and consistent mask-wearing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the City's Health Officer has issued at least one order (Health Officer Order No. C19-07y, available online at [www.sfdph.org/healthorders](http://www.sfdph.org/healthorders)) and one directive (Health Officer Directive No. 2020-33i, available online at <http://www.sfdph.org/directives>) that continue to

recommend measures to promote physical distancing and other social distancing measures, such as masking, in certain contexts; and

WHEREAS, The California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) has promulgated Section 3205 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, which requires most employers in California, including in the City, to train and instruct employees about measures that can decrease the spread of COVID-19, including physical distancing and other social distancing measures; and

WHEREAS, Without limiting any requirements under applicable federal, state, or local pandemic-related rules, orders, or directives, the City's Department of Public Health, in coordination with the City's Health Officer, has advised that for group gatherings indoors, such as meetings of boards and commissions, people can increase safety and greatly reduce risks to the health and safety of attendees from COVID-19 by maximizing ventilation, wearing well-fitting masks (as required by Health Officer Order No. C19-07), using physical distancing where the vaccination status of attendees is not known, and considering holding the meeting remotely if feasible, especially for long meetings, with any attendees with unknown vaccination status and where ventilation may not be optimal; and

WHEREAS, On July 31, 2020, the Mayor issued an emergency order that, with limited exceptions, prohibited policy bodies other than the Board of Supervisors and its committees from meeting in person under any circumstances, so as to ensure the safety of policy body members, City staff, and the public; and

WHEREAS, The SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council has met remotely during the COVID-19 emergency and can continue to do so in a manner that allows public participation and transparency while minimizing health risks to members, staff, and the public that would be present with in-person meetings while this emergency continues; and

WHEREAS, On September 27, 2021, the SFMTA, under authority delegated by the Planning Department, determined that the AB 361 findings described above are 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 Citizens' Advisory Council and is incorporated herein by reference;

WHEREAS, On October 14, 2021, in Recommendation No. 211014-117, the Council adopted the recommended findings allowing it to continue to meet remotely for 30 days; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council finds as follows:

1. As described above, the State of California and the City remain in a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this meeting, the Council has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.
2. As described above, State and City officials continue to recommend measures to promote physical distancing and other social distancing measures, in some

settings.

3. As described above, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, conducting meetings of this body and its committees in person would present imminent risks to the safety of attendees, and the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members to meet safely in person; and, be it further

RESOLVED, for at least the next 30 days, meetings of the SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council and its committees will continue to occur exclusively by teleconferencing technology (and not by any in-person meetings or any other meetings with public access to the places where any policy body member is present for the meeting). Such meetings of the Council and its committees that occur by teleconferencing technology will provide an opportunity for members of the public to address this body and its committees and will otherwise occur in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of parties and the members of the public attending the meeting via teleconferencing; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Council Secretary is directed to place a resolution substantially similar to this resolution on the agenda of a future meeting of The SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council within the next 30 days. If the Council does not meet within the next 30 days, the Council Secretary is directed to place such a resolution on the agenda of the next meeting of the Council.

ADOPTED: AYES –Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Queena Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Karim Salgado, Susan Vaughan, and Yensing Sihapanya

ABSENT – Obai Rambo, Dorris Vincent, and Frank Zepeda

8. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the Evans Avenue Quick-Build Project. (Adrienne Heim, Transportation Planner. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

Ellen Robinson, Project Manager, presented the item.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Pilpel asked staff to explain about coordination with Public Utilities Commission. Reducing capacity on Evans Avenue will shift traffic to Oakdale and Palou Streets. He inquired if this would go to an engineering hearing or if it will go straight to the SFMTA board meeting. He suggested the CAC get a monthly report on what programs are currently having outreach and surveys.

CAC MOTION 220106.02

The SFMTA CAC supports the staff recommendation for Option 3 for the Evans Avenue Quick Build. This option was preferred by the public and provides the most balanced solution to ensure pedestrian and cyclist safety while preserving the flow of traffic in

the area. In the future, the CAC advocates for more protected bicycle infrastructure, signal improvements, street lighting, and better pavement quality for Evans Avenue.

Members of the public expressing neither support nor opposition: David Pilpel

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES –Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Queena Chen, Aaron Leifer,  
John Lisovsky, Karim Salgado, Susan Vaughan, Yensing Sihapanya,  
NAYES – Stephen Cornell  
ABSENT – Obai Rambo, Dorris Vincent, and Frank Zepeda

9. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the SFMTA 2022 Legislative Program. (Monique Webster, Manager, Regional Government Affairs. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

Kate Breen, Director, Government Affairs presented the item.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tom Barton stated that he has lived in the City for 67 years. He asked what the point is of buses having forward-facing cameras if the chance of a driver getting a ticket for being parked in a bus zone is slim to none.

David Pilpel asked about Transportation Development Act (TDA) reform. He also inquired if the State Legislation Committee will be reconvening their meetings in January of 2022.

Edward Mason stated that Senate Bill 288 seemed to circumvent the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirement. He is confused about the current legislation and requested a diagram detailing the existing legislation and the changes being made. He also discussed scooters on sidewalks.

10. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the following motion:

The SFMTA CAC supports Slow Lake Street, as authorized by the SFMTA Board of Directors on August 3, 2021. Slow Lake Street supports the agency's goals to improve quality of life, promote sustainable transportation, and protect public health and safety. In the design survey, the CAC opposes Proposal 4, the reversion of Lake Street to its 2019 configuration and its removal from the Slow Streets Network.

No public comment.

CAC MOTION 220106.03

The SFMTA CAC supports Slow Lake Street, as authorized by the SFMTA Board of Directors on August 3, 2021. Slow Lake Street supports the agency's goals to improve quality of life, promote sustainable transportation, and protect public health and safety.

It is one of the most popular Slow Streets in the network and provides an important east-west connection to other walking/biking paths, parks, and playgrounds.

A Fall 2021 survey shows that (a) 84% of Lake Street users, and 67% of Lake Street residents, support permanent Slow Lake Street; (b) that Lake Slow Street has reduced the rate of collisions by half; (c) that Lake Slow Street receives over 2000 daily visitors on foot and bicycle, while also 600 vehicles; (d) and that SFMTA data does not show heavy congestion impact on neighboring streets. In spite of strong support from the community, SFMTA staff has added a no-build Option 4 in the design survey that would revert Lake Street to its pre-pandemic configuration, in response to demands from a vocal minority.

The CAC opposes the no-build proposal and supports the continuation of Lake Slow Street. The CAC urges the SFMTA to design Slow Lake Street streets to prioritize safety, sustainable transportation for seniors and families who walk or bike, and reduce cut-through traffic.

Members of the public expressing opposition: David Pilpel

On motion to approve:

FAILED ADOPTION: AYES –Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya,  
NAYES – Queena Chen, Stephen Cornell, Susan Vaughan,  
ABSENT – Obai Rambo, Dorris Vincent, and Frank Zepeda

#### 11. Council Member Information and Agenda Item Requests. (For discussion only)

Sue Vaughan requested more information regarding scooter compliance.

John Lisovsky asked how many scooter-caused pedestrian fatalities there have been to date.

No public comment.

ADJOURN- The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m. in memory of Citizens' Advisory Council founding member Daniel Murphy.



Keka Robinson-Luqman  
SFMTA CAC – Secretary

Next regular meeting: Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm | Online via Microsoft Teams