



# San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency **Citizens' Advisory Council**

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SFMTA

## **MINUTES • Meeting Date: September 1, 2022**

### **REGULAR MEETING**

5:30 pm

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 the Wednesday before the meeting or call (415) 646-2388.

### **REMOTE MEETING ACCESS**

WATCH: (link can be found online <https://www.sfmta.com/calendar/citizens-advisory-council-cac-regular-meeting-september-1-2022>)

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

### **SFMTA CITIZENS' ADVISORY 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  
Connor Skelly  
Susan Vaughan  
Dorris Vincent  
Frank Zepeda

### **COUNCIL LIAISON**

Christine Silva

### **COUNCIL SECRETARY**

Keka Robinson-Luqman



## **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### 1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Leifer called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

CAC members present at Roll Call: Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Aaron Leifer, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

CAC members absent at roll call: Queena Chen

CAC members absent with notification: Stephen Cornell

CAC members absent without notification: John Lisovsky, Obai Rambo, and Dorris Vincent

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

No announcement was made.

### 4. Approval of Minutes:

Paula Katz asked for her public comment from the August 4<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting be amended.

On motion to approve the minutes of August 4, 2022:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Aaron Leifer, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

ABSENT – Queena Chen, Stephen Cornell, John Lisovsky, Obai Rambo, and Dorris Vincent

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

Chair Chen reported that the SF Transit Riders group has invited the CAC to the kick-off of transit month.

No public comment.

### 6. Public Comment

No public comment.



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## **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.)

CAC MOTION 220901.01

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



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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



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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.

No public comment.

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

ABSENT – Queena Chen, John Lisovsky, Obai Rambo, and Dorris Vincent

8. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding proposed taxi meter rate increases. (Sarah Hellman, Regulated Mobility Permit Manager. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

Forest Barnes, Transportation Planner, presented the item.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Barry Taranto stated that Taxi drivers feel comfortable to ask for a raise due to rising gas prices and increases in Uber and Lyft rates. He hoped that it wouldn't give the cab companies the idea to raise fees that drivers pay to them.



Mark Gruberg spoke in favor of the rate increase. There needs to be some protection for drivers so that gate fees do not go up for taxi drivers.

Evelyn Engel stated that a taxi drivers' net earnings is a combination of what they take in from their meter and what they pay out to cab companies and in gas. It would be helpful to address this.

CAC MOTION 220901.02

WHEREAS taxi meter rates have not increased in San Francisco since 2011 while the Consumer Price Index has increased by more than 40% during the same timeframe, jeopardizing the long-term viability of the SF taxi industry

WHEREAS the taxi fleet in San Francisco is 90% green (hybrid or better), but gas prices have increased by more than 50% since 2011; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council RECOMMENDS that the SFMTA Board of Directors:

1. Adopt the proposed fare increases as proposed by staff as soon as practicable
2. Proportionally increase the paratransit and ETC allowance to protect impacted vulnerable riders
3. Implement a short-term, tiered fuel surcharge based on trip length (based on fare) until the fare increases can take effect:
  - a. \$1 for rides up to \$20
  - b. \$2 for rides between \$20 and \$40
  - c. \$3 for rides above \$40
4. Implement an annual indexed review and increase policy to minimize rider "sticker shock" from future increases

Members of the public expressing support: Barry Taranto, Mark Gruberg, and Evelyn Engel

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Queena Chen, Aaron Leifer, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly, Susan Vaughan and Frank Zepeda

ABSENT – Stephen Cornell, John Lisovsky, Obai Rambo, and Dorris Vincent

9. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the Engineering, Maintenance, and Safety Committee (EMSC) report and recommendations.



Frank Zepeda, Chair, EMSC, presented the item.

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

None.

No public comment.

**ADJOURN** - The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keka Robinson-Luqman".

Keka Robinson-Luqman  
SFMTA CAC – Secretary

Next regular meeting: Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm | Online via Microsoft Teams