



San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Citizens' Advisory Council

MINUTES • Meeting Date: October 6, 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 by 5 p.m. the day 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-october-6-2022>)

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

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

2. Roll Call

CAC members present at Roll Call: Chris Arvin, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Obai Rambo, Yensing Sihapanya, and Connor Skelly

CAC members absent at Roll Call: Susan Vaughan

CAC members absent with notification: Sascha Bittner, Queena Chen, Karim Salgado, and Frank Zepeda

CAC members absent without notification: Dorris Vincent

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

No announcement was made.

4. Approval of Minutes:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Pilpel suggested changing the word “for” to “that” in a public comment on page two.

On motion to approve the minutes of September 1, 2022:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Obai Rambo, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly

ABSENT – Sascha Bittner, Queena Chen, Karim Salgado, and Frank Zepeda
Susan Vaughan, and Dorris Vincent

5. Report of the Chair (For discussion only)

Chair Chen reported on the opening of Central Subway and upcoming meeting presentations.

No public comment.

6. Public Comment

David Pilpel discussed the campaign to address gender-based harassment on board Muni vehicles. He asked where the agency is with passenger conduct regulations.



Edward Mason said during a transfer from the 48 Quintara line to the 49 Van Ness line, he found the platform to be dirty. The Next Bus sign was reporting inaccurate arrival times as well. He also discussed the commuter shuttle program. Storer bus number 442 is now in its second year of operating without a permit.

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.)

No public comment.

CAC MOTION 221006.01

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) 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, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Obai Rambo, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly, Susan Vaughan

ABSENT – Sascha Bittner, Queena Chen, Karim Salgado, Dorris Vincent, and Frank Zepeda

8. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding Quarterly Transit Update. (Julie Kirschbaum, Director, Transit. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

Julie Kirschbaum, Director, Transit presented the item.



PUBLIC COMMENT:

Written 150-Word Public Testimony by Kathy Setian for Minutes of SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council Regular Meeting 10-06-22: Agenda Item 8, Quarterly Transit Update:

1. Pleased to see that the J Church will continue to run downtown.
2. J riders stunned that current MTA web pages claim the disastrous attempt to confine the J Church to surface only operation is "a model of success". This operation caused hardships for many transit riders including seniors, people with disabilities, women traveling alone, children going to school, etc.
3. On the eve of the last election, Jeff Tumlin stunned the Noe Valley Democratic club by expressing pride in the failed forced transfer experiment. The next day, Noe Valley voters rejected the Muni funding proposition with less than 2/3 in favor.
4. J rider's live-text: He is on a packed J, but thankful to go home without transfer. MTA should equitably increase service on the J – "If you build it they will come."
5. Riders of both the J and L lines are united against forced transfers.

David Hooper stated that transfers at West Portal are unacceptable. People need to know they have a transit line that will take them all the way downtown.

David Pilpel inquired if the passageway near Duboce junction was cleaned during fix-it week. He is against forced transfers. Having four lines turn at Embarcadero is going to be problematic.

Written 150-Word Public Testimony by Paula Katz for Minutes of SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council Regular Meeting 10-06-22: Agenda Item 8, Quarterly Transit Update:

1. The City Charter requires Board approval of significant changes in bus line routes. MTA reports the City Attorney orally said MTA didn't need Board approval to eliminate more than half the L Bus route because it is a temporary bus line created during construction, or something like that. As the Charter has no exceptions for such a bus line or any other exceptions, MTA should get a written report from the City Attorney with a full legal analysis, so the public knows the legal basis for the decision.
2. It's very disappointing that MTA still is considering interlining the L & K in 2024. L riders are angry with all the disruption from the construction and will strongly oppose MTA forcing them to continue transferring at West Portal once the L Taraval train returns, with the waste of time and difficulties for many. MTA shouldn't interline these trains.



Edward Mason stated that there have been millions of dollars spent on retrofits for the siemens cars that should not have been necessary. When BART created their cars of the future, they had a model that they allowed members of the public to comment on. They then incorporate those suggestions into the final design

9. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding Vision Zero Update. (Uyen Ng, Acting Program Manager, Vision Zero. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

CAC MOTION 221006.02

WHEREAS, portions of the San Jose Ave. corridor between Geneva Ave. and Baden St. ("the corridor") are part of the Vision Zero High Injury Network; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's (SFMTA's) 2021 Vision Zero Action Strategy pledges to work together and in partnership with stakeholders to implement this strategy to eliminate all traffic deaths; and

WHEREAS, Balboa Park, located on the corridor, is one of the most popular playgrounds and parks for children and families in District 11, the District with the highest number of San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) students; and

WHEREAS, the corridor also has a small but thriving commercial strip that is difficult for pedestrians to access; and

WHEREAS, in order for pedestrians to access Balboa Park or the commercial strip from District 11, one is required to traverse the corridor; and

WHEREAS, Balboa Park will have even more families and children using the facility when hundreds of affordable housing units come online soon, including the nearby 99 Ocean Ave. development and childcare center and the Balboa Park Upper Yard development; and

WHEREAS, the Muni Metro J-Church line runs through the corridor and includes six boarding islands. Riders of the J-Church are also adversely impacted by unsafe conditions on the corridor, such as fast-moving traffic when crossing to access boarding islands, and substandard protection on from traffic when waiting on islands; and

WHEREAS, despite past efforts, and with significant community support, including a January 2022 meeting with 75 neighbors in attendance, minimal pedestrian safety



improvements have occurred on the corridor; therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, the SFMTA CAC recommends that the agency

- Address unsafe conditions on the San Jose Ave. corridor as a part of its Vision Zero Action Strategy to prevent pedestrian injuries and fatalities
- Focus improvements on increasing safety and access for children and families to Balboa Park and the commercial strip
- Improve the J-Church infrastructure to benefit both transit riders and pedestrians; and
- Consider immediate, quick-build safety improvements to the corridor
- Engage the community around the corridor to develop a comprehensive plan of improvements to increase safety for pedestrians and transit riders. Include safety measures for inclusion in the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program.

Members of the public expressing support: Samuel Thomas, Christopher Campbell, David Hooper, Paul Hagen, Sheila Chung-Hagen, Kate Levitt, David Hooper, and Jill Santandreu

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Obai Rambo, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly, and Susan Vaughan

ABSENT – Sascha Bittner, Queena Chen, Karim Salgado, Dorris Vincent, and Frank Zepeda

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

None.

No public comment.

ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Next regular meeting: Thursday, November 3rd at 5:30 p.m. | Online via Microsoft Teams