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SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY MULTIMODAL ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 20, 2025

In person: 1 S. Van Ness Ave Rm 3074

Via Video Conference:

Dial Toll Free: (669) 900-6833

Zoom Meeting ID: 871 2900 2334

Passcode: 167906

REGULAR MEETING

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM



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ORDER OF BUSINESS

1) Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:04 pm

2) Attendance

See roll call.

3) Announcements from Members and City Staff

Zachary Sexton (Zachary.Sexton@sfmta.com) announced the [OMI Community History Preservation Project](#). The Project is seeking individuals who have lived in the OMI for more than 15 years or have family roots in the area to participate in oral history interviews.

4) Acceptance of the Agenda

Ms. Seretan motioned to accept the agenda and Mr. Dubinsky seconded the approval of the agenda. **Motion carried.**



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5) Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Mr. Dubinsky motioned to accept the minutes with the correct dial-in number, and Mr. Rosen seconded the approval of the agenda. **Motion carried.**

6) Public Comment

None

7) Business of the Afternoon:

A) Meeting Start Time Change Proposal Vote

Virginia Rathke – Accessible Services
(virginia.rathke@sfmta.com)

On the matter of whether the start time of the MAAC meetings should be pushed back to 1:30 PM and the meeting time reduced to 90 minutes, votes were tied at 4 votes to accept the proposal and 4 votes to keep the schedule as-is. The matter was tabled.



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B) Hallidie Plaza Accessibility Improvements

Eli Gelardin – Director of Office on Disability & Accessibility
(formerly Mayor’s Office on Disability)
(eli.gelardin@sfgov.org)

Debby Kaplan – Deputy Director of Office on Disability & Accessibility
(Deborah.kaplan@sfgov.org)

Office on Disability and Accessibility Director Gelardin and Deputy Director Kaplan announced an effort to remake Hallidie Plaza and the entrance to the Powell Street Muni/BART Station to improve accessibility and make the space more inviting for all users.

Access to the plaza has been provided by an elevator that was maintained by DPW but was frequently out of service. The 1997 elevator has been deemed irreparable.

A [design proposal](#) developed by William Leddy (the original designer of the Ed Roberts Campus) and the design firm



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LM3^A would remove the elevator structure and replace it with a spiraling ramp beginning at the tiered north side of the plaza. The proposal preserves much of the original plaza design (including the existing escalators) to minimize cost and disruption from construction.

The ramp will encircle a stand of Pacific Coast redwood trees. Landscaping on the existing tiers will be replanted with drought tolerant native species. The tiers and benches will create an auditorium feel. Space for a replacement elevator will be maintained.

A recent General Obligation bond includes funds for improvements near Castro and Powell stations. Some of these funds could potentially be directed to improving Hallidie Plaza.

Mr. Dubinsky pointed out that the circular ramp must have a level landing after every 30" of rise. Ms. Kaplan



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emphasized that the ramp will meet all design requirements.

Mr. Glock shared that he is familiar with the Ed Roberts Campus and appreciates its design. He supports the installation of a ramp because it requires far less maintenance than an elevator.

Ms. Mason inquired about whether there will be public art and expressed support for including art created by the disability community. She feels that a replacement elevator is essential and must be included. Ms. Kaplan expressed that including public art is a great idea and that she will advocate for it. Mr. Gelardin added that the existing elevator has been unreliable for years and that constructing the ramp will take less time than designing and constructing a new elevator.



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Mr. Fishers asked if there was a cost estimate for the ramp; presenters indicated that the cost would be around \$9 - \$10 million.

Ms. Seretan supported included art and thinks the upgraded plaza should be named after a member of the disability community.

Mr. Gelardin agreed that this is a good opportunity to honor a prominent member of the disability community, noting that few public spaces can be claimed as disability spaces. He added that Public Works will facilitate the public outreach process and that he would support community efforts to identify funding and name the space.

Ms. Brown asked whether the decision to rename the Mayor's Office on Disability was authorized by the new Mayor. Mr. Gelardin responded that the change was not



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initiated by the mayor and that the Administrative Code would be updated to reflect the name change and mission change, noting that the new Office is Disability and Accessibility fits better under the Department of Aging and Disability Services and will have more impact.

C) Waymap Accessible Navigation Tom Pey – Waymap

Mr. Pey of Waymap noted that the Waymap app is the only app that works effectively indoors, outdoors, and underground. The app is highly accurate and can be used hands-free. Users can listen to audio instructions with headphones.

The Waymap app does not require advanced mapping of facilities as it uses an algorithm that employs the phone's



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motion sensors and the user's steps. No Wi-Fi, GPS or external signal is required.

Mr. Pey said that Waymap has been introduced in Washington DC, where it helps users navigate surface and underground transportation.

Mr. John Wilkinson, a London based Waymap representative, shared a demonstration video of Waymap being used in Singapore. It showed users getting voice instructions to navigate a transportation facility. He noted that users can set preferences for rate of speech on the app and that the app only needs to know the user's height to work effectively. The app uses height information and motion sensors to calculate the most likely position of the next step and corrects for drift with every step.



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The general public can use that app and the app updates routing information based on input from the general public.

Mr. Pey said that Waymap would like to work with the MAAC in the future.

Mr. Mandell introduced himself as a member of the American Council for the Blind Transportation Committee, which is a proponent of the app. He encouraged Mr. Pey to approach BART.

Mr. Fisher commented that the voice output in the demonstration video was fast, and asked if the app can provide elevator location information. Mr. Pey noted that the speech output rate can be adjusted, and that the app can be used to locate elevators. Mr. Pey stated that the app is compliant with US standards.



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D) Service Changes Update

Jessica Garcia – Service Planning Manager

Ms. Garcia stated that service changes may be implemented this summer to offset a substantial anticipated budget shortfall related to lower-than-expected parking and transit revenue and general fund reimbursements. Efforts to reduce the revenue shortfall by increasing fare enforcement, cutting spending, and pausing hiring have been insufficient.

The proposed 2% service reductions were informed by input from the public and the SFMTA Board and will impact [the 9 San Bruno, 5 Fulton, 31 Balboa, 6 Haight-Parnassus and 21 Hayes lines.](#)

Ms. Brown asked if the 5R Fulton Rapid line will be impacted.

Ms. Garcia noted that the 5R will still travel to Market Street and that the stop at Laguna St. will remain.



Mr. Fisher said that the last stop for each local line should also be a rapid bus line stop. Ms. Garcia emphasized that the changes aim to make travel as seamless as possible.

Mr. Glock expressed concern that the changes will result in more crowding on vehicles traveling on Market Street. He requested that more notice be given if additional cuts are proposed in the future.

8) Other Business

9) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm. Mr. Fisher made the motion to adjourn, and Mr. Mandell seconded. **Motion carried.**