



SAN FRANCISCO  
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY  
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

February 4, 2021

**WATCH:** (link can be found online <https://www.sfmta.com/calendar/citizens-advisory-council-cac-regular-meeting-february-4-2021>)

**PUBLIC COMMENT CALL-IN:** (415) 915-0757 | Conference ID: 589 180 11#

REGULAR MEETING  
5:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
Neil Ballard (Chair), Frank Zepeda (Vice Chair),  
Chris Arvin, Michael Chen, Queena Chen, Steve Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky,  
Christopher Man, Daniel Murphy, Obai Rambo, Karim Salgado, Susan Vaughan, and Dorris  
Vincent

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, February 3<sup>rd</sup> or call (415) 646-2388.**

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Ballard called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

CAC members present at Roll Call: Neil Ballard, Chris Arvin, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Daniel Murphy, Obai Rambo, Karim Salgado, Susan Vaughan, Dorris Vincent, and Frank Zepeda

CAC members absent with notification: Queena Chen and Christopher Man

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

No announcement was made.

### 4. Approval of Minutes:

On motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2020:

ADOPTED: AYES – Neil Ballard, Chris Arvin, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Daniel Murphy, Obai Rambo, Karim Salgado, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

ABSENT – Queena Chen, Christopher Man, and Dorris Vincent

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

Chair Ballard welcomed everyone and stated that public comment would be two minutes. He announced that Daniel Weaver resigned from his position as the District 11 Council member and wished him well. He welcomed new CAC member Chris Arvin, representing District 5. Chair Ballard also announced that he would call Item 10 after Item 8.

### 6. Public Comment:

Yvonne stated that there have been over 100 calls to 311 regarding double and triple parking on Thomas and Keith. She inquired if there is an email address to which residents can send their complaints.

David Pilpel stated that he was having a problem with Teams and that he is a little behind so he would not be on the call the entire meeting. He wished the Council well and asked them to keep up the good work.

Edward Mason gave an update on the GetAround vehicle with expired tags on 23<sup>rd</sup> and Church. The car is now registered for the current year. He wondered if them being able to operate without the proper tags for over a year was an administrative oversight. He stated that there

continues to be a lack of signage for the 14R line at Daly City BART. The only signage available is the yellow bar on the pavement.

Ken Koblenzer stated that he is happy to see that the SFMTA is considering making certain Slow Streets permanent. He is disappointed that Lake Street is not one of those streets. It is probably one of the safest Slow Streets, as there is hardly any cross traffic. It would be very sad to see it go. He inquired about the timeframe for how and when the Slow Streets will be made permanent.

#### REGULAR CALENDAR

7. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding Council member recommendation. (Michael Chen, District 2 Representative, Citizens' Advisory Council. No explanatory documents.)

The SFMTA CAC recommends that the SFMTA permanently eliminate poverty tows for unpaid parking tickets, expired registration, or leaving a vehicle parked for longer than 72 hours. These types of tows can severely harm people in poverty and are not cost-effective.

Council member Michael Chen stated that these kinds of infractions are not detrimental to health and safety and disproportionately target people who rely on their cars for shelter and to get to work. They don't make the City money and there are other ways to go for compliance.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ken Koblenzer stated there would be no way to get a remedy for cars that have been abandoned outside their homes if they can't be towed for 72 hours and for having multiple tickets.

This motion was tabled until a future meeting by the Chair.

8. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding Scooter Share Program update. (Sarah Hellman, Regulated Mobility Permit Manager, Taxis and Accessible Services. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

Sarah Hellman, Regulated Mobility Permit Manager, Taxis, Access & Mobility Services presented the item.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Mason stated the SFMTA, as a government entity, is endorsing the operation of a dangerous vehicle. The profit of the scooter companies is privatized while the medical costs from injuries is socialized. He inquired who the liability rests with, the individual or the scooter company. He also asked if the liability is built into the usage fee. Mr. Mason said he sees scooter riders going through stop signs, intersections, and riding on the sidewalk all the time. Often, they are not wearing helmets. They seem to have no regard for the rules.

## CAC MOTION 210204.07

In an effort to prevent conflicts between pedestrians and scooters, the SFMTA CAC recommends physically protected bike/scooter lanes along every feasible street in San Francisco, and in particular recommends that these lanes be prioritized above car parking.

ADOPTED: AYES – Neil Ballard, Chris Arvin, Michael Chen, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Daniel Murphy, Obai Rambo, and Susan Vaughan

NAYES – Stephen Cornell, Karim Salgado, and Frank Zepeda

ABSENT – Queena Chen, Christopher Man, and Dorris Vincent

9. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding Better Market Street update. (Britt Tanner, Senior Engineer and Cristina Olea, Better Market Street Project Manager, San Francisco Department of Public Works (SFDPW). Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jon Wong stated that he delivers for Door Dash. He is concerned about finding a safe place to park and access vendors.

10. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the Administration, Operations, and Customer Service Committee (AOCSC) report and recommendations.

## AOCSC Motion 210121.01

The SFMTA CAC recommends the restoration of service of the Powell-Hyde cable car line beginning service in the fourth quarter 2021. Utilizing a pre-pandemic schedule of 10 cars at an 8-minute headway would be sufficient service for locals and the limited number of tourists. Carloads should be limited to 10 to 12 passengers to maintain safe distancing and permitted in the outdoor sections only. Suggested hours of operation can be 8am to 10pm. The great numbers of people asking about service and taking pictures of displayed cable cars during the past three months at Powell-Market and Beach-Hyde indicates there is a call for the iconic cars to return to service. As more of the population gets inoculated, as more businesses reopen as the health restrictions are lifted, the return of the cable cars can be the symbol of the City's return to normalcy.

## CAC MOTION 210204.01

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No public comment.

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Neil Ballard, Chris Arvin, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Obai Rambo, Dorris Vincent, and Frank Zepeda

NAYES – Michael Chen, Daniel Murphy, Karim Salgado, and Susan Vaughan

ABSENT – Queena Chen and Christopher Man

AOCSC Motion 210121.02

The SFMTA CAC recommends the restoration of service of the E Embarcadero line beginning service in the fourth quarter 2021. The route recommended is a short route from the Ferry Building to Pier 39/Jones Beach as it is the most populated part of the line, the most visible to visitors and locals alike, and is a link to many businesses on the northern waterfront that are in need of visitors. Three or 4 open-air cars on a 15 to 20-minute headway should be sufficient to accommodate up to 12 passengers per car. To ensure maximum safety for the passengers and operators, only open-air cars such as the two 'boats', or open-air sections of the historic cars such as 1, 130, 496, 578 should be used.

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Members of the public expressing neither support nor opposition: Tom Barton and Edward Mason

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Neil Ballard, Chris Arvin, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Obai Rambo, Karim Salgado, and Frank Zepeda

NAYES – Michael Chen, Daniel Murphy, and Susan Vaughan

ABSENT – Queena Chen, Christopher Man, and Dorris Vincent

AOCSC Motion 210121.03

The SFMTA CAC recommends that all restoration of historic rail cars be done in-house utilizing the willing and skilled craftsmen at SFMTA. Over the years, skilled craftsmen have turned out completely restored cable cars from the wheels up. The same process can be

applied to the historic rails. By restoring cars in-house, it will allow for funds to stay in-house thus saving jobs should the need to trim at the crafts level arise.

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No public comment.

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Neil Ballard, Chris Arvin, Michael Chen, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Daniel Murphy, Obai Rambo, Karim Salgado, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

NAYES – Stephen Cornell

ABSENT – Queena Chen, Christopher Man, Dorris Vincent,

#### AOCSC Motion 210121.04

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented civic funding crisis, therefore be it resolved the SFMTA CAC recommends that the SFMTA seek critical financial operating support from the federal government of the United States to ensure the restoration and augmentation of transit service, to avert job losses, to ensure San Francisco's economic recovery, and help avert climate catastrophe by offering San Franciscans a robust and healthy transit system, and be it further resolved that the CAC authorizes Chair Ballard to send a letter stating this position to President Biden, Transportation Secretary Buttigieg and Congressional leaders Pelosi and Schumer.

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No public comment.

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Neil Ballard, Chris Arvin, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Daniel Murphy, Obai Rambo, Karim Salgado, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda  
ABSENT – Queena Chen, Christopher Man, and Dorris Vincent

AOCSC Motion 210121.05

The SFMTA CAC recommends that the SFMTA prioritize the front-line delivery of revenue service and not pursue deferred maintenance as a strategy to address capital or operating shortfalls.

CAC MOTION 210204.05

The SFMTA CAC recommends that the SFMTA prioritize the front-line delivery of revenue service and not pursue deferred maintenance as a strategy to address capital or operating shortfalls.

No public comment.

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Neil Ballard, Chris Arvin, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Daniel Murphy, Obai Rambo, Karim Salgado, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda  
ABSENT – Queena Chen, Christopher Man, and Dorris Vincent

AOCSC Motion 210121.06

SFMTA CAC recommends fully developing all the land the SFMTA owns with the goal of financial independence, excellent service, and livable wages for its unionized workforce.

Members of the public expressing support: Quang and Charles Whitfield

This motion was tabled until the March CAC meeting.

AOCSC Motion 210121.07

The SFMTA CAC recommends that the SFMTA explore all available avenues to maximize existing revenue streams (e.g. Sunday meters, merchandising, developing real estate, etc.).

CAC MOTION 200204.06

The SFMTA CAC recommends that SFMTA explore all available avenues to maximize existing revenue streams (e.g., fines, Sunday meters, merchandise, developing real estate, etc.).

Members of the public expressing support: Charles Whitfield

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Neil Ballard, Chris Arvin, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Daniel Murphy, Obai Rambo, Karim Salgado,  
ABSENT – Queena Chen, Christopher Man, and Dorris Vincent

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

Neil Ballard asked what has been done regarding the over 100 complaints from residents about double and triple parking on Keith and Thomas streets.

Neil Ballard requested the timeline for deciding which Slow Streets will be made permanent and which will be removed.

John Lisovsky asked what it costs annually to operate the cable cars and how much income they generate and what it costs annually to operate the historic street cars and how much annual income they generate.

No public comment.

ADJOURN- The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Submitted by:



Keka Robinson-Luqman  
SFMTA CAC – Secretary

Next regular meeting: Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm | Online via Microsoft Teams