

**SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

Friday, August 16, 2013
1 South Van Ness Ave. 7th Floor
Union Square Conference Room

**REGULAR MEETING
9:00 A.M.**

COMMITTEE
Jerry Lee, Chairman
Cheryl Brinkman
Joél Ramos

Edward D. Reiskin
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

Roberta Boomer
BOARD SECRETARY

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lee at 9:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Cheryl Brinkman
Jerry Lee
Joél Ramos

3. Approval of Minutes

On motion to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2013 Regular Meeting: unanimously approved.

4. Public Comment

Ed Mason stated that he wanted the minutes to reflect his comments about inner city commuter buses, the Valencia St. median lane being used as a layover, VTA's approach to real estate and a regional approach to the commuter bus problem.

Renee discussed issues on the 71 line. In the afternoon, there are homeless people with pets who block the aisle. Their fares aren't checked and they're often loud and obtrusive. It's becoming dangerous. Often there are tourists and families on the line who are uncomfortable.

5. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding key metrics and actions for SFMTA Strategic Plan Goal 1: Create a safer transportation experience for everyone. (Explanatory documents include a report.)

John Haley, Director, Transit Services presented the report on the Strategic Plan.

- Safety Report

Fred Orantes, System Safety discussed the safety report.

Candace Sue, Director, Communications discussed branding efforts.

Bond Yee, Director, Sustainable Streets discussed the bike sharing program.

No public comment.

- Alamo Square Tour Bus Restrictions

Jerry Robbins, Transportation Planner, Sustainable Streets, presented the item.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Owen O'Donnell stated that the problem has gotten acute. The "Wiggle" has impacted the neighborhood dramatically as has this issue. Buses run every few minutes, sometimes one every minute. It's difficult for large buses to turn. These buses are a huge problem.

Jonathan Martin stated that he is woken by loudspeakers every morning and with residents looking into his bedroom. The sidewalk on Fell at Divisadero is not wide enough for the additional people and these people loiter in front of his house from 9am-5pm. These tourist vehicles invade his neighborhood and are an intolerable problem. He urged the SFMTA to move the buses.

Terry Potente stated that the buses on her street come by every 12 minutes. They are noisy and polluting and are often driven by people who don't know how to drive on hills.

Jon Ballesteros stated that tourism is vital to San Francisco. Tourists spend almost \$9 billion a year and they support 75,000 jobs and San Francisco's General Fund. Tour bus operators are a form of mass transit. There needs to be a healthy balance to provide transit options to provide access to neighborhoods and protect them as well. He expressed opposition to a complete ban but some of the alternatives are good options that should be considered.

Bob Skeel stated that the pollution, noise, congestion and safety are unquantifiable costs that are being imposed on and borne by residents. The SFMTA should focus on what the neighborhood needs to enjoy life.

Craig Vanderborn stated that local operators can work with the neighborhood to find common ground. The out of town operators aren't following the rules which is an issue they're trying to address.

Francis Gruman stated that the Tour Guide Guild is concerned about the "drive-bys" buses. Guild members use designated zones but it can be difficult for seniors and people who want to see the city sights in three hours. She suggested allowing vehicles to go eastbound on Hayes for drive by tour operators only. Pierce St. is excellent idea. Everyone wants to go to Alamo Square. There needs to be a compromise.

Faris Suhair stated that the Destination Management Council has over 35 members who do private tours. The Council supports a drive by only solution on Hayes. Everybody wants to see postcard row. The Council wants to protect and preserve the neighborhood. A loading zone outside of the immediate area is fine. Out of town tour bus drivers don't understand the protocol and need to be educated.

Jim Sommers noted that the stop at Fell and Divisadero has created issues such as noise, blocked emergency vehicles and blocking of the intersection. He expressed support for the Pierce/Fell option and suggested Baker Street near the McKinley statue as a good alternative.

Sue Valentine expressed opposition to all tour buses in the area. The plan to have buses go eastbound on Hayes St. is ridiculous and would result in a bus every minute. Buses slow

down to 5 mph or they stop, which means that those behind the bus start honking their horns. Having buses anywhere in this historic zone will push traffic to another street. Neighbors are inundated with buses and loudspeakers.

Gus Hernandez suggested using Webster St. because it's wider. The "Hop On/Off" buses are everywhere around Alamo Square. He expressed support for the Fell St. at Pierce proposal.

Wanda Pierson urged the committee to look at the ANA proposal. There is no way to control the volume of buses and the SFMTA has no influence over out of town tour buses.

Darlene Roberts stated that residents are overrun by tour buses seven days a week. Streets are narrow and become congested. It's a safety issue for pedestrians. Tour buses should be ticketed for violations. They leave their engines running which makes residents sick due to emissions. Loudspeakers can be heard for blocks. Seniors can't board Muni at the curb because the stop is blocked.

Cynthia Markucchi commented that the traffic situation is severe. Buses block lanes and create congestion at both Fell and Divisadero and at Oak and Divisadero. Traffic is a key issue as are quality of life issues such as noise and pollution. Buses haven't self-regulated themselves and are there after 6pm. She urged the committee to consider moving the vehicles to Fell St. between Pierce and Baker.

John Michael noted that tour buses pull into the curb during street cleaning and thus, residents don't get city services. Residents face idling engines, blocked driveways, loudspeakers, and congestion. People are using Pierce St. as a parking lot all day long.

6. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding key metrics and actions for SFMTA Strategic Plan Goal 2: Make transit, walking, bicycling, taxi, ridesharing and carsharing the most attractive and preferred means of travel. (Explanatory documents include a report.)

- Operations Report
- Quarterly review of work performed by the City Services Auditor

Tonya Lediju and Peg Stevenson, City Controller's Office presented the report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Mason inquired about the redo of Castro Street along the commercial corridor.

7. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding key metrics and actions for SFMTA Strategic Plan Goal 3: Improve the environment and quality of life in San Francisco. (Explanatory documents include a report.)

- Financial Report

8. Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding key metrics and actions for SFMTA Strategic Plan Goal 4: Create a collaborative environment to support delivery of outstanding service. (Explanatory documents include a report.)

ADJOURN – The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by:

Roberta Boomer
Board Secretary