



San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Citizens' Advisory Council

MINUTES • Meeting Date: May 2, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

5:30 pm

1 South Van Ness Avenue, 7th Floor
Room 7080, Union Square Conference Room

SFMTA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Aaron Leifer, Chair

Chris Arvin, Vice-Chair

Sascha Bittner

Michael Chen

Queena Chen

Steve Cornell

Robert Jaques

John Lisovsky

Eliza Panike

Karim Salgado

Yensing Sihapanya

Connor Skelly

Susan Vaughan

Frank Zepeda

COUNCIL LIAISON

Christine Silva

COUNCIL SECRETARY

Keka Robinson-Luqman



ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Leifer called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

CAC members present at Roll Call: Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Robert Jaques, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Eliza Panike, Karim Salgado, Connor Skelly, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

CAC members absent at Roll Call: Chris Arvin and Yensing Sihapanya

CAC members absent with notification: Queena Chen

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

CAC Secretary Robinson-Luqman made the announcement.

4. Approval of Minutes:

No public comment.

On motion to approve the minutes of April 4, 2024:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Robert Jaques, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Eliza Panike, Karim Salgado, Connor Skelly, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

ABSENT – Queena Chen and Yensing Sihapanya

5. Report of the Chair (For discussion only)

Chair Leifer reported that Member Michael Chen will be leaving the CAC after the June 6th meeting. He stated that there are a lot of controversial topics to be discussed at the meeting and he was looking forward to hearing the comments of staff and of the public.

6. Public Comment

Edward Mason commented on the County Transportation Authority on their plans for the next five years. He provided background on where the half percent sales tax money is coming from and what it's going to.



REGULAR CALENDAR

7. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding transit shelter update. (Sean Kennedy, Chief Muni Planning Officer. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Hayden Miller stated that while he understands that there is vandalism and glass breakage of the shelters, having seats and something to shield from wind and rain is important in future designs. He suggested an “adopt-a-stop” program like Valley Transportation Authority.

Edward Mason spoke in opposition to using the Arts Commission to create anything “cutesy” and instead suggested see-through perforated steel to minimize vandalism on bus shelters.

Michael Adams asked if the SFMTA has full authority over the placement of shelters. He wondered how Title VI can be enforced if the authority is not there to enforce it but only to document it. He suggested shelters with plexiglass as an option. He stated that adopting a shelter is a potential way of people taking pride in their neighborhood and keeping it safe, beautiful, attractive.

Fred Muhlheim stated that the real problem of unhoused people isn't being addressed. If they were getting the ongoing services that they need, it would remove the problem of unhoused people taking over the shelters. They aren't there because they want to be, but it's the only option they have to shield themselves from the elements.

8. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding West Portal Station Safety and Community Improvements Project. (Liz Brisson, Long Range Transit Corridor Planning Manager. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Mason stated that he has often observed a backup of the LRVs entering the subway when there are shuttles crossing the intersection. Something must be done with the shuttle. He suggested future safety considerations for people walking across slippery tracks, especially during the winter months.

Fred Muhlheim stated that he has heard from people all around the City that they have serious questions about the negative impacts of SFMTA projects on businesses and on institutions, and their ability to carry out their function. At a time of economic tightness with budgets, this is something that the SFMTA needs to consider as it makes plans.



Hayden Miller stated that he currently attends Lowell High School and knows the intersection well. He said there are thousands of intersections in the City that are unsafe. He asked if the SFMTA will just put safety bollards there and then wait until another person dies at a different intersection to put them at that spot. He suggested the SFMTA use a broader strategy for safety.

CAC MOTION 240502.01

The SFMTA CAC recommends that the SFMTA implement safety changes in the area of West Portal Station, in collaboration with community partners, by the end of the year 2024.

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Eliza Panike, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda
ABSENT – Queena Chen and Robert Jaques

9. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding Frida Kahlo Way Quick-Build Project. (Casey Hildreth, Principal Planner. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Fred Muhlheim stated that there's already plans for a protected bike lane on each side of the street through the Balboa Reservoir community. That bikeway will be 400 feet from the proposed bikeway on Frida Kahlo Way. The Board of Trustees and Associated Students have asked that this project be postponed until concerns are addressed. It's about way more than the loss of parking.

Hayden Miller stated that he is registered for a course at City College and will likely be taking the bus, but biking is another great option that needs to be accommodated. City College needs to do more to incentivize transit.

Michael Anderson stated that it is an unfinished plan. It is speculative and it's experimental. The opposition and the concern comes from the City College Board of Trustees and the Student Council, many of whom are in the highest demographic of bicycle riders. He stated that the plan is a solution to a problem that occurs on Ocean Street, not on Frida Kahlo Way.



Edward Mason asked how much has already been spent on the planning phase and what will be the cost of the construction phase. He wondered what the anticipated ridership will be in three to five years from now. There needs to be a baseline to evaluate how successful the project is.

CAC MOTION 240502.02

The SFMTA CAC supports the Frida Kahlo Way Quick-Build Project.

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Eliza Panike, Connor Skelly, and Susan Vaughan

NAYES – Stephen Cornell, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, and Frank Zepeda

ABSENT – Queena Chen and Robert Jaques

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

Council member Frank Zepeda, Chair, EMSC, presented the item.

No public comment.

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

None.

ADJOURN- The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KAR Robinson-Luqman'.

Keka Robinson-Luqman
SFMTA CAC – Secretary

Next regular meeting: Thursday, June 6th at 5:30pm | Union Square Conference Room