

SAN FRANCISCO  
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AND PARKING AUTHORITY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Tuesday, April 16, 2013  
Room 400, City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

REGULAR MEETING AND CLOSED SESSION  
1 P.M.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Nolan, Chairman  
Cheryl Brinkman, Vice Chairman  
Leona Bridges  
Malcolm Heinicke  
Jerry Lee  
Joél Ramos  
Cristina Rubke

Edward Reiskin  
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

Roberta Boomer  
BOARD SECRETARY

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

### 1. Call to Order

Chairman Nolan called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

Present: Leona Bridges  
Cheryl Brinkman  
Malcolm Heinicke – absent  
Jerry Lee  
Tom Nolan  
Joél Ramos  
Cristina Rubke

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

Chairman Nolan announced that the ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at the meeting. He advised that any person responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound-producing electronic devices might be removed from the meeting. He also advised that cell phones that are set on “vibrate” cause microphone interference and requested that they be placed in the “off” position.

### 4. Approval of Minutes

On motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2013 Regular Meeting: unanimously approved (Heinicke-absent).

### 5. Communications

Board Secretary Boomer announced that Item 10.3 had been removed from the agenda at the request of staff. She also announced that there would be no closed session.

Director Heinicke arrived.

### 6. Introduction of New or Unfinished Business by Board Members

Director Heinicke requested information regarding recent Metro service delays.

Director Rubke asked about signal timing at Fourth and Townsend for traffic and pedestrians.

### 7. Director’s Report (For discussion only)

No report.

#### 8. Citizens' Advisory Council Report

No report.

#### 9. Public Comment

Mel Cheplowitz discussed the anti-Muslim ads on the side of the bus and the impact they have on children. He asked the Board to desist from having buses with hate ads on the street during hours when children are going to or coming from school.

Corey Lamb discussed the transportation triangle of drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. There are some safety aspects that will be paramount as bike lanes are added and there are more walkers. Pedestrian safety is a two-way street. The SFPD is advocating for not "tweeting" while walking. Everyone is responsible for safety.

Lance Carnes discussed the proposed Pagoda option for the removal of the two tunnel boring machines and the lack of a plan or funding for a North Beach station. Neighbors are unhappy. Neighbors have been seeking information about the impact but that information has not been forthcoming. He invited the Board to a neighborhood meeting.

Robert Cesana discussed the CPUC workshop. The taxi "apps" are an enormous threat to the industry and the SFMTA. They claim to be something new, that they aren't transportation companies and they don't have control over the drivers. They claim to be "ride share" and have no commercial insurance. There is no vehicle or driver inspection. They claim they don't keep records so drivers are not even paying taxes.

Herbert Weiner discussed cyclist conduct. Parking spaces have been in demand for the last 50 years. It's destructive to remove them. Cycling won't be hampered if parking spaces are retained. Cyclists have been struck but there are no statistics for the number of cyclists who run through stop signs and lights.

Emil Lawrence discussed "apps" and "app" companies. These companies should be looked into. Every year the SFMTA has raised fees on cabdrivers who have no health benefits or pensions. They need a minimum wage, health benefits and a pension to at least match what Muni drivers make.

Barry Taranto stated that CNG vehicles will be a dinosaur in the near future because there's a lack of fuel tank capacity. There is little enforcement on the street and he urged the SFMTA to get more inspectors out to deal with solicitation. The CPUC Workshop didn't go well. The SFMTA did a good job but the CPUC has been bought and sold.



Tariq Mehmood discussed the March 19 Board meeting when over 300 people came to say that they didn't want electronic waybills. They weren't allowed to speak. Tipping should be stopped. People want action with respect to "apps". The value of a medallion will be reduced and some cab drivers have refused to buy one. The Director of Taxis and Accessible services should be let go.

Bill Mounsey stated that Mr. Hara has never ridden in a San Francisco taxi. Sometimes his cab is empty for 30 minutes. Adding short term medallions was tried once before and it didn't work. He expressed appreciation for lowering the price because he'll pay less money.

Benjamin Valis discussed public safety and the need to move the cabstand at Caltrain to the other side of the street. It's total chaos when the drivers are making U-turns. The cabstand needs adequate signage. He suggested that it's time for the SFMTA to step in, irrespective of what the CPUC does.

Mary McGuire expressed appreciation to the Bay Guardian for their recent article and for the security guards who scare off illegal limousines. People are flagging pink moustache cars and young women are getting into those cars. She urged the Board to watch the video of the CPUC Workshop. There is a need to define what "ride sharing" is.

Mark Gruberg showed the last UTF newsletter. The Mayor has turned his back on the taxi industry and the regulatory ability of the SFMTA by supporting unregulated and unlicensed apps. Their numbers are growing day by day. The solution to put more taxis on the street isn't going to work.

Dave Schneider discussed a recent Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF) complaint. The vote was to find a violation but the motion failed because there wasn't a majority of SOTF members at the meeting. He questioned why staff felt they had to hire a consultant to study the cab industry and wondered how much money was spent on his services.

Naeem Malik stated that cab drivers are still being charged five percent for credit card fees. There should be a minimum credit card fee. When people call for a cab, they should be able to see all available cabs within a four block radius. The Caltrain cab stand needs to be changed.

Chairman Nolan requested a report regarding the credit card fee and moving the cab stop near the ballpark.

THE FOLLOWING MATTERS BEFORE THE SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION AS STATED BY THE SFMTA DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION OR CITY ATTORNEY WHERE APPLICABLE. EXPLANATORY DOCUMENTS FOR ALL CALENDAR ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT 1 SOUTH VAN NESS AVE. 7<sup>th</sup> FLOOR.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

10. All matters listed hereunder constitute a Consent Calendar, are considered to be routine by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors and will be acted upon by a single vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Board of Directors or the public so requests, in which event the matter shall be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered as a separate item.

(10.1) Requesting the Controller to allot funds and to draw warrants against such funds available or will be available in payment of the following claims against the SFMTA:

A. Joanne Skinner vs. CCSF, Superior Ct. #CGC12526888 filed on 12/11/12 for \$40,000

#### RESOLUTION 13-045

(10.2) Adopting the conceptual proposal for Streetscape Improvements to Broadway, between Columbus Avenue and the Robert C. Levy Tunnel. (Explanatory documents include a staff report, resolution and proposal.)

#### RESOLUTION 13-046

(10.3) Authorizing the Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Recreation and Park Department for the use of property located at the Union Square Garage and Union Square Park to facilitate construction of the Central Subway Project. (Explanatory documents include a staff report, resolution, financial plan and MOU.)

Item 10.3 was removed from the agenda at the request of staff.

(10.4) Authorizing the Director to enter into an agreement with the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition to accept a gift of \$20,000 for the purchase and installation of a bicycle barometer on the south side sidewalk of Market Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Streets. (Explanatory documents include a staff report, resolution and agreement.)

#### RESOLUTION 13-047

On motion to approve the Consent Calendar (Item 10.3 removed):

ADOPTED: AYES – Bridges, Brinkman, Heinicke, Lee, Nolan, Ramos and Rubke



## REGULAR CALENDAR

11. Presentation and discussion regarding the Hara Report and authorizing the Director to issue up to 120 new taxi permits in 2013 and up to an additional 200 new taxi permits in 2014; to offer such medallion permits to qualified applicants on the medallion waiting list, or lease medallion permits directly to drivers or to color scheme permit holders; establishing that all taxi medallion permits shall be operated with hybrid, electric or compressed natural gas vehicles; and amending Transportation code Section 1116 to reduce the Medallion Transfer price to \$250,000, reduce the Reduced Medallion Transfer price to \$125,000, and change the Medallion Surrender Price to \$200,000. (Explanatory documents include a staff report, resolution, report and amendment.)

Board Secretary Boomer read a proposed amendment to the resolution as follows: RESOLVED, That all new taxi medallion permits, whether transferred or leased, shall be operated with a hybrid, electric, B-100 biodiesel or compressed natural gas vehicle, or other fuel choices as authorized by the SFMTA depending on factors such as passenger capacity, accessibility and/or fuel efficiency.

Christiane Hayashi, Director, Taxi and Accessible Services and Dan Hara, Principal, Hara Associates presented the item.

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public expressing support: Tara Housman, Phillip Cole, Sufyan Alsharif, Jon Ballesteros, Kevin Carroll, Charles Rathbone, Athan Rebls, Carl Macmurdo, Peter Jacobs, Jim Gillespie,

Members of the public expressing opposition: Corey Lamb, Mark Gruberg, Dave Schneider, Barry Taranto, Tariq Mehmood, Peter Jacobs, David Basada, Barry Korengold, Naeem Malik,

Members of the public expressing neither support nor opposition: George England, Robert Cesana, Ahmad Albowyha, Emil Lawrence, Ed Healy, Benjamin Valis, Mary McGuire, Brian Browne, Brian Rosen and Herbert Weiner

On motion to amend the resolution to read: RESOLVED, That all new taxi medallion permits, whether transferred or leased, shall be operated with a hybrid, electric, B-100 biodiesel or compressed natural gas vehicle, or other fuel choices as authorized by the SFMTA depending on factors such as passenger capacity, accessibility and/or fuel efficiency:

ADOPTED: AYES – Bridges, Brinkman, Heinicke, Lee, Nolan, Ramos and Rubke

Chairman Nolan asked staff to report back prior to the issuance of the 2014 medallions.

Director Heinicke requested information about peak time proposals and how a premium reservation/dispatch system would work.

RESOLUTION 13-048

On motion to approve as amended:

ADOPTED: AYES – Bridges, Brinkman, Heinicke, Lee, Nolan, Ramos and Rubke

12. Discussion and vote pursuant to Administrative Code Section 67.10(d) as to whether to conduct a closed session.

No action. The closed session was cancelled.

ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

A tape of the meeting is on file in the office of the Secretary to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors.



Roberta Boomer  
Board Secretary

The Ethics Commission of the City and County of San Francisco has asked us to remind individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [S.F. Campaign and Governmental Conduct Code section 2.100 et seq.] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the Ethics Commission at 415.581.2300; fax: 415.581.2317; 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220, SF, CA 94102-6027 or the web site: [sfgov.org/ethics](http://sfgov.org/ethics).