SFMTA

Muni Metro Capacity Study

Community Working Group Meeting #3

May 9, 2024

Agenda

1. Ice Breaker

2. Recap of prior meeting topics/study purpose

3. What we heard regarding format

4. Study strategies, questionnaire take-aways, and discussion

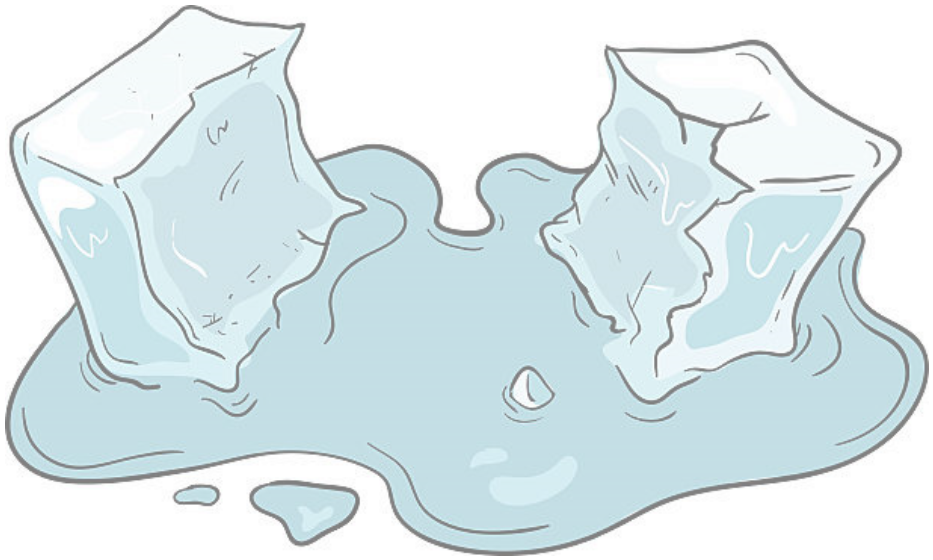
5. Next Steps

Intro Ice Breaker

Raise your hand if you've been to the Cable Car Barn and Museum.

Raise your hand if you have ever taken all Muni Metro lines in one day.

Raise your hand if you have been to all the new Central Subway stations.



Role of Muni Metro Capacity Study

Develop a future vision for the rail system, answering the following questions:

1. How much more capacity is needed? When? Where?

2. How much more capacity can different strategies achieve?

3. What other strategies should be added to our plans to accommodate future needs?

4. What is the most strategic way to fund these improvements?

Meeting Roadmap

Meeting #1 (November 2): Introduction

Meeting #2 (Thursday, November 16): Project need and potential solutions to be studied

Today **Meeting #3** (Thursday May 9th): Structured group discussion about benefits and tradeoffs of potential solutions

Potential subsequent meeting topics (approximately quarterly):

- Range of potential packages of systemwide improvements
- Funding and implementation timeline, phasing of improvements
- Limited discussion of specific improvements on key surface lines

What we heard from you and how we're responding

More dialogue

- Trying a new structured group discussion format today

Better understanding of what we're studying and why

- Topic-by-topic recap, questionnaire to help inform content

Sharing meeting materials early to allow time for CWG members to review and submit questions before meetings

- Materials posted online in advance, questionnaire circulated for feedback before the meeting

Providing discussion questions ahead of time to get feedback, comments and questions that can shape conversation in the CWG meetings

- Questionnaire circulated for feedback, response used to structure group discussion

Questionnaire

Goal: Get a better understanding of the possible impacts of the community from potential Metro capacity strategies.

- What do you like/what are the benefits where you live/work?
- What would be the biggest challenges where you live/work?
- How could we improve without sacrificing capacity gains?
- What questions do you think others will have and how could we explain better?

What we will discuss today

- Break down complexities and show some examples of how these strategies might look in reality.
- Answer lingering questions
- Break out into discussion groups
- Reconvene for CWG members to report back on their break out discussions

Long list of capacity-improving ideas

Ideas generated via past study review including:

- SFMTA Rail Capacity Strategy
- MTC Core Capacity Planning Study
- ConnectSF Transit Strategy
- Past 19th Avenue/M-Ocean View studies

Potential Capacity-Improving Strategies

1. 3-car N Judah trains
2. 3- or 4-car trains between SF State and downtown
3. Different vehicles for better performance on surface-only lines
4. Low-floor trains for all lines
5. Transit-only/-preferential streets
6. Signal priority/pre-emption
7. New turnback track at Harrison Street
8. Service restructuring
9. Grade separation at key locations
10. Coupling trains at portals

3- and 4-car trains

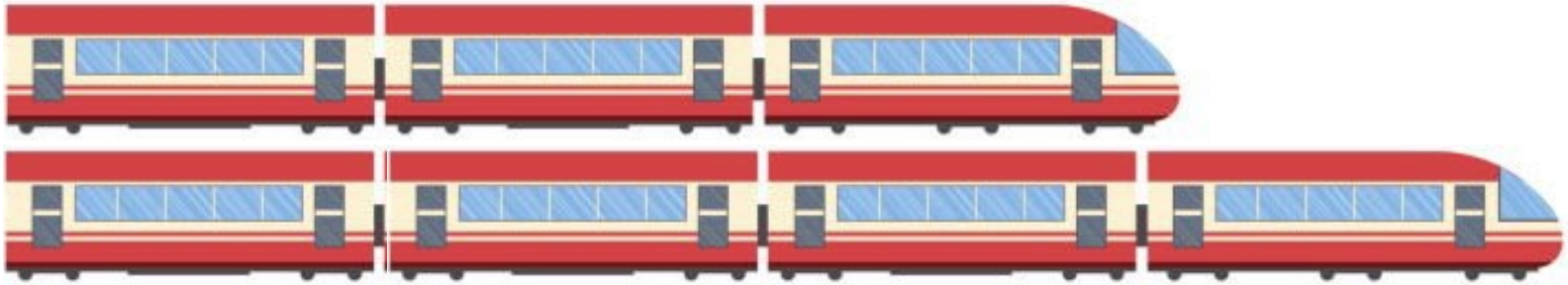
What is it? Operate 3-car train to Judah/La Playa and 3- or 4-car train between Downtown and SF State.

Benefit: Could provide 50-100% more capacity on these lines.

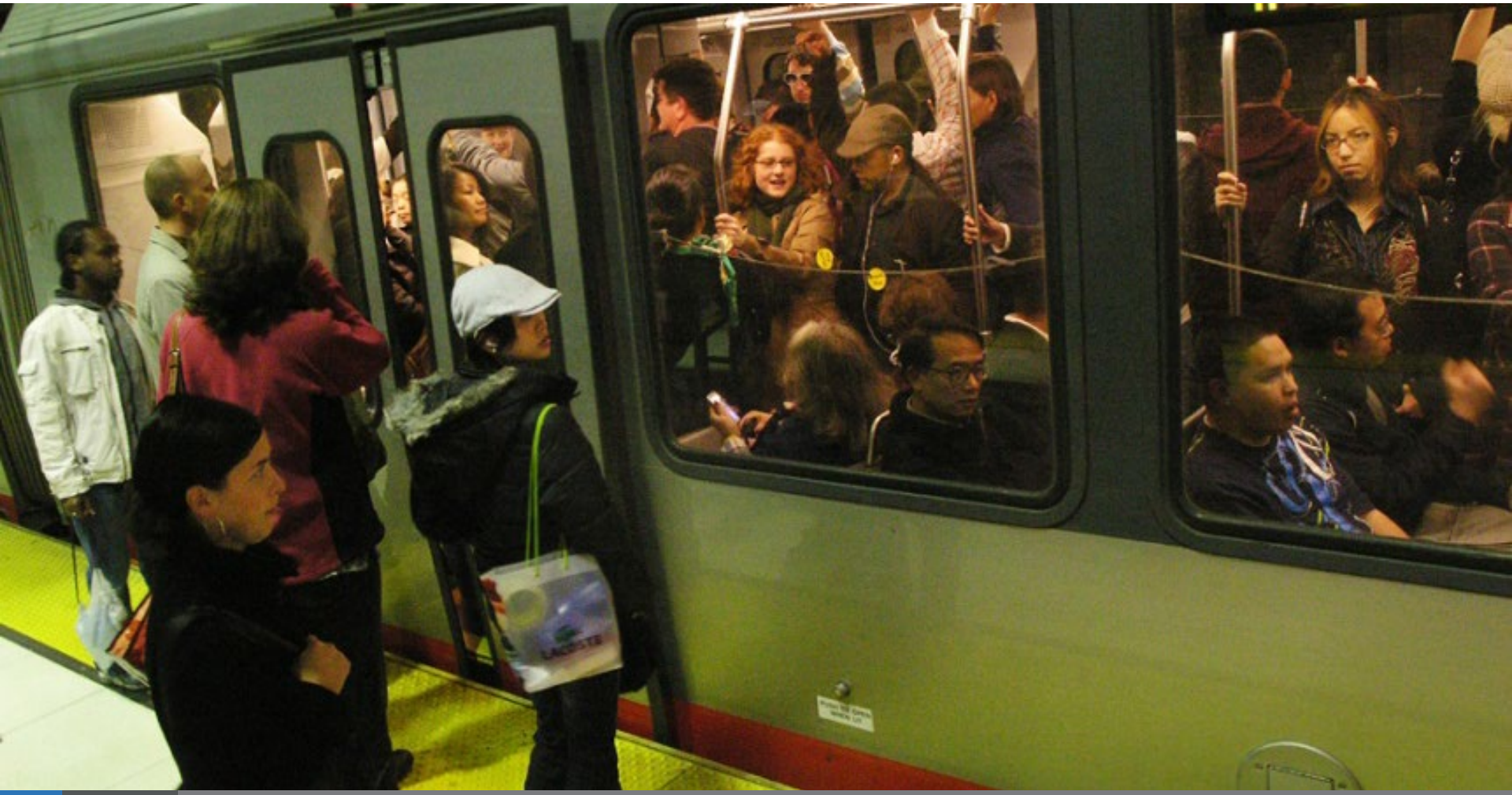
Tradeoff: May require lengthening station platforms, consolidating stops, and/or closing intersections.

The goal of the Metro Capacity Study is to provide options to address 20+ year future Metro capacity needs. Any specific projects will be developed separately with additional extensive outreach and analysis.

3- and 4-car trains



3- and 4-car trains



3- and 4-car trains

Take-aways from what you told us:

- *What specifically would need to happen to make this work?*
- *Would any on-street impacts be temporary or permanent?*
- *How would long trains affect parking, especially along on-street commercial corridors?*
- *How would longer trains affect frequency?*
- *How would longer trains affect stop spacing?*
- *Which intersections might have to close and how would that affect traffic, safety, other modes?*
- *What new infrastructure would need to be built and how would that impact locals?*

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Route restructuring

What is it? Remove one or more 1- to 2-car Muni Metro rail lines from the subway to allow their scheduled slots in the subway to be used by 3- to 4-car trains

Benefit: Could alleviate crowding by providing 2-3 times as much capacity per train slot

Tradeoff: Some riders would need to transfer (more travel time, need to physically change locations, etc.)

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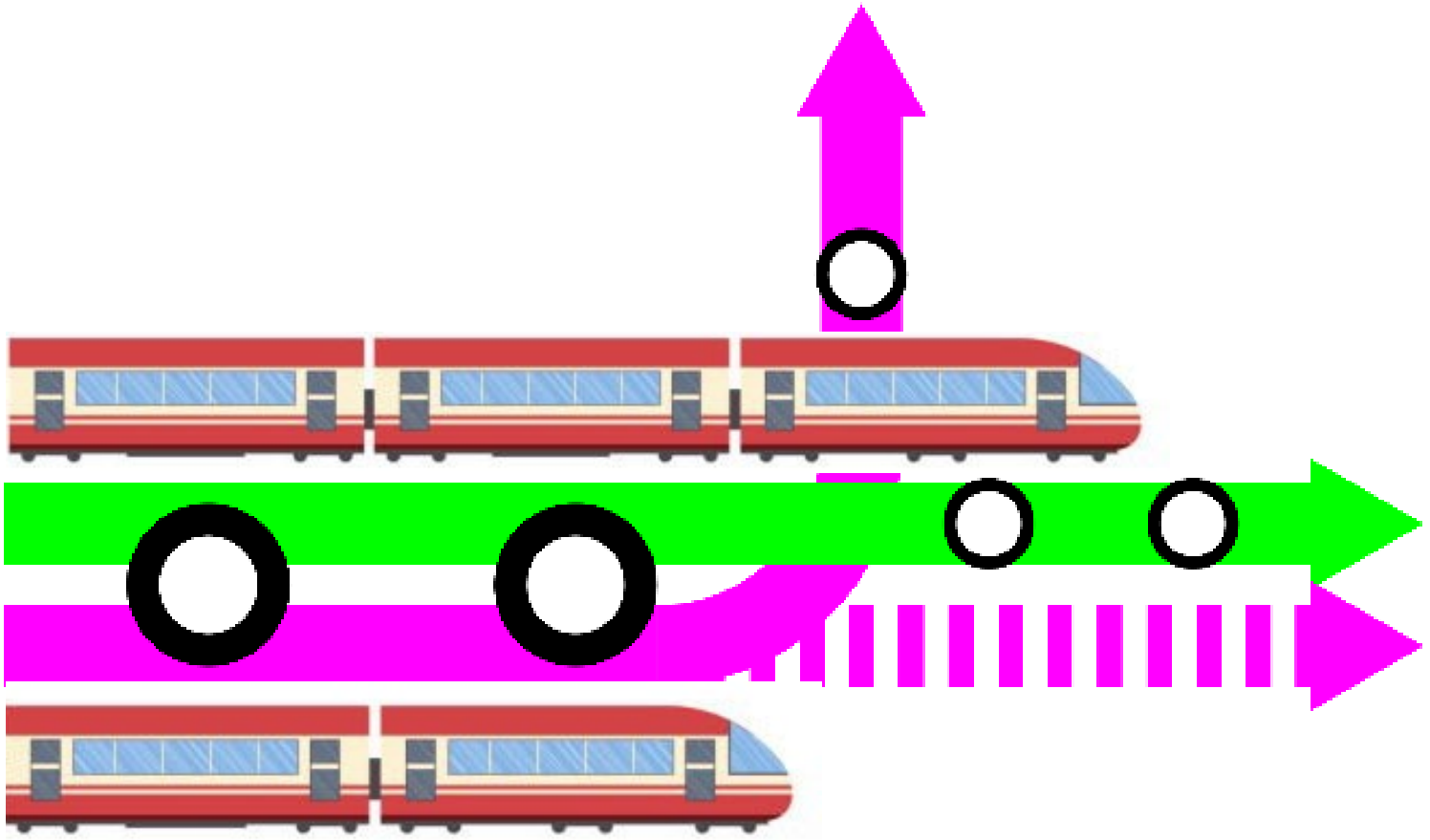
Route restructuring



Route restructuring

Take-aways from what you told us:

- *How would removing 1- and 2-car trains from the subway work in combination with adding 3- or 4-car trains?*
- *How would this affect train/subway traffic?*
- *May inconvenience people with disabilities, people with small children or seniors.*
- *May be particularly challenging for J Church riders.*
- *Transfers should be safe (avoid having to cross streets), comfortable, accessible, and timely.*
    - *Improve pavement, elevators, timed transfers, weather protection, wayfinding*
    - *Could service improvements on other lines help reduce or avoid transfers?*
- *Why not put train lines underground entirely?*

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Crossing Arms/Signal Preemption

What is it? Signals are programmed to always give a green light to trains. At some locations, crossing gates may be used to prevent cross traffic from blocking trains.

Benefit: Can increase reliability and reduce travel times by having trains only stop at stations. Increased reliability means more capacity when trains enter the subway.

Tradeoff: Those crossing the rail line will be delayed slightly to wait for the train to pass

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Crossing Arms/Signal Preemption

Crossing Arms/Street Light Preemption

Take-aways from what you told us:

- *Street light preemption in particular seems like a good idea.*
- *Could improve intersection safety. Consider prioritizing less safe intersections first.*
- *How would this affect people waiting to cross in wheelchairs, on bikes, or with strollers?*
    - *Consider sidewalk improvements like benches or leaning bars for people waiting to cross if the waits would be long.*
- *How could crossing arms be made safe from people who might go around them?*

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Exclusive Right-of-Way/"Raised" Track

What is it? A physical barrier such as a curb separating tracks from travel lanes. Cross traffic may be restricted at some intersections.

Benefit: Trains can operate without interference from other vehicles entering the trackway, increasing reliability and decreasing travel time. Increased reliability means more capacity when trains enter the subway.

Tradeoff: Fewer lanes for other vehicles. Vehicles may have to use nearby streets to cross the tracks.

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Exclusive Right-of-Way/"Raised" Track

Exclusive Right-of-Way/"Raised" Track

Take-aways from what you told us:

- *What exactly would raised trackways look like – elevated like New York or Chicago?*
- *Would raised trackways remove sidewalk space for pedestrians or space for other modes?*
- *How would cars be prevented from entering the trackway?*
- *How would raised trackways affect adjacent traffic or cross-traffic including emergency services?*
- *May not work in all areas. Where would this be effective?*

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Break out group discussion

Opportunity for members to discuss benefits and tradeoffs of proposed capacity strategies and surface collective ideas, reactions that consider each others' points of view.

- Three break out rooms where the project team needs the most input:
    - Longer trains
    - Route restructuring
    - Exclusive right-of-way/"raised" track
- Staff will facilitate group discussion.
- Reconvene and recap key take-aways.

Questions for discussion

With the additional context and framing we've covered today, please revisit these questions and discuss with each other:

1. **What about this strategy would work well?**

2. **What about this strategy seems most challenging?**

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Next Steps

What we're going to use this feedback for:

- Informing our study of which improvements could work best
- Developing mitigations for the drawbacks
- Develop packages of improvements and mitigations that represent a range different future visions for a modern rail system, for further discussion and eventual selection

Other outreach we're doing includes:

- Individual community group meetings upon request
- Focus group this fall
- Virtual open house and community survey this winter

Next meeting will be to review the initial packages of improvements and mitigations around July

Thank you!