



SAN FRANCISCO
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

August 6, 2020

WATCH: (link can be found online at <https://www.sfmta.com/calendar/citizens-advisory-council-cac-special-meeting-july-9-2020>)

PUBLIC COMMENT CALL-IN: (415) 646-2800 | Conference ID: 681238

REGULAR MEETING
5:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Neil Ballard (Chair), Frank Zepeda (Vice Chair),
Michael Chen, Queena Chen, Steve Cornell, Leifer, John Lisovsky, Christopher Man, Daniel
Murphy, Karim Salgado, Susan Vaughan, Dorris Vincent, and Daniel Weaver

COUNCIL LIAISON
Roberta Boomer

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 by 5pm on Wednesday, August 5th or call (415) 646-2388.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

Chair Ballard called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Roll Call

CAC members present at Roll Call: Neil Ballard, Michael Chen, Queena Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Christopher Man, Daniel Murphy, Karim Salgado, Susan Vaughan, Daniel Weaver, and Frank Zepeda

CAC members absent without notification: Dorris Vincent

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

No announcement was made.

4. Approval of Minutes:

No public comment.

On motion to approve the minutes of July 9, 2020:

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

5. Report of the Chair (For discussion only)

Chair Ballard reported that the CAC will keep public comment at two minutes in order to respect everyone's time and would like to keep discussion time to 15 minutes on each agenda item.

He also reported that RFIs are meant to primarily be follow ups for questions not answered during presentations. He encouraged Council members to email him their RFIs prior to sending them to Secretary Robinson-Luqman.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Pilpel stated that he appreciates all the work Chair Ballard has done in his short tenure. The Board of Directors is getting the formal transmittal of recommendations from the CAC on their agenda as an attachment. He suggested that the formal response from the Board of Directors be attached as well.

6. Public Comment:

Ken Koblenzer thanked the council for making virtual attendance of the CAC meetings an inviting and inclusive experience. He spoke in favor of Slow Streets. He also stated that he is happy that Geary BRT is on the September CAC agenda.

Edward Mason provided an update on the commuter shuttles for July and August 2020. Violations continue from the shuttles despite the slowdown of buses due to the shelter-in-place order and more people working from home. Companies continue to lack SFMTA Blue stickers.

David Pilpel stated that he is concerned about the proposed Muni service changes. It is unfair and inequitable to not provide at least weekend style service on all lines. He filed a CEQA appeal on the temporary emergency transit lanes.

REGULAR CALENDAR

7. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the Potrero Yard Modernization Project. (Licina Iberri, Project Manager. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

Adrienne Heim, Public Information Officer and Rafe Rabalais, Manager, Long Range Asset Development presented the item. They discussed the project schedule, the conceptual site plan, and the public outreach and engagement goals

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Mason asked if there will be adequate infrastructure included in the design so that the buses don't dim the neighborhood lights while charging at night when the fleet is all battery buses 15 years from now. He inquired if the transportation demand management for this project will mitigate congestion.

Sam Deutsch stated that as a renter in District Eight, he must have four roommates to be able to afford his current residence. Affordable homes should be maximized as well as market rate homes. The more market rate homes that are built means there will be more funding for affordable homes. It's a win-win.

Charles Whitfield encouraged the maximum possible number of homes both affordable and market rate. There's no tradeoff between the two. They are mutually beneficial. More homes are good for the community and the environment.

David Pilpel stated that the project was planned under pre-virus assumptions. He is not convinced the housing needs that were around pre-Covid are the same now. He questioned whether it is a high priority project due to budget uncertainties. He asked how the historical aspects of the building, which is over 100 years old, are being addressed and whether the project requires a fiscal feasibility finding.

Written 150-Word Public Testimony by David Pilpel for Minutes of SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council Regular Meeting August 6, 2020: Agenda Item 7, the Potrero Yard Modernization Project:

1. Assumptions - the housing market, housing needs, and transit operations should be reassessed due to economic and transportation demand changes resulting from the virus emergency
2. Budget - is this still a necessary project given other Agency uncertainties and capital deferrals?
3. Historical - how are historical features of the existing building being addressed?
4. Parking - others already spoke to this; it is unfair and unreasonable to have no onsite parking for employees with 4 a.m. start times or 2 a.m. end times
5. Fiscal feasibility - Does this project need a finding under Administrative Code Chapter 29?

CAC MOTION 200806.01

The SFMTA CAC urges the SFMTA to develop 100 percent affordable housing at the Potrero Yard. Funding to build housing for low- to moderate-income individuals and families is available through state and federal funds as well as local bonds, among other sources. However, space for affordable housing is finite. According to the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Area has built 126 percent of its market-rate regional housing needs assessment (RHNA) as of 2018, but only 21 percent of its low- and moderate-income housing. Publicly owned space should be prioritized for low- to moderate-income housing.

On motion to approve:

FAILED ADOPTION: AYES – Neil Ballard and Susan Vaughan,
NAYES – Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, John Lisovsky, and Aaron Leifer, Christopher Man, Daniel Murphy, Karim Salgado, and Frank Zepeda
ABSENT – Queena Chen, Dorris Vincent, and Daniel Weaver

CAC MOTION 200806.02

The SFMTA CAC urges the SFMTA to include secure bicycle parking for staff and residents at the Potrero Yard. This bicycle parking should be a minimum of one bicycle parking space per bedroom. E-bike parking should also be included.

On motion to approve:

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

CAC MOTION 200806.03

The SFMTA CAC supports the Potrero Yard Modernization Project and urges the maximum possible number of affordable housing units given the funding and design constraints. The SFMTA CAC further recommends that the agency develop a detailed plan for the transportation needs of workers at the facility, many of whom start or end shifts during hours when mass transit is least available.

Members of the public expressing opposition: David Pilpel

On motion to approve:

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

8. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding cellular service in the tunnel. (Lisa Walton, Chief Technology Officer. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

Sohail Warsi, Project Manager, Technology Solution and Integration Team, discussed the background, benefits, challenges, and next steps of the project.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Written 150-Word Public Testimony by David Pilpel for Minutes of SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council Regular Meeting August 6, 2020: Agenda Item 8, Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding cellular service in the tunnel:

1. Does the project include a WiFi signal that is part of the #SFWiFi brand?
2. Has the project been presented to and approved by the City's Committee on Information Technology (COIT), or does it need to?
3. Does the project also include the Sunset Tunnel, which has spotty coverage now?
4. If the project is limited to cellular service, is it 3G, 4G, or 5G? Is it vendor-specific or open?
5. Does the project require additional subway work windows and early subway shutdowns, or can it be constructed during existing overnight maintenance windows?
6. How does this project relate to the Communication-Based Train Control System Project?
7. Would service providers be subject to City policies including the Privacy First Policy?

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

Daniel Murphy asked for regular updates on the state of the system vis a vis Covid-19.

John Lisovsky asked for a presentation on the combined network of slow streets and protected bike lanes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Pilpel stated that he appreciated that the questions he asked in his public comment were answered by staff and asked that the answers be memorialized.

ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KAR Luqman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Keka Robinson-Luqman
SFMTA CAC – Secretary

Next regular meeting: Thursday, September 3rd at 5:30pm | Online via Skype