

**THIS PRINT COVERS CALENDAR ITEM NO. : 11**

**SAN FRANCISCO  
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY**

**DIVISION:** Board of Directors

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

Install a plaque in the Castro Street Station to commemorate and honor Tom Nolan's significant and lasting contributions to public transportation in San Francisco and throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.



**SUMMARY:**

- Tom Nolan has played significant roles in some of the most ambitious transportation projects in the San Francisco Bay Area
- The SFMTA Board wishes to honor him with a plaque installed in the Castro Street Station.
- The SFMTA has determined that the proposed plaque installation is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
- The proposed action is the Approval Action as defined by the S. F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

**ENCLOSURES:**

1. SFMTAB Resolution

**APPROVALS:**

		<b>DATE</b>
DIRECTOR	 _____	9/19/2017 _____
SECRETARY	 _____	9/19/2017 _____

**ASSIGNED SFMTAB CALENDAR DATE:** October 3, 2017

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### **PURPOSE**

Install a plaque in the Castro Street Station to commemorate and honor Tom Nolan's significant and lasting contributions to public transportation in San Francisco and throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS AND TRANSIT FIRST POLICY PRINCIPLES**

This item does not specifically address any of the Strategic Plan Goals nor Transit First Policy Principles however recognizing region-wide contributions to public transportation is important.

### **DESCRIPTION**

Tom Nolan has played significant roles in some of the most ambitious transportation projects in the San Francisco Bay Area including the BART extension to the San Francisco International Airport and building the first new subway in San Francisco since the 1970's.

Nolan has contributed decades of service on various transportation boards throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. He is former president of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, president of the San Mateo County Transit District and the founding chairman of the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board. He also served on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and was co-chairman of a successful measure to dedicate a half cent of the sales tax to transportation.

As a regional transportation leader, Mr. Nolan strongly advocated for extension of the BART rapid rail system into San Mateo County and ultimately its connection to the San Francisco Airport. Similarly, he led the charge to acquire the 52-mile Southern Pacific, the rail corridor connecting the City and County of San Francisco and the City of San Jose, a \$200 million land acquisition that took more than three years to conclude.

Nolan was first appointed to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Board in 2006 by then-Mayor Gavin Newsom and was subsequently reappointed by Mayor Ed Lee. He served as the Chairman of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Board from 2010 until 2017. As Chairman, Nolan led one of America's most comprehensive and diverse transportation agencies in the country.

At the SFMTA, Tom Nolan advocated for the Central Subway, a 1.7 mile light rail extension providing an important north-south transit link. Nolan promoted fulfilling San Francisco's landmark 1973 'Transit First' Policy by developing infrastructure that supports the use of public transit, walking and bicycling to balance car trips. This steady focus enabled the city to reach its mode-share goal of 50 percent non-auto trips three years earlier than expected and ensured the SFMTA achieved its aggressive climate emission goals.

Tom Nolan also oversaw the most expansive review of the Muni transit network in thirty years. The resulting "Muni Forward" program delivered a ten percent service increase and complementary

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capital improvements that give transit priority on the street to the benefit of approximately 70% of Muni riders.

Mr. Nolan provided leadership for the SFMTA's significant progress including implementation of groundbreaking programs like Free Muni for low to moderate income youth, seniors and people with disabilities; All Door Boarding; and the replacement of the entire bus fleet and light rail fleet currently underway. Under his leadership, the SFMTA secured funding for a \$500 million general obligation bond overwhelmingly approved by 72.6% of voters in 2015 and was reaffirmed with an "AA" credit rating, the highest rating of a transit agency in the country.

In 2016, the American Public Transportation Association named Tom Nolan as "Board Member of the Year" in recognition of his decades of service promoting public transportation throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

In 2016, the SFMTA Board of Directors established a policy for naming SFMTA assets that will guide the agency when considering requests to name SFMTA assets after individuals as a way to honor their achievements. These assets include transit stations and stops, garages and lots, facilities or rolling stock.

With regard to naming Transit Stations or Stops the policy states:

- In noteworthy situations, a commemorative name may be added to a portion of the asset, such as an entrance, waiting area or plaza. In such cases, an area may be named after an individual or group of individuals based on their achievements either at a local, state, or national level or because they have broadly recognized social, historical, cultural or political significance.
- The name will be recognizable as fitting and appropriate for the named asset.
- The SFMTA Board of Directors must evaluate and approve the naming of all SFMTA assets in accordance with the principles contained in this policy.

Due to term limits for members of the SFMTA Board of Directors, Tom Nolan left the Board in 2017. His colleagues on the Board wish to honor him with a plaque installed in the Castro Street Station in recognition of his decades of service promoting public transportation region-wide and in particular for his years of service as a member of the SFMTA Board of Directors. This location was chosen due to Director Nolan's long term commitment to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues, not only as the first openly gay man elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors but for his years of advocacy for LGBT issues in San Francisco.

## **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

We reached out to Supervisor Jeff Sheehey's office, BART Board member Bevan Dufty, the Castro Street Merchants Association and the Castro Business Improvement District. All expressed support for the plaque and recognized Chairman Nolan's contribution to public transportation throughout the Bay Area.

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**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Consideration was given to installing a plaque in the Van Ness Station but Chairman Nolan expressed a preference for the Castro Street Station.

**FUNDING IMPACT**

The impact on the SFMTA's operating budget is negligible.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The proposed installation of a commemorative plaque honoring Tom Nolan is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Section 15301 provides an exemption from environmental review for operation and minor alteration of existing public structures and facilities

On July 14, 2017, the SFMTA, under authority delegated by the Planning Department, determined (Planning Case No. 2017-009169ENV) that the proposed that the installation of a commemorative plaque honoring Tom Nolan is categorically exempt from environmental review as defined in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Section 15301. The proposed action is the Approval Action as defined by the S. F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

A copy of the CEQA determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors, may be found in the records of the Planning Department at 1650 Mission Street in San Francisco, and is incorporated herein by reference.

**OTHER APPROVALS RECEIVED OR STILL REQUIRED**

None.

The City Attorney has reviewed this report.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board direct the SFMTA to install a plaque in the Castro Street Station to commemorate and honor Tom Nolan's significant and lasting contributions to public transportation in San Francisco and throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

SAN FRANCISCO  
MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS, Tom Nolan was first appointed to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Board in 2006 by then-Mayor Gavin Newsom and was subsequently reappointed by Mayor Ed Lee; and,

WHEREAS, He served as the Chairman of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Board from 2010 until 2017; and,

WHEREAS, As Chairman, Nolan led one of America's most comprehensive and diverse transportation agencies in the country; and,

WHEREAS, Tom Nolan has played significant roles in some of the most ambitious transportation projects in the San Francisco Bay Area including the BART extension to the San Francisco International Airport and building the first new subway in San Francisco since the 1970's; and,

WHEREAS, Tom Nolan also oversaw the most expansive review of the Muni transit network in thirty years leadership and lead the SFMTA through the process of making significant decisions including implementation of groundbreaking programs like Free Muni for low to moderate income youth, seniors and people with disabilities; All Door Boarding; and the replacement of the entire bus fleet and light rail fleet currently underway; and,

WHEREAS, Under his leadership, the SFMTA secured funding for a \$500 million general obligation bond overwhelmingly approved by 72.6% of voters in 2015 and was reaffirmed with an "AA" credit rating, the highest rating of a transit agency in the country; and,

WHEREAS, In 2016, the SFMTA Board of Directors established a policy for naming SFMTA assets to guide the agency when considering requests to name SFMTA assets after individuals as a way to honor their achievements; and,

WHEREAS, The proposed installation of a commemorative plaque honoring Tom Nolan is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Section 15301 provides an exemption from environmental review for operation and minor alteration of existing public structures and facilities; and,

WHEREAS, On July 14, 2017, the SFMTA, under authority delegated by the Planning Department, determined (Planning Case No. 2017-009169ENV) that the proposed installation of a commemorative plaque honoring Tom Nolan is categorically exempt from environmental review as defined in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations Section 15301; and,

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WHEREAS, The proposed action is the Approval Action as defined by the S. F. Administrative Code Chapter 31; and,

WHEREAS, A copy of the CEQA determination is on file with the Secretary to the SFMTA Board of Directors, may be found in the records of the Planning Department at 1650 Mission Street in San Francisco, and is incorporated herein by reference; and; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the SFMTA Board of Directors does hereby direct the Director of Transportation to install a plaque in the Castro Street Station to commemorate and honor Tom Nolan's significant and lasting contributions to public transportation in San Francisco and throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its meeting of October 3, 2017.

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Secretary to the Board of Directors  
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency