



San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Citizens' Advisory Council

MINUTES • Meeting Date: May 4, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

5:30 pm

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

This meeting will be held in person at the location listed above. As authorized by California Government Code Section 54953(e) and Mayor Breed's 45th Supplement to her February 25, 2020 emergency proclamation, it is possible that some Council members of the SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council may attend this meeting remotely. In that event, those members will participate and vote by video.

SFMTA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Michael Chen, Chair
Aaron Leifer, Vice-Chair
Chris Arvin
Sascha Bittner
Queena Chen
Steve Cornell
Robert Jaques
John Lisovsky
Obai Rambo
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 Chen called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. Roll Call

CAC members present at Roll Call: Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Obai Rambo, Karim Salgado, and Yensing Sihapanya

CAC members absent with notification: Queena Chen, Robert Jaques, Connor Skelly, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

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 March 2, 2023:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Obai Rambo, Karim Salgado, and Yensing Sihapanya

ABSENT – Queena Chen, Robert Jaques, Connor Skelly, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

5. Report of the Chair (For discussion only)

Chair Chen introduced Viktoriya Wise, Chief of Staff to the Council. He reported on upcoming bike lane improvements and Slow Streets.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Mason asked what will happen regarding graffiti on the control boxes. It's a problem.



6. Public Comment

Edward Mason asked if the shelter messages are being monitored. He saw a message that was displayed regarding an N Judah line disruption for a full weekend.

Barry Taranto stated that the MTA Board voted to change the Transportation Code to allow taxi permit holders to go to the board of appeals. Taxi drivers have lost trust in the SFMTA. It's hard to get anyone to enforce the violation of the Taxi zones.

REGULAR CALENDAR

7. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the SFMTA Upfront Fare Pilot program update. (Kate Toran; Director, Taxis, Access & Mobility Services. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Mason stated that he doesn't understand the data.

Barry Taranto urged the council to ask for the key metric of how much money the drivers are getting. He is not a participant because those that are participating have told him that they are getting a lot less money for the rides than they were expecting. The metrics are not accurate.

Evelyn Engel stated that Flywheel is more interested in the upfront fare pilot. Drivers are feeling pressured to do it.

Muwaffaq Mustafa stated that he has seen a lot of excited drivers who believe this program will increase their income. There is no difference between a taxi rider and an Uber rider.

David Vincent stated that he is a former driver now working in the office. For the drivers, it is a matter of choice. There are some drivers who only go to the airport and don't pick up drivers in the city.

George stated that he has been a driver for 20 years and he just started making money. The beauty of the program is that you don't have to use it. He doesn't appreciate other drivers imposing their will on drivers who choose to use it.

Hansu Kim with Flywheel stated that the program has created a resurgence in the taxi industry. Having a company like Uber reliant on taxi services means that taxi medallions may one day be valuable again.



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

None.

ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Submitted by:

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

Keka Robinson-Luqman
SFMTA CAC – Secretary

Next regular meeting: Thursday, June 1st at 5:30 p.m. | Union Square Conference Room