



San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Citizens' Advisory Council

MINUTES • Meeting Date: March 7, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

5:30 pm

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

SFMTA CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Aaron Leifer, Chair

Chris Arvin, Vice-Chair

Sascha Bittner

Michael Chen

Queena Chen

Steve Cornell

Robert Jaques

John Lisovsky

Eliza Panike

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 Leifer called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

2. Roll Call

CAC members present at Roll Call: Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Queena Chen, Robert Jaques, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Eliza Panike, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

CAC members absent with notification: Stephen Cornell, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, and Connor Skelly

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

CAC Secretary Robinson-Luqman made the announcement.

4. Approval of Minutes:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Mason submitted a correction to his public comment from the February 1st CAC meeting.

On motion to approve the minutes of February 1, 2024:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Queena Chen, Robert Jaques, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Eliza Panike, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

ABSENT – Stephen Cornell, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, and Connor Skelly

5. Report of the Chair (For discussion only)

Chair Leifer stressed the importance of attending the CAC meetings and thanked everyone for their attendance. He changed the time of EMSC meetings to 4pm and appointed Council member John Lisovsky to the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Mason stated that March 18th is Transit Operator Appreciation Day. He also discussed the Rail Capacity Study and the Connect SF Philosophy. If the Connect SF philosophy is carried forward into the Rail Capacity Study, the J, K, and L lines will be excluded from the subway.



6. Public Comment

Audrey discussed the recent death of a pedestrian on Arguello and Fulton. She stated the Fulton Improvement Transit Project is not being implemented fast enough and does not address the fundamental problem. She urged the CAC to ask the SFMTA to reduce the speed from 30 mph to 25 mph, which matches Geary Blvd.

Angel stated that the 44 line and the 10 line both need to return.

Edward Mason stated that scooters and bicycles on the sidewalk are becoming a problem, especially private scooters. Muni does not control private scooters. If an elderly person were to get hurt, it would be a long recovery time. The City has a problem with the lack of a culture of safety.

REGULAR CALENDAR

7. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding Muni Service Equity Strategy Update. (Sean Kennedy, Manager, Transit Planning. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Mason discussed the elimination of flag stops. He stated that they need to have the bus boarding and deboarding on the flat section of the intersection. When the bus stops on the grade the rear door is higher and creates an extra step to get up to the bus because the bus is on an angle. He suggested that all the flag stops on the hill be evaluated so that the boarding zone is on the flat section of the intersection.

8. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the FY25 & FY26 Budget. (Rally Catapang, Senior Manager, Budget, Financial Planning & Analysis. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Mason expressed concern over the budget. He believes the government is broken at all levels. He stated that the agency has put all its eggs in one basket regarding battery electric buses. There will be electricity distribution issues in the future. The SFMTA needs to live within its means.

Audrey suggested deprioritizing driving and promoting other forms of transportation like biking and walking.



CAC MOTION 240307.01

WHEREAS the SFMTA CAC appreciates the outreach staff has performed over the last two months to the CAC and to the public on the 2024-2025 budget;

WHEREAS the SFMTA CAC appreciates and applauds the agency's focus on data-driven insights and prioritizing a state of good repair;

WHEREAS the SFMTA CAC recognizes that the agency is still in a serious, structural budget crisis despite as one-time state and federal funds wind down and the City's General Fund appears to be under threat;

WHEREAS the continued global climate emergency demands a transit policy that reduces a dependence on fossil fuels in transportation, the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions; be it

RESOLVED that the SFMTA CAC recommends that while this is not an exhaustive list, the SFMTA budget reflect the following priorities and values:

A. Deliver Safe, Reliable Service to Increase Transit Ridership

1. Continue to adjust Muni service at net-zero cost that delivers service where riders need it most
2. Promote state of good repair of Muni vehicles and infrastructure as the backbone of service reliability
3. Fully explore programs that will increase ridership such as Clipper BayPass, business commuter benefits programs, and other ridership incentives and marketing initiatives
4. Implement a fare policy that includes fare-capping
5. Prioritize delivering service equitably, especially for communities of concern

B. Drive a Business Model that Ensures Long-Term Reliability and Sustainability

1. Reduce the agency's dependency on one-time cash infusions and transform to a more self-sustaining revenue model, including additional tax revenue
2. Prioritize one-time relief funds towards shrinking the maintenance backlog and moving towards a fully realized state of good repair
3. Accelerate delivery of the replacement train control system
4. Continue to eschew the previous practice of deferring maintenance in order to deliver service
5. Promote transportation mode shifting and safer streets in recognition of our changing local travel patterns and global climate emergency
6. Implement a fee and fine structure that provides revenue to the agency and cost recovery for services provided while scaling to and considering ability to pay
7. Boost public trust by demonstrating and publicizing elimination of all but the most essential of expenditures, and operational efficiencies implemented to reduce costs



8. Provide employee compensation that will attract and retain a high-quality workforce

C. Continue to move towards Vision Zero by taking steps to promote bicyclist and pedestrian safety

ADOPTED: AYES – Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Queena Chen, Robert Jaques, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Eliza Panike, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

NAYES – Chris Arvin

ABSENT – Stephen Cornell, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, and Connor Skelly

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

Sue Vaughan requested a presentation on Clipper open payment.

ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KAROLINA LUQMAN'.

Keka Robinson-Luqman
SFMTA CAC – Secretary

Next regular meeting: Thursday, April 4th at 5:30pm | Union Square Conference Room