



London Breed, Mayor

Gwyneth Borden, Chair
Amanda Eaken, Vice Chair
Steve Heminger, Director

Fiona Hinze, Director
Sharon Lai, Director
Manny Yekutieli, Director

Jeffrey Tumlin, Director of Transportation

SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY MULTIMODAL ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Held via Video Conference

Dial Toll Free: (699) 900-6833
Zoom Meeting ID: 828 5383 4646
Passcode: 856401

REGULAR MEETING
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM



ORDER OF BUSINESS

1) Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 1:03 pm

2) Attendance

See roll call.

3) Announcements from Members and City Staff

Ms. Rathke announced that Nicole Bohn, Director of the Mayor's Office on Disability since 2017, is moving on to be Executive Director of the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund. Ms. Bohn will receive special recognition at the SFMTA Board meeting on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 1:00 PM.

Ms. Brown announced that May 16, 2024, is her birthday.



SFMTA

Mr. Fischer and Mr. Glock requested fewer updates to the meeting invitation because multiple emails are confusing.

4) Acceptance of the Agenda

Mr. Fischer motioned to accept the agenda with a correction to the Zoom Toll Free Number, Meeting ID, and Passcode. about the Zoom meeting ID, and Mr. Rosen seconded the approval of the agenda. **Motion carried.**

5) Acceptance of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Mr. Fischer motioned to accept the minutes with a correction to the Zoom Toll Free Number, Meeting ID, and Passcode. about the Zoom meeting ID, and Mr. Rosen seconded the approval of the agenda. **Motion carried.**

6) Public Comment

The MAAC Committee wished Ms. Brown a happy birthday.



SFMTA

7) Business of the Afternoon:

A) West Portal Improvement Project

Project Manager Liz Brisson provided background information on the project, noting that the West Portal tunnel opened in 1918 and that about 5,000 people board a bus or train at West Portal Station on an average weekday.

The goals of the project are to provide more protected space to be programmed to serve community objectives, and to improve intersection safety by clearly defining pedestrian, vehicle and transit movements. The proposal calls for calming the intersection of West Portal and Ulloa using turn restrictions and dedicated transit lanes. A more welcoming station entrance will be created, and people walking to or waiting for the bus will be protected by physical barriers like planters or bollards.

The project will ensure that there is plenty of clear space for boarding at the bus stop and that new pedestrian areas are easily navigated. The plan would preserve existing blue zones and paratransit and ramp taxi loading zones.

The West Portal community supports improving safety at the intersection of Ulloa and West Portal and are engaging in ongoing discussions to identify solutions that preserve



SFMTA

access to local businesses. Improvements will be coordinated with the return of L Taraval rail service this fall.

The SFMTA Board will consider solutions this summer, and improvements in the horseshoe area in front of West Portal Station as well as turn restrictions will be implemented in the fall. More information is available at www.SFMTA.com/WestPortalProject.

Mr. Glock asked if the L Taraval will be interlined. The PM stated that it will return to the subway but may be interlined with the K in the future based on evaluations of subway performance.

Mr. Wong supported returning the L to the subway and likes the proposed traffic calming treatments in front of West Portal Station. He requested a project update in August.

Mr. Fischer asked if turn restrictions will hinder emergency vehicles and Ms. Brisson said they would still be able to get through the intersection. He requested that the pathway to where the buses lay over be made level for wheelchair users, and expressed concern about whether bus drivers have a clear view of wheelchair users traveling toward them from the station.



SFMTA

Mr. Dubinsky expressed concern about traffic being diverted from West Portal and Ulloa onto surrounding streets, particularly Vicente. Ms. Brisson noted that there will be an engineering study of potential traffic impacts of the proposed safety improvements.

B) Muni Service Update

Director of Transit Julie Kirschbaum reported that ridership on Muni is increasing and that the Transit Division is responding to provide fast, frequent, reliable, safe and clean transit service.

Routes with the greatest increases in ridership in Q1 include the 38R Geary Rapid, the 43 Masonic, the T Third and the J Church lines.

Ms. Kirschbaum said that better management of headways and proactive maintenance have improved reliability.

Since the pandemic, Service Planning has right sized service to only schedule service that can be delivered 100% of the time. Equity is prioritized when service tradeoffs are necessary, and service is adjusted as needed based on data analytics.

Ms. Kirschbaum provided specific information about service changes on particular lines post-January 20, 2024, and



SFMTA

about how service adjustments alleviated crowding on busy lines and addressed increased demand for service in the summer months. She described the new service evaluation process that was developed in conjunction with the FY 25 budget.

For Q2 Service Planning will focus on improving service on the 1 California, 7 Haight/Noriega, 9 San Bruno, 9 R San Bruno Rapid, 38 Geary and 38 R Geary Rapid lines.

Ms. Seretan asked how Transit Ops accounts for pass holders and fare evaders in ridership counts. Ms. Kirschbaum said that passenger counters in vehicle doorways count ins and outs. The information is displayed on dashboards on the SFMTA website.

Mr. Rosen inquired about the E Bus pilot. Ms. Kirschbaum noted that Muni has the cleanest fleet in North America and that the agency must replace hybrid buses with all electric vehicles due to new regulatory requirements. She noted that 3 different electric vehicles have been tested and none are as reliable as hybrid buses. In addition, facility upgrades will be required before SFMTA can transition the fleet to all-electric, so compliance with the new clean air regulations will be delayed.



SFMTA

Mr. Fischer asked how to find out where the pilot buses are running. Ms. Kirshbaum said the agency hasn't communicated well about how to find the pilot buses but that they have been in service daily for 2 years, so many people have encountered them.

Mr. Fischer asked if the frequency of the 76 Headlands bus has been increased to 30 minutes. It has not.

Mr. Fischer asked how the public would be made aware of the summer vintage cable car service to minimize confusion. Ms. Kirschbaum said the service will be monitored in real time.

C) MAAC Membership Outreach

Ms. Seretan polled members on whether they would like to continue meeting virtually or return to in-person meetings. Seven of the nine members in attendance preferred virtual meetings.

The committee voted unanimously to change the Bylaws to require prospective members to attend 3 meetings before being nominated for membership instead of 4.



SFMTA

David Dubinsky, CEO of Pomeroy Center, expressed interest in becoming a member of the committee because he is interested in the safety of clients who use transit and/or walk to the Center.

8) Other Business

None.

9) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm. Mr. Fischer made the motion to adjourn, and Ms. Seretan seconded. Motion carried.