



# San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Citizens' Advisory Council

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**MINUTES** • Meeting Date: October 5, 2023

## **REGULAR MEETING**

5:30 pm

1 South Van Ness Avenue, 7<sup>th</sup> 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 5:31 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

CAC members present at Roll Call: Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Robert Jaques, Aaron Leifer, Eliza Panike, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

CAC members absent at Roll Call: Chris Arvin and John Lisovsky

CAC members absent with notification: Connor Skelly

CAC members absent without notification: Queena Chen

### 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 September 7, 2023:

ADOPTED: AYES – Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Robert Jaques, Aaron Leifer, Eliza Panike, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

ABSENT – Chris Arvin, Queena Chen, John Lisovsky, and Connor Skelly

### 5. Report of the Chair (For discussion only)

Vice Chair Arvin reported on the CAC topics survey results.

No public comment.

### 6. Public Comment

Niki Hall spoke against the proposed parking meter extension of parking meter hours. Additional costs like this are forcing gig workers and other low-income people out of San Francisco.



Edward Mason stated that he was almost hit by a skateboarder on 24<sup>th</sup> St. There is more and more disregard by cyclists and those using micro-mobility. The private scooters are running rampant. He also spoke about the commuter shuttle bus program. Most of them are empty.

Written 150-Word Public Testimony by Sanika Mahajan for Minutes of SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council Regular Meeting October 5, 2023: Agenda Item #6, Public Comment:

I'm a resident of the western addition and a community organizer with the Mission Liberation Center. I along with many other community members have been at every SFMTA and CAC meeting for months demanding that the city drop the parking meter extension immediately. At your September meeting, we documented multiple of you stating that this extension is a cash grab from the people, one that you believe you can pass through without a ballot measure or any real understanding of what the people want. We have collected nearly 900 signatures, with organizers simply gathering these on foot in public spaces. The residents of San Francisco fought such an extension once before in 2009 and will do so again until we win. There are large communities mobilized against this. Unless the CAC recommends the extension be dropped, we will continue to make public that you are not representatives of the people.

Priyana works at one of the companies that the city should be taxing, Salesforce. They pay zero dollars in taxes while making billions of dollars in revenue. There are many other tech corporations just like that. Cruise is another one using public streets and not paying their fair share.

Scott Brown with the Coalition to Stop the Parking Meter Hours Extension spoke against the proposed extension of the parking meter hours. Over a dozen organizations have already signed a petition.

Ramsey stated that he is a Clinical Social Worker in the Bayview. Some of the families he works with are forced to live in their cars. This is a grossly unpopular measure that needs to be stopped now. There is a very narrow view of people in San Francisco. Most people are struggling to get by.

Written 150-Word Public Testimony by Keith Pavlik for Minutes of SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council Regular Meeting October 5, 2023: Agenda Item #6, Public Comment:

If anybody has ever spent a day at the Department of Motor Vehicles, you know it's not affluent people struggle with the demands and costs of car ownership. It is poor people. Workers who need their cars. People for whom their vehicle has become home. The proposal to extend parking meter hours will add to that burden for those least able to afford it. The \$18 million in added meter revenue is the tip of the iceberg in terms of real costs to vehicle owners. There will be millions more in parking tickets, towing, boot



fees, and storage. This is the epitome of a regressive tax. This city has decided to drive out the poor and working people at all costs through a series of punitive measures. If the SFMTA moves forward with this proposed extension, San Francisco will lose any right to be viewed as a model equitable city.

Angel asked for the 47 line and the 10 line to return to service.

Stephanie Gentry stated that she lives in District Six and has strong opposition to the proposed parking meter hours extension. This is going to affect families and businesses and it is not what citizens want.

Sabir spoke in opposition to the proposed parking meter hours extension.

Nathaniel McGuigan spoke in opposition to the proposed parking meter hours extension. This would have a negative impact on the people of San Francisco, particularly those who live in their car.

Darius Rudominer stated that extending the parking meter hours basically allots to an additional tax. It's an absurd measure and a tax grab.

Katia spoke in opposition to the proposed extended parking meter hours. She is a small business owner and is struggling. It's a cash grab on the working class. The driverless vehicle companies should be taxed.

## **REGULAR CALENDAR**

7. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the 2024 Legislative Program. (Kate Breen, Director, Government Affairs. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Edward Mason stated that there was a major failure on behalf of Muni when COVID was over with resuming the collection of fares on the buses. Nobody is paying the fare. He asked if there is a document on the new bus procurement that outlines the future of what's going to happen.

### **CAC MOTION 231005.01**

The SFMTA CAC recommends that the SFMTA board adopt the 2024 legislative program priorities as presented.



On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Michael Chen, Stephen Cornell, Robert Jaques, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Eliza Panike, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, Susan Vaughan, and Frank Zepeda

ABSENT – Queena Chen and Connor Skelly

8. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding the Valencia Project update. (Kimberly Leung, Project Manager. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Written 150-Word Public Testimony by Nicole DeWald for Minutes of SFMTA Citizens' Advisory Council Regular Meeting October 5, 2023: Agenda Item #8, Valencia Bikeway Project Update:

I have owned a business on Valencia Street for 32 years and have survived many changes over the decades. This is the first time in over 3 decades where the threat of closing is real, due to inaccessibility of our corridor. The center running bike lane and lack of parking on Valencia between 14<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> streets and all the cross streets has killed business in a time when we haven't even recovered from the pandemic. My staff leaves at 3am and cannot ride a bike home from work. I've had several service providers cancel on me due to parking issues. Many restaurants have shortened their hours and closed several days a week, which makes the corridor even less inviting to potential patrons. I've noticed a significant uptick in cyclists using Folsom and Harrison streets and abandoning Valencia Street. Cyclists I've spoken to don't like the new center running lane.

Edward Mason suggested Folsom or Harrison streets as alternatives to the proposed center running bike lane on Valencia. He asked what the cost is of the program. The SFMTA has a public relations problem.

Mark Gruberg stated that the plan is not a practical solution. There's too much happening on Valencia Street.

CAC MOTION 231005.02

The SFMTA CAC recommends abandoning the current unintuitive and dangerous center-running bicycle lane pilot on Valencia and refocusing the street toward its core needs— commercial deliveries, bicyclists, outdoor diners, and pedestrians—by pursuing a road geometry that disincentivizes non-residential traffic.



On motion to approve:

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

NAYES – Stephen Cornell, Karim Salgado, Yensing Sihapanya, and Aaron Leifer

ABSENT – Queena Chen and Connor Skelly

9. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding autonomous vehicles. (Julia Friedlander, Senior Manager, Automated Driving Policy. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

Edward Mason stated that the public and the government are a part of research and development at no cost to the originating companies that are operating autonomous vehicles. He asked how much money through labor has been spent by the SFMTA to support this research and development project. The agency is not getting reimbursed and is stuck on the hook assisting them so they can go make all kinds of money in the future.

Mark Gruberg stated that the CPUC and the DMV are giving a premature approval to an immature technology. The City is doing good work on this. The problems are the absence of robust data and the absence of performance reviews. Until those things happen and until there's robust data on how these vehicles are acting on the streets and until their performance is given a thorough review, they should not be going ahead with this deployment.

CAC MOTION 231005.03

The SFMTA CAC endorses the SFMTA, SFCTA, and SF Planning Commission's request for a rehearing of the California Public Utilities Commission August 10, 2023 approval of unlimited numbers of Cruise and Waymo vehicles charging for passenger rides, 24/7, in all neighborhoods of the City, without an environmental impact report.

On motion to approve:

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

ABSENT – Queena Chen, Yensing Sihapanya, and Connor Skelly

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

None.

**ADJOURN** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 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, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm | Union Square Conference Room