



# San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Citizens' Advisory Council

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**MINUTES** • Meeting Date: February 6, 2025

## **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  
Jonathan Bünemann  
Queena Chen  
Steve Cornell  
John Lisovsky  
Eliza Panike  
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 5:38 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

CAC members present at Roll Call: Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Jonathan Bünemann, Queena Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Eliza Panike, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly, Susan Vaughan, and

CAC members absent with notification: 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 December 5, 2024:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Jonathan Bünemann, Queena Chen, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Eliza Panike, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly, and Susan Vaughan

ABSENT – Frank Zepeda

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

Chair Leifer welcomed everyone back for the new year. Vice Chair Arvin gave an update on the Muni Funding Working Group.

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

Edward Mason discussed road taxes as part of a congestion pricing plan.

### 6. Public Comment

Edward Mason suggested a medallion charge for access to the publicly owned red curbs, Muni bus stops, and restricted access to the white zones.



stated that in 2010, then Mayor Newsom, facing a budget shortfall, instructed SF MTA to monetize the relatively free taxi medallions. For 500 buses, it would come out to be \$125 million if the SFNTA charged each commuter shuttle bus a medallion fee of \$250,000.

Mark Gruberg with the San Francisco Taxi Workers alliance stated that in the taxi world, the taxi medallion sales program has proved to be the biggest disaster in the history of the industry. He stated that the program started in 2010 and none have been sold since 2016 because nobody in their right mind would invest that much money in an asset that is worthless. He said a lot of that has to do with Uber and Lyft, but it also has to do with City policy that allowed Uber and Lyft to operate freely and, at that time, illegally, as taxi companies.

### **REGULAR CALENDAR**

7. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding Access for All. (Javaun Garcia, Transportation Planner III. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mark Gruberg discussed his companies' efforts to meet the requirements to be able to participate in the Access for All Project.

8. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding Biking and Rolling. (Christine Osorio, Transportation Planner. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Edward Mason discussed bicycle license fees from the 60s. He stated that the amount of money that has been spent on the Valencia Street Bikeway Project is aggravating. Pedestrian safety is now in jeopardy on the sidewalk because of all the micro mobility that is present.

#### **CAC MOTION 250206.01**

The SFMTA CAC supports the Biking and Rolling Plan, but recommends the agency find additional opportunities to implement separated biking and rolling lanes rather than shared lanes. Moreover, we recommend that the agency reevaluate the definition of the "all ages and abilities" network to a higher standard.

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Jonathan Bünemann, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Eliza Panike, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly, and Susan Vaughan



NAYES – Stephen Cornell  
ABSENT – Queena Chen and Frank Zepeda

9. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding Summer Service Cut Proposals. (Jessica Garcia, Transportation Planner. Explanatory documents include a slide presentation.)

No Public comment.

CAC MOTION 250206.02

The SFMTA CAC cannot endorse any service cut scenario and urges the SFMTA to exhaust all other options—including seeking additional funds from the Mayor and Board of Supervisors—before reducing Muni service, for the following reasons:

- Transit service cuts have the hardest impact on those with the least options
- Muni ridership has been steadily growing for the past three years, and service cuts would impede this recovery
- Suspending bus lines that were only recently reinstated would damage trust in the SFMTA in affected communities
- Eliminating bus service along corridors or ending bus service at 7pm would make the city less accessible for people with disabilities
- Increasing wait times on some of the city’s most popular bus lines would make transit more crowded and less appealing, leading riders to choose other modes of transportation
- Ending Muni Metro service at 10pm would harm recovery of the city’s beleaguered downtown economy
- Muni service cuts would impede efforts to raise additional funding at the ballot

On motion to approve:

ADOPTED: AYES – Chris Arvin, Sascha Bittner, Jonathan Bünemann, Stephen Cornell, Aaron Leifer, John Lisovsky, Eliza Panike, Yensing Sihapanya, Connor Skelly, and Susan Vaughan  
ABSENT – Queena Chen and Frank Zepeda

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

Sue Vaughan asked what the ridership is on the connector routes after 7pm.

Sue Vaughan asked how many infractions there have been with commuter shuttle buses between July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024, broken down by company.

**ADJOURN** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 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, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm | Union Square Conference Room