

MEMORANDUM

August 10, 2018

TO: MEMBERS, PORT COMMISSION
Hon. Kimberly Brandon, President
Hon. Willie Adams, Vice President
Hon. Gail Gilman
Hon. Victor Makras
Hon. Doreen Woo Ho

FROM: Elaine Forbes
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Informational presentation of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Embarcadero Enhancement Project

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: Informational Only; No Action Required

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) is leading The Embarcadero Enhancement Project, a transportation project located along The Embarcadero designed to improve mobility and safety along this critical and heavily used corridor. The Embarcadero Enhancement Project has three published goals:

1. ***Increase Safety***

- Support people of all ages and abilities who ride a bike
- Reduce conflicts for people on foot by separating bicycles and other wheeled devices from pedestrians; reduce roadway crossing distances
- Help people driving by adding more predictability to roadway operations

2. ***Support Economic Vitality***

- Support business, encourage increased tourism and accommodate future population and employment growth
- Identify opportunities to enhance the public realm

3. *Improve Connectivity and Accessibility*

- Link The Embarcadero's businesses, attractions, neighborhoods and major transit hubs
- Update and improve pedestrian crossings while providing a low-stress, protected bikeway with linkages into the City bikeway network

Much of The Embarcadero roadway is listed on the city's High Injury Network, which represents the 13% of city streets where 75% of the severe and fatal injuries occur. SFMTA has therefore focused on options to improve mobility and safety along The Embarcadero. It secured funds to support a community process to define a preferred design concept for bicycle and safety improvements, which began in 2014. Following several community workshops, SFMTA has identified a preferred conceptual design for a two way bicycle track along the east side of The Embarcadero. Casey Hildreth of SFMTA's Sustainable Streets Division will provide an informational presentation of the preferred concept design at the August 14th Port Commission meeting. The concept design will be presented in an upcoming public meeting in September/October 2018.

SFMTA will initiate the environmental review process of the preferred design concept. There is currently no funding secured for project implementation. Completion of the environmental review process should positively position the project for grants and transportation funding required to complete engineering and construction of the project. SFMTA has managed this project in close coordination with Port staff, and staff of the San Francisco Planning Department (SF Planning) and San Francisco Public Works Department (SF Public Works). Mr. Hildreth will provide information about the next steps in the process, including upcoming public workshops, and project implementation requirements and schedule.

PORT'S STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE

This project supports the goals of the Port's Strategic Plan as follows:

Livability:

Ensure Port improvements result in advances in the environment, social equity and quality of life for San Francisco residents and visitors.

- Work with transportation agency partners to ensure an integrated transportation plan that includes programs to ease traffic congestion along the waterfront and expand public transit - including water taxis and ferries – as well as pedestrian and bicycle access.

Engagement:

Promote the richness the Port has to offer through education, marketing, and maintaining strong relationships with Port users and stakeholders.

- Enhance strategic partnerships with citizen advisory committees, government agencies and waterfront stakeholders through meaningful public participation and incorporating community feedback into Port initiatives.

BACKGROUND

SFMTA describes The Embarcadero as “a thriving business corridor, a key transportation artery, a key destination in the City’s tourism industry, a popular recreation route and a worldwide attraction.” In addition to these multiple functions, The Embarcadero is also over-subscribed. So many people use The Embarcadero on a daily basis and at different speeds that it can no longer safely accommodate all of these users and uses. Much of The Embarcadero roadway appears on the city’s High Injury Network, which represents the 13% of city streets where 75% of the severe and fatal injuries occur.

To address these conditions, SFMTA initiated The Embarcadero Enhancement Project community process in 2014. The process was designed to identify a preferred concept to improve public safety for all travel modes and improved bicycle facilities along The Embarcadero between Fisherman’s Wharf and AT&T Ballpark. SFMTA coordinated with Planning, Public Works and Port staff to support site analyses, design options and community engagement with transportation, City and waterfront stakeholders, including Port tenant businesses. Design alternatives were developed based on the information collected during community workshops and site analyses conducted in 2014-2016. SFMTA has been focused on developing a conceptual design that achieves City objectives for “Complete Streets”.¹ The preferred concept that emerged through this process is a two-way protected bikeway along the east side of The Embarcadero from AT&T Park at King Street to the Fisherman’s Wharf area. The SFMTA will present this conceptual design in a final community workshop in September/October 2018.

SFMTA secured transportation grant funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to sponsor the community process and identify the preferred concept design, supplemented by SFMTA funding and \$50,000 of Port funds. Further funding is needed to complete project engineering analysis, and construction implementation. SFMTA will provide funding to initiate environmental review of the project, which should increase the attractiveness and opportunity to secure funding for project implementation.

NEAR-TERM IMPROVEMENTS

SFMTA is also focused on implementing near-term mobility and safety projects in recognition of the need to advance early actions, given the longer timeframe required for planning, design and implementation of The Embarcadero Enhancement Project. The SFMTA presentation will include pedestrian and bicycle improvements that have been implemented to date and those planned within the next year.

¹ Complete Streets are defined as: Streets that include a complete design that balances among a wide variety of functions, including safe pedestrian travel for all ages and abilities, stormwater management, use as public space, bicycle, transit, and vehicle movement, parking and loading requirements, ease of maintenance, and emergency access.

COORDINATION AND NEXT STEPS

As described above, SFMTA has been coordinating with the Planning Department, Port staff and Public Works to ensure that the outreach, alternatives and conceptual designs are responsive and coordinated. In addition, SFMTA and Port staff are sharing information and tracking work to coordinate The Embarcadero Enhancement Project with the Port's Seawall Earthquake Safety and Disaster Protection Program (Seawall Safety Program)² to identify opportunities to leverage data and public outreach, and to efficiently and effectively implement both of these important safety projects as quickly as possible.

As noted above, SFMTA will hold a public workshop in September/October 2018 to present and the preferred conceptual design for The Embarcadero Enhancement Project. SFMTA will initiate environmental review of the conceptual design this year. In the meantime, SFMTA will also continue to implement near term improvements to mobility and safety along this corridor and solicit funding opportunities for implementation of the larger project.

Throughout the next phases of work, SFMTA will continue to engage the public and other stakeholders to advance The Embarcadero Enhancement Project. Port and SFMTA staff will keep the Port Commission updated of the status of the project as it progresses.

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² A July 10, 2018 Port Commission report provides the most recent progress reports on Seawall Safety Program.