

MEMORANDUM

January 7, 2016

TO: MEMBERS, PORT COMMISSION
Hon. Leslie Katz, President
Hon. Willie Adams, Vice President
Hon. Kimberly Brandon, Vice President
Hon. Doreen Woo Ho

FROM: Monique Moyer
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Informational presentation on the Waterfront Transportation Assessment by San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA)

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: Information Only - No Action Required

SUMMARY

At the January 12, 2016 Port Commission meeting, staff from the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) will provide an informational presentation on the Waterfront Transportation Assessment (WTA), completed in August 2015. The WTA provided a holistic evaluation of the transportation network serving the waterfront and east side of the City, including regional highway and public transportation systems, in concert with projections of major development proposals in the study area. Existing neighborhoods and districts, and new developments along or near the waterfront will depend on a safe and reliable transportation system to sustain them. The WTA included qualitative and quantitative analyses. It incorporated extensive stakeholder outreach and public workshops, and coordination with city and regional transportation agencies. The SFMTA worked in close partnership with staff from the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA), Planning Department, the Port, the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, as well as community and development project sponsors. As described below, SFMTA went through a 2-phase process to complete the WTA.

The information and analysis produced through the WTA study and public process informs the City's efforts going forward, to help define transportation priorities and investments to relieve congestion today as well as enable the City to time improvements to address growth. The public process through which the WTA was developed enabled citizens to participate in the scope of analysis and advance public understanding of the

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complexities and trade-offs of transportation planning and solutions. This proactive approach enables SFMTA and City staff to inform transportation improvements that can be planned in coordination with individual development projects in the pipeline, including Port projects at Seawall Lot 337 and Pier 48 (Mission Rock), and the Forest City project at Pier 70.

Waterfront Transportation Assessment Process

The WTA was led by the SFMTA, with technical analysis support provided by SFCTA. This effort was guided by past transportation planning completed for the 34th America's Cup People Plan. The success of the People Plan in facilitating continuous multimodal transportation connections and preventing confusion and gridlock during one of the busiest event times in San Francisco was due namely to its transparent planning process, intradepartmental and regional coordination, and strategic multimodal transportation planning.

The WTA process was conducted in two phases. Phase 1 looked at the transportation network along the entire waterfront to understand how the study area is served by all modes, to identify existing deficiencies, and to conceive of strategies that could serve current needs and address future demand. It was governed by key city transportation policies that have been developed as part of multiple local and regional plans, including the San Francisco General Plan, the Central Waterfront Area / East SoMa Plan, the San Francisco Transportation Plan, the Port of San Francisco Waterfront Land Use Plan, the MTC Transportation 2035 Plan, the BART Strategic Plan, the WETA Transition Plan, the Caltrain Strategic Plan, and the BCDC Strategic Plan.

Phase 2 focused on a subset of the waterfront transportation network in South of Market and the Central Waterfront SFCTA forecasted future travel demand and analyzed existing roadway and transit capacity. The WTA was carried out in a public process initiated in late 2012 and completed in 2015 that included multiple public meetings and workshops to solicit public comments about transportation conditions and improvement ideas. Key findings from this analysis are as follows, which will be presented at the January 12, 2016 Port Commission meeting:

- Outbound afternoon peak period travel demand from the study area is anticipated to increase by 50% by 2040
- Bay Bridge eastbound is at capacity during the afternoon peak period today, Southern SoMa and Central Waterfront are at 80-85% and 75-80% of outbound capacity respectively
- All transit operators have major capacity expansion plans that can help accommodate many new trips, but have outstanding funding shortfalls
- Modest trip-making changes could allow population and job growth while maintaining today's levels of study area vehicle trips
- San Francisco transportation plans are on the right course, but we must continue to plan, fund, and deliver transportation projects and policies to accommodate the mobility needs that will be created by anticipated growth.

Based on these findings the WTA concluded with three major recommendations: 1) Continue to develop and implement localized network improvements; 2) Advocate for full funding for critical transit capacity investments; and 3) Pursue next steps to define promising new infrastructure and policy.

The WTA has advanced public understanding of the complexities and trade-offs of transportation needs and choices to improve existing conditions and plan for future growth. This work gave rise to SFMTA efforts to initiate the Embarcadero Enhancement Project, a spin-off project to improve safety and access for pedestrian and bicycles along The Embarcadero. Additionally, the WTA has informed SFMTA and City staff to sharpen its focus to coordinate specific transportation improvements with development projects in the pipeline that contribute strategically to the city and regional transportation network. Transportation improvements now being planned for Port projects at Seawall Lot 337 and Pier 48 (Mission Rock), and the Forest City project at Pier 70 have been informed through the lens of the WTA analysis.

The SFMTA staff presentation will provide an overview of the work and accomplishments achieved through the WTA, and how it supports the City's continued efforts to coordinate transportation improvements as part of new development projects. More details on the WTA, including supporting policy documents and technical reports are maintained on SFMTA's website at: <https://www.sfmta.com/projects-planning/projects/waterfront-transportation-assessment-0>. SFMTA staff will present the findings of the WTA at the January 12, 2016 Port Commission meeting.

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