



## **SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA RAIL PROGRAM EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

Friday, February 18, 2022

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### **WATCH LIVE:**

<https://transbaycenter.webex.com/transbaycenter/onstage/g.php?MTID=e7323acc445fedea8005a987e32c4c746>

**PUBLIC COMMENT CALL-IN: 1-855-282-6330 – Access Code: 2554 266 5999**

Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) will meet via teleconference. Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely. Please see additional information on the next page for remote meeting access.

In compliance with the Assembly Bill (“AB”) 361 (Rivas, Chapter 165, Statutes of 2021) and its amendments to California Public Resources Code Section 54953(e), this meeting will be held exclusively via teleconference participation of a quorum of ESC members in locations not open to the public. This meeting is being held during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state and local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, while allowing the public to observe and address the ESC.

### **EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE**

Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board/Caltrain, Michelle Bouchard (Chair)  
San Francisco County Transportation Authority, Tilly Chang (Vice Chair)  
California High Speed Rail Authority, Boris Lipkin  
City and County of San Francisco, Alex Sweet  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Andrew Fremier  
Transbay Joint Powers Authority, Adam Van de Water

**REMOTE MEETING ACCESS**  
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**Providing Public Comment**

Ensure you are in a quiet location – Speak Clearly – Turn off any TVs or radios around you

1. When prompted, “raise hand” to speak by pressing \*3 (star, 3) to be added to the queue.
2. Callers will hear silence when waiting for their turn to speak.
3. When prompted, callers will have two minutes to provide comment.

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order

Chair Bouchard called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Secretary Pollitt noted that Lisa Klein was sitting in as Andrew Fremier’s alternate.

Members Present: Lisa Klein, Boris Lipkin, Alex Sweet, Adam Van de Water, Tilly Chang and Michelle Bouchard.

Members Absent: Andrew Fremier

3. Communications

Secretary Pollitt provided instructions on the Public Call-in/Comment process.

- Chair’s Report

Chair Bouchard reported that at the February 10 TJPA Board meeting, she provided an overview on the ESC’s work with the Integrated Program Management Team (IPMT) on the in-progress ridership forecast and benefits analysis and the importance of the ridership modeling results in connection with the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) project rating evaluation for a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) under its Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program. She also updated the Board on the in-progress project delivery and governance tasks along with the associated timeline for these tasks. She noted that TJPA Board Chair, Jeff Gee, asked for a report on the timeframe for the various streams of work and when these would be presented to the Board so that the Board can understand the importance and interrelationship of the work streams. Chair Bouchard reported that earlier this week, the DTX design team, with the IPMT’s engagement, conducted a value engineering workshop over three consecutive days during which they reviewed the purpose of and need for various DTX project elements; examined architecture and finishes, ventilation, tunneling and constructability; and evaluated other ideas for delivering

construction efficiency. This past month, the IPMT also completed a quarterly risk management review and was able to substantially reduce the severity of several design risks, which indicates that the project team is actively working to identify, address, and mitigate project risks, noting risk management is a continuous activity and one that the FTA will monitor after grant award.

4. Action Item:  
Approval of Meeting Minutes: January 21, 2022

There was no member of the public wishing to comment.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Member Klein and seconded by Member Lipkin. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.

5. Action Item:  
Motion to Approve the Continued Use of Teleconferencing Technologies for Meetings of the ESC pursuant to Assembly Bill 361

There was no member of the public wishing to comment.

A motion to approve the item was made by Member Klein and seconded by Vice Chair Chang. A unanimous voice vote approved the motion.

6. Informational Item:  
Downtown Rail Extension Project Funding Plan Update

Jesse Koehler, San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) Rail Program Manager, presented the item. Mr. Koehler summarized the background related to the funding task and the FTA CIG New Starts program milestones that need to be met for execution of an FFGA for the DTX project, which include requesting entry to Engineering Phase in February 2023, submitting DTX for formal evaluation/rating by FTA and requesting CIG funds by August 2023, and executing the FFGA by Spring 2025.

Mr. Koehler noted that over the coming 18 months, the team will focus on the first two milestones and a required funding commitment of \$1.5 billion in non-New Starts funds by August 2023.

Chair Bouchard thanked Mr. Koehler and expressed her gratitude to him and his team for putting together a complex plan. She recognized both Mr. Koehler and TJPA Executive Director Adam Van de Water for tracking various pieces of funding. Vice Chair Chang stated that a lot of work went into preparing this update and that it would be of significant interest to the TJPA Board, noting that a separate regional process is happening at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and that she hopes the region will continue to express commitment to the project. Member Van de Water thanked everyone for the hard work and noted that the MTC will be endorsing the DTX for \$25 million in the current TIRCP Cycle 5 at their February 23 and listing the DTX for inclusion in the upcoming Cycle 6 funding. He

stated his appreciation regarding the involvement of the partnering agencies and their letters of support for the TIRCP grant application.

7. Informational Item:

Downtown Rail Extension Project Governance Study Context and Approach

Jesse Koehler, SFCTA Rail Program Manager, presented the item. Mr. Koehler began by presenting the strategic context for governance, emphasizing that the TJPA, under state law, has primary jurisdiction and authority to deliver the project. He stated that this is a key moment—a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver the DTX. He reported that the San Francisco Peninsula Rail Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) structure has strengthened the momentum and collaboration among DTX partners, noting that there is regional interest with a number of ongoing governance initiatives in the Bay Area.

Member Lipkin thanked Mr. Koehler and stated he is most interested in considering two questions: what is the TJPA organization for delivery and what is the model for oversight for delivery, given the existing multi-agency oversight structure for preconstruction. He stated he would not recommend studying alternative institutional arrangements at length, but rather recommended prioritizing the questions that need be answered in the coming months to properly set up the project for delivery.

Vice Chair Chang stated she appreciated Member Lipkin's comments and that they were "spot on," noting that many of the recommendations of the SFCTA's peer review and those of the American Public Transportation Association, or APTA, are being addressed. Vice Chair Chang said that she believes the team is on the right track and that her hope is that the structure is set up to avoid the problems that have plagued other megaprojects. Member Lipkin commented that renaming the task to "management and oversight" seems logical. Member Van de Water stated that he appreciated forums like the ESC that bring the operators and other partnering agencies together. He emphasized that time is of the essence; the team does not have time to run down every institutional question and must leverage the collective expertise to take advantage of the funding opportunities that are driving the project's schedule. Chair Bouchard stated that Member Lipkin's comments resonated with her. She complimented Mr. Koehler for skillfully communicating very complex concepts. She also stated that it is important to understand that the project management organization has particular goals to achieve to make sure that the project is completed. The ESC's responsibility is to make decisions to support a delivery/governance/management model that assures the outcome that we envision. Member Sweet said there are a number of efforts underway that are examining the success of large capital projects in the Bay Area and San Francisco, so this is a timely conversation. She agreed with Chair Bouchard that there are good opportunities to talk to peers and other members of working groups, like the IPMT, to leverage insights and experience to inform our work. Member Klein thanked Mr. Koehler for the presentation, agreed with Member Sweet's comments, and advised the team to leverage the experiences of other projects. She stated that she likes the idea of learning from our peers and we should "crosswalk" wherever we can.

Public Comment:

Jim Patrick expressed concern regarding the DTX Governance item and stated he agreed with many of the ESC member comments and advised caution with regard to reviewing governance.

8. Public Comment

Members of the public may provide comment on matters within the ESC's purview that are not on the agenda.

Roland Lebrun repeated his standing request to post the Chair's report as part of the packet on the website. He stated that he noticed that the meeting was being recorded and asked that a link to the recording be provided. He stated that the \$6 billion cost of the DTX project equates to \$3 billion per mile and that he hopes that it includes the Pennsylvania Avenue Extension and the relocation of the 22nd Street Station. He also stated that there is only "one pot" and every billion spent on the DTX is a billion not spent on other projects, like the Transbay crossing.

9. Discussion Item:

ESC Agenda items for upcoming meetings

None.

10. Adjourn

Chair Bouchard adjourned the meeting at 11:46.

ACCESSIBLE MEETING POLICY

The Ethics Commission of the City and County of San Francisco has asked us to remind individuals that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance (Campaign and Gov't Conduct Code, Article II Chapter 1, § 2.100, et seq.) to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the Ethics Commission at 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 220, San Francisco, CA 94102, telephone (415) 252-3100, fax (415) 252-3124 and website: [www.sfethics.org](http://www.sfethics.org).