Message from TJPA Executive Director

As we reflect on the end of 2022 and celebrate the holiday season, we look forward to a busy and productive 2023. The new year brings several exciting initiatives for the TJPA to the forefront. We hope to see a continued increase in the number of residents and commuters connecting through our multimodal Salesforce Transit Center, along with new park activations and new tenants including Barebottle Brewing Company’s newest taproom opening in the park and several new restaurant openings on the ground floor to complement the wellness and dining services we already provide at the Center.

We remain committed to the revitalization of the neighborhood and helping with downtown San Francisco’s economic recovery from the effects of the pandemic. Our transit operators and tenants have shown remarkable resiliency over the last three years and we are encouraged to see more riders connecting through the Center, more residents enjoying the Center’s services and the Park’s free public activities, along with more visitors discovering the important role our Center has in connecting people and providing an open space for the burgeoning community surrounding the Center.

The mixed-use nature of the neighborhood and Center have remained lively; and we continue to advance the final phase of the Transbay Program to connect them to Caltrain and California High-Speed Rail through our newly branded project, The Portal, also known as the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) project, which will connect the neighborhood to the Peninsula, and ultimately to the State of California. We have made great progress in advancing The Portal over the last year through the Federal Transit Administration’s Capital Investment Grants (FTA CIG) program and
look forward to 2023 when we submit our application for federal funding and can begin contracting for important utility relocation work.

As I mark the end of my first year as the TJPA’s Executive Director, I am honored to work with our team, transit partners, and stakeholders to deliver the important services that riders and visitors rely on daily. We end this year excited for what is to come in 2023 and look forward to deepening our partnerships and working with the community to bring back a reinvigorated neighborhood in downtown San Francisco and advance The Portal to connect rail services into the Center.

Best,

Adam Van de Water

Warm Wishes this Holiday Season

From the TJPA team,
we wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy new year!

In Transit Center News

In May, our Center received its LEED Gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, which is a testament to our facility’s sustainable features and role in reducing climate change impacts.

This month, we welcomed Barebottle Brewing Company, a local Bernal Heights brewery, to our rooftop Park as they opened their second San Francisco location. Earlier this year, we welcomed Happy Lemon, Venga Empanadas, and Kaiser Care Essentials. We’re excited to grow the number of establishments that will be available to residents, park-goers, commuters, and visitors in the new year, which include a wide array of fare from Charley’s Philly Steaks, Per Diem, Tycoon Kitchen, Via Vai by Acquolina, Dim Baos, Juice Bar, and SHO’s destination rooftop park restaurant and ground floor SHO Market. Visit here for a directory of our tenants.
Over the last year, we welcomed over 30,000 attendees to our Park and hosted more than 600 free activities and special events in partnership with the East Cut Community Benefit District, our park fiscal sponsor. As the proud steward of Salesforce Park, we look forward to hosting more diverse and inclusive events that continue to bring the community together in 2023. Visit here for more information on our Park activities.

TJPA’s Annual 2022 Holiday Park Lighting and WinterFest!

It was great to celebrate this holiday season with so many of you at our annual Park lighting earlier this month and WinterFest activities this past weekend that brought over 1,500 people to the Park.
Earlier this month, the TJPA Board approved a new rebranded name, “The Portal” for the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) project, along with the tagline of “Uniting the Bay. Connecting California.” In 2023, you’ll hear more about our important rail project using this rebranded name through a public awareness campaign that we will implement with our rail partners, Caltrain and California High-Speed Rail Authority, as we work together to deliver their blended rail service into the two-level trainbox found beneath our Center.

The TJPA project team has been working diligently with our partners to deliver The Portal to a good state of design and help it compete for grant opportunities on the federal and state levels; and advance it in the FTA CIG process, which is key to unlocking up to half of the project’s cost upon completion. This environmentally cleared project is now 30% designed. In 2023, we expect to advance in the FTA CIG program by requesting entry into the Engineering phase in February and submitting a Full Funding Grant Agreement request in August 2023 as local match funding milestones are met. In late 2023, we hope to procure contracts for advanced utility relocation work and early pre-construction work, which are all funding-dependent.

We have been actively seeking funding on the local, regional, state, and federal levels to complete our funding plan for the project. We are thankful to San Francisco voters for their approval of the Prop L measure last month that reauthorized the City's half-cent sales tax for $2.6 billion in transportation investment over 30 years with $300 million allocated for The Portal.

In 2022, we hosted several tours of the Center, which included a behind-the-scenes into the already-built two-story trainbox awaiting to be outfitted with rail tracks. In April, we hosted United States Deputy Secretary of Transportation Polly Trottenberg for a tour of the Center, along with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, when they visited California for a tour of critical transportation infrastructure investments that included our Salesforce Transit Center and the recently opened Central Subway project.