

South Beach / Rincon / Mission Bay Neighborhood Association Meeting

Monday September 14, 2020

MINUTES

5:00PM-6:00 PM

ZOOM
VIDEO-CONFERENCE MEETING

ATTENDEES	4 Officers, 3 Directors, 1 Presenter, 9 residents
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[NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 9/28, CONGESTION PRICING](#)

TOPIC	SFMTA Transportation Recovery Plan
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- **WELCOME** (Alice Rogers)
- **SFMTA Transportation Recovery Plan**
SFMTA Director of Transportation Jeffrey Tumlin joined us to talk about the strategic and tactical planning behind the [Transportation Recovery Plan](#) in the current (and post) Covid era. It's a work in progress and complicated due to a range of factors, including trained driver shortages, equipment failure, and a \$50M annual structural deficit compounded by funding failures at the federal level.

The SFMTA is working closely with the Department of Public Health, driven by the health crisis, to address customers' and staff health safety, as well as the city's safe economic recovery. Its focus is on "Radical Resilience," which translates into a laser focus on serving essential workers and institutions, and making sure under-resourced neighborhoods lacking basic services and with few mobility options are a top priority in planning bus routes.

Due to Covid, the SFMTA lost about 75% of the capacity of the Muni system. Their team had to 'reinvent' the system over an intense weekend, relying fully on buses because the more specialized train operators were in short supply. The SFMTA relies heavily on real-time data to analyze and strategize on which lines should run and how frequently. Use patterns changed radically with the pandemic, as most people except essential workers sheltered in place. According to their [Covid-19 Data Dashboard](#), ridership is down 67%, Transit Revenue is down 97%, and Parking Revenue is down 73%.

During this period of emergency operations, the department is taking a more experimental approach to providing services, and correcting as needed to reach performance results. One example of this is managing by bus 'headways'—the time between buses-- rather than by set schedules; service frequency has actually increased, and trip travel time decreased. (Less congestion also plays a part.)

SFMTA is following health safety guidelines to protect their drivers and passengers. They sterilize all buses 2-3 times per day and the operable bus windows allow good air circulation. Riders are reminded to wear masks and practice social distancing. On-board cameras show an overall 94% rate of mask-wearing, although some lines have more compliant riders than others. SFMTA is looking to make their messaging on safety protocols more culturally appropriate in areas where compliance is lower. The agency and its drivers are focusing on informed compliance rather than confrontational enforcement. There have been no reports of COVID-19 virus transmission traced to public transportation use.

While bus service will continue to increase, it will do so slowly and based upon essential need. Social distancing conventions determine passenger maximums.

Director Tumlin also discussed the [Shared Spaces Program](#) that requires coordination across 5 agencies in order to get business owners their permits within 72 hours. Over 1,000 permits have been approved to-date, plus 38 full-block closures are in process. In our district, where the traffic network makes streets more difficult to close, pop-up event closures are looking to be useful alternatives. For the **Shared Spaces Dashboard**, click [here](#).

The pandemic has also forced increased coordination between regional transit agencies (ie, Golden Gate Transit, SamTrans, etc). They've shared information and coordinated services to address the needs of riders across the Bay Area in a more wholistic way. And they've developed a shared approach to health safety; to view the **Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan**, click [here](#).

Followed by Q&A

Other helpful resource sites:

The Future of Transit Service through the Health and Budget Crisis: [here](#)

SFMTA State of Good Repair Report: [here](#)

SF Examiner: Funding for Basic Transit Repairs/Maintenance Likely to be Slashed: [here](#)

To view the Zoom meeting recording, click [here](#). Password: **0kg4VHc&**

- **NEXT MEETING: Zoom Virtual Meeting -- September 28th, 6 PM.** The SF County Transportation team studying congestion pricing joins us to get input on how a congestion pricing zone and program could be configured so that it would meet 4 goals: get traffic moving; increase safety; clean up our air quality; advance equity by improving health and transportation for disadvantaged communities.