METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Meeting Transcript

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021, 10:10 A.M.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: ALL RIGHT. GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE. I'M GOING TO CALL TO ORDER THE BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY MEETING FOR OCTOBER 27TH, '11:27 A.M. MY NAME IS ALFREDO PEDROZA CHAIR OF THE BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY. I'LL ASK STAFF TO PLAY THE MEETING PROCEDURES VIDEO. DUE TO COVID-19, THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AS A ZOOM WEBINAR PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF ASSEMBLY BILL 361 WHICH SUSPENDS CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE BROWN ACT. THIS MEETING IS BEING WEBCAST ON THE MTC WEBSITE. THE CHAIR WILL CALL UPON COMMISSIONERS, PRESENTERS, STAFF, AND OTHER SPEAKERS, BY NAME, AND ASK THAT THEY SPEAK CLEARLY AND STATE THEIR NAMES BEFORE GIVING COMMENTS OR REMARKS. PERSONS PARTICIPATING VIA WEBCAST AND ZOOM, WITH THEIR CAMERAS ENABLED, ARE REMINDED THAT THEIR ACTIVITIES ARE VISIBLE TO VIEWERS. COMMISSIONERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BY ZOOM, WISHING TO SPEAK, SHOULD USE THE RAISE HAND FEATURE OR DIAL STAR 9, AND THE CHAIR WILL CALL UPON THEM AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. TELECONFERENCE ATTENDEES WILL BE CALLED UPON BY THE LAST FOUR DIGITS OF THEIR PHONE NUMBER. IT IS REQUESTED THAT PUBLIC SPEAKERS STATE THEIR NAMES AND ORGANIZATION, BUT, PROVIDING SUCH INFORMATION IS VOLUNTARY. WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED AT INFOATBAYAREAMETRO.GOV BY 5 P.M.,

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YESTERDAY, WILL BE POSTED TO THE ONLINE AGENDA AND ENTERED INTO THE RECORD, BUT WILL NOT BE READ OUT LOUD. IF AUTHORS OF THE WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK, THEY ARE FREE TO DO SO. THEY SHOULD RAISE THEIR HAND AND THE CHAIR WILL CALL UPON THEM AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. A ROLL CALL VOTE WILL BE TAKEN FOR ALL ACTION ITEMS. PANELISTS AND ATTENDEES SHOULD NOTE THAT THE CHAT FEATURE IS NOT ACTIVE. IN ORDER TO GET THE FULL ZOOM EXPERIENCE, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR APPLICATION IS UP TO DATE.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU, TEAM, FOR THAT. LET'S MOVE TO ITEM ONE. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRM WE HAVE A QUORUM.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: PEDROZA?

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: HERE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: JOSEFOWITZ?

NICK JOSEFOWITZ, CHAIR: HERE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: ABE-KOGA?

MARGARET ABE-KOGA: HERE.

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CLERK OF THE BOARD: AHN?

EDDIE AHN: HERE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: CANEPA?

DAVID CANEPA: HERE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: CHAVEZ?

CINDY CHAVEZ: HERE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: CONNOLY?

DAMON CONNOLLY: HERE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: DUTRA-VERNACI?

CAROL DUTRA-VERNACI: HERE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: EL-TAWANSY? IS ABSENT. FLEMING? COMMISSIONER FLEMING? IS ABSENT. GIOCAPINI?

DORENE M. GIACOPINI: HERE.

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CLERK OF THE BOARD: GLOVER?

FEDERAL D. GLOVER: HERE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: LICCARDO?

SAM LICCARDO: PRESENT.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: MILEY?

NATHAN MILEY: HERE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: PAPAN?

GINA PAPAN: HERE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: RABBIT?

DAVID RABBIT: HERE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: RONEN?

DIR. HILLARY RONEN: HERE.

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CLERK OF THE BOARD: SCHAFF? SCHAFF IS ABSENT. SPERING?

JAMES P. SPERING: YES. HERE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: WORTH?

AMY R. WORTH: HERE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: THANK YOU. WE HAVE A QUORUM.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: THANK YOU, KIMBERLY LET'S MOVE TO ITEM THREE, OUR CONSENT CALENDAR. TWO ITEMS ON CONSENT. I'LL ENTERTAIN A MOTION.

FEDERAL D. GLOVER: MOVE APPROVAL.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: ALL RIGHT. FIRST BY GLOVER.

MARGARET ABE-KOGA: SECOND, ABE-KOGA.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: ALL RIGHT. KIMBERLY HAVE WE RECEIVED ANY PUBLIC COMMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS ITEM?

CLERK OF THE BOARD: I HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING IN WRITING AND I SEE NO MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WITH THEIR HAND RAISED.

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ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: ALL RIGHT OF THE FIRST BY COMMISSIONER GLOVER AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ABE-KOGA. ROLL CALL TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: [ROLL CALL VOTE] THANK YOU. PASSES UNANIMOUSLY BY ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: THANK YOU, KIMBERLY. LET'S MOVE TO ITEM FOUR. THIS IS BATA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT. COMMISSIONER WORTH?

AMY R. WORTH: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIR. I AM HERE REPORTING TODAY ON BEHALF OF THE BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ALONG WITH COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR, COMMISSIONER ABE-KOGA I WOULD LIKE TO REPORT THAT THE BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE COMMITTEE MET OCTOBER 13TH, 2021 AND REFERS THE FOLLOWING TO THE AUTHORITY FOR APPROVAL AND JUST TO SAY THIS: THIS REFERRAL FROM THE COMMITTEE IS REFERRED INCREDIBLY ENTHUSIASTICALLY AND WITH GREAT APPRECIATION TO THE STAFF FOR THEIR TREMENDOUS WORK ON THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES. AND JUST TO NOTE THAT WHILE THE MATERIALS POSTED TO THIS ITEM INCLUDE THE EQUITY ACTION PLAN UPDATE, AS PRESENTED TO THE BATA OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, THE ACTION BEFORE YOU TODAY IS FOR THE BATA RESOLUTION NUMBER 52, REVISED, WHICH APPROVES THE FASTRAK

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REGIONAL CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER POLICY REVISIONS, TO REDUCE TOLL VIOLATION PENALTIES ON THE STATE-OWNED BRIDGES AND APPLIES REDUCED PENALTIES REACTIVELY TO JANUARY 1ST, 2021. AND I MOVE APPROVAL OF MTC RESOLUTION NUMBER 52 REVISED.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER WORTH. I'LL LOOK FOR A SECOND.

MARGARET ABE-KOGA: SECOND, ABE-KOGA.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: SECOND BY VICE CHAIR ABE-KOGA. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS? SEEING NONE IN THE ROOM. KIMBERLY ANY COMMISSIONER COMMENTS VIRTUALLY

CLERK OF THE BOARD: I SEE COMMISSIONERS -- PARDON ME. COMMISSIONER JOSEFOWITZ.

NICK JOSEFOWITZ, V. CHAIR: I WANT TO THANK STAFF AND COMMISSIONER WORTH AND CHAIR PEDROZA FOR REALLY ENGAGING ON THIS AND TAKING THIS ISSUE SO SERIOUSLY. AND I AM REALLY EXCITED THAT WE'RE GOING TO BE TAKING THIS ACTION, WHICH IS GOING TO 00S OF THOUSANDS OF BAY AREA DRIVERS, AND I AM EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE EQUITY WORK THAT'S GOING TO BE HAPPENING ON OUR TOLLING SYSTEMS.

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CLERK OF THE BOARD: THANK YOU.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: THANK YOU VICE CHAIR JOSEFOWITZ.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: AND COMMISSIONER RONEN.

DIR. HILLARY RONEN: THANK YOU VERY MUCH; LIKEWISE, TO COMMISSIONER JOSEFOWITZ. I WANT TO REEMPHASIZE THE COMMITTEE TO QUICKLY GET A PAYMENT PLAN IN PLACE FOR THOSE WITH DEBT, EITHER ACCUMULATED BY PENALTY, OR JUST ACCRUED FEES ON TOOLS. SO, I CAN'T -- IT CAN'T HAPPEN FAST ENOUGH, AND LOOKING FORWARD TO THAT FURTHER WORK.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: NO ADDITIONAL COMMISSION HAND RAISED. DO YOU WANT MOVE TO PUBLIC COMMENT, MR. CHAIR?

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: PLEASE, KIMBERLY.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: OKAY. I HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING IN WRITING, AND I SEE A COUPLE OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH THEIR HAND RAISED. FIRST IS ALETA DUPREE, PLEASE UNMUTE YOURSELF. YOU HAVE TWO MINUTES.

SPEAKER: CAN YOU HEAR ME?

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CLERK OF THE BOARD: YES.

SPEAKER: THANK YOU, CHAIR ALFREDO PEDROZA, AND MEMBERS. ALETA DUPREE FOR THE RECORD, SHE AND HER. I APPRECIATE THE ROBUST DISCUSSION. WHILE I DON'T PERSONALLY HAVE EXPERIENCED MATTERS AT HAND I DO KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE OUR AGENCY IS ABOUT COLLECTING POLLS AND OUR BUDGET SHOULD ALWAYS BE PREDICATED ON THE COLLECTION OF POLLS AND THE RIGHT SIZE IS DEALING WITH PENALTIES AND NOBODY SHOULD EVER HAVE TO FEEL ENTRAPPED AND UNABLE TO RESOLVE AN ISSUE. THIS IS VERY FORWARD THINKING AND WORTHY OF YOUR APPROVAL. I KNOW IT'S GOING TO HELP A LOT OF PEOPLE AND ENSURE THAT WE ARE LEADER IN THIS SPACE. -- -- I ASK FOR A YES VOTE, HOPEFULLY UNANIMOUSLY. THANK YOU.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: THANK YOU. NEXT SPEAKER IS VEDA FLOREZ, PLEASE UNMUTE YOURSELF. YOU HAVE TWO MINUTES.

VEDA FLOREZ: GOOD MORNING COMMISSIONERS. I WANT TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR MOVING FORWARD ON THIS INITIATIVE. I URGE YOU TO VOTE YES, AS WELL. I HAVE BEEN A PROPONENT FOR THE FINES FOR THE LAST YEAR OR SO, AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK CHAIR WORTH FOR THE GREAT WORK THAT SHE'S DONE. BUT WE'RE ALSO NOT LOOKING AT THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM WHEN IT COMES TO EQUITY. OUR TOLLS ARE GENERALLY BETWEEN 6 AND $10, I'M GUESSING, IN THE SOUTH

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BAY. I LIVE IN THE NORTH BAY. AND WHEN THE BILL COMES, IT'S INCREASED BY 300%. SO, INITIALLY, THAT INITIAL LIKE IS STILL PROBLEMATIC. AND I UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH OF THE FUNDING GOES TO SUPPORT OUR BAY AREA BRIDGES, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO EQUITY, THAT IS STILL THE FIRST STEP IN WHAT WE NEED TO LOOK AT. AND I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONSIDER THAT IN THE FUTURE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. AND I HOPE THAT YOU MOVE THIS ITEM FORWARD.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: THANK YOU. I SEE NO ADDITIONAL RAISED HAND, MR. CHAIR.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: THANK YOU, KIMBERLY. I'LL BRING IT BACK TO THE BOARD. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS? COMMISSIONER PAPAN?

GINA PAPAN: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIR. I AM VERY PROUD THAT THIS IS MOVING FORWARD HERE. THIS IS A GREAT FIRST STEP. AND WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO HERE. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE KEEPING THE DATA AS WE GO THROUGH THIS PROCESS. WE KNOW PEOPLE THAT ARE BENEFITTING THE MOTION, PEOPLE THAT ARE BENEFITTING THE MOST ACTUALLY GET THAT BENEFIT AND WE DON'T HAVE PEOPLE WHO REALLY DON'T NEED THIS BENEFIT TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SYSTEM. SO, I'M VERY PROUD TO SUPPORT THIS TODAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR EVERYBODY'S HARD WORK AND EFFORT.

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ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: THANK YOU COMMISSIONER PAPAN. I DON'T SEE ANY OTHER COMMISSIONER COMMENTS. WHAT I WILL SAY, TOO, RIGHT THING TO DO TO LOOK AT THE VIOLATIONS, BUT ALSO IN THE SAME DISCUSSION, I WANT TO COMMEND THE COMMISSION FOR TALKING ABOUT INCENTIVES FOR FASTRAK ENROLLMENT I THINK THAT'S EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO AVOID BEING PUT IN THIS POSITION AND WE HAD GREAT DISCUSSION ABOUT WHAT WE COULD DO, AND WE HAD THIS WHOLE PACKAGE AND SUITE OF SOLUTIONS. WITH THAT, FIRST WE COMMISSIONER WORTH, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER ABE-KOGA. ROLL CALL VOTE, PLEASE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: [ROLL CALL VOTE] PASSES UNANIMOUSLY BY ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: ALL RIGHT. ITEM 4B.

AMY R. WORTH: MR. CHAIR, WE'RE MOVING TO ITEM 4B. I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT BATA RESOLUTION NUMBER 147 WHICH APPROVES THE FISCAL YEAR 2021, '22 PLAN OF FINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF REFINANCING BONDS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE AND PUBLICATION FROM TIME TO TIME RELATED TO OFFICIAL STATEMENT AUTHORITY AND BONDS AND TAKING VARIOUS ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUTHORITY'S OUTSTANDING BONDS SWAPS REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENTS EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF RELATED BOND SWAP CREDIT LIQUIDITY DISCLOSURE

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STATEMENTS AND ALL NECESSARY ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THERE WITH I MOVE APPROVAL OF MTC RESOLUTION NUMBER 147.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: FIRST BY COMMISSIONER WORTH. I'LL LOOK FOR A SECOND.

MARGARET ABE-KOGA: SECOND, ABE-KOGA.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: I HEARD COMMISSIONER DUTRA-VERNACI FIRST. WE'LL GIVE THAT TO COMMISSIONER DUTRA-VERNACI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS? THIS IS ANOTHER ONE WHERE WE HAD A VERY ROBUST CONVERSATION AT THE COMMITTEE LEVEL. SO, KIMBERLY, DO WE HAVE ANY COMMISSIONERS WHO WISH TO MAKE COMMENT VIRTUALLY?

CLERK OF THE BOARD: I SEE NO COMMISSIONER RAISED HANDS.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: ANY PUBLIC COMMENT?

CLERK OF THE BOARD: YES. I HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING IN WRITING AND, I SEE KEN BUKOWSKI HAS HIS HAND RAISED. YOU HAVE TWO MINUTES. MR. BUKOWSKI IF YOU ARE THERE, WE CAN'T HEAR YOU.

SPEAKER: I UNFORTUNATELY CANNOT PROMOTE HIM.

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CLERK OF THE BOARD: MR. BUKOWSKI WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MOVE O WE CAN'T HEAR YOU. MR. CHAIR, THERE ARE NO ADDITIONAL HAND RAISED.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: SEEING NO FURTHER CONVERSATION COMMENTS. MOTION BY COMMISSIONER WORTH, SECOND BY COMMISSIONER DUTRA-VERNACI. ROLL CALL VOTE, PLEASE.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: [ROLL CALL VOTE] THANK YOU. PASSES UNANIMOUSLY BY ALL MEMBERS PRESENT

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. AND THANK YOU TO COMMISSIONER WORTH FOR HER LEADERSHIP BATA OVERSIGHT. WE'LL MOVE TO ITEM FIVE, PUBLIC COMMENT. I'LL ASK THE CLERK TO LIST ITEMS RECEIVED ASSOCIATED WITH PUBLIC COMMENT AT INFO@BAYAREAMETRO.GOV INTO THE RECORD AND IF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISH TO SPEAK DIAL STAR NINE OR RAISE YOUR HAND.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: MR. CHAIR, I HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING IN WRITING AND ALETA DUPREE HAS RAISED HER HAND.

SPEAKER: ALETA DUPREE FOR THE RECORD SHE AND HER. ALWAYS GOOD TO BE BACK WITH YOU. YOU GOT A LOT DONE TODAY VERY EFFICIENTLY. IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF BEING FORWARD THINKING AND EQUITABLE, TOLL AGENCY IN THE COUNTRY IF

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NOT IN THE WORLD. THE WORK WILL CONTINUE WITH IMPROVEMENTS NOT JUST IN TECHNOLOGY BUT ALSO IN DRIVING TO BUILD A CUSTOMER SERVICE SYSTEM THAT IS NOT JUST RESPONSIVE, BUT CAN BE OUTSTANDING AND GREAT AND LEGENDARY. SO WE HAVE TO CONTINUE THE WORK ALONG WITH YOUR OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE OF IMPROVING OUR CHANNELS THAT THE PUBLIC CAN INTERACT. INTEROPERABILITY IS ESSENTIAL SO OUR TRUCKERS AND BUSES DON'T HAVE MULTIPLE TRANSPONDERS TO USE SYSTEMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AND NEW YORK BRIDGE AUTHORITY AS OF SEPTEMBER 3RD USING THE ALL ELECTRIC OPEN ROAD TOLLING. I THINK WE HAVE A TRULY GREAT EXAMPLE THAT OTHER AGENCIES NEED TO FOLLOW. THANK YOU.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: ONE ADDITIONAL RAISED HAND. MR. BUKOWSKI IF YOU ARE THERE, PLEASE UNMUTE YOURSELF. YOU HAVE TWO MINUTES. WE STILL CAN'T HEAR YOU, MR. BUKOWSKI. THAT IS THE LAST OF THE RAISED HANDS, MR. CHAIR.

ALFREDO PEDROZA, CHAIR: ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU, KIM. WE'RE GOING TO MOVE TO ITEM SIX ADJOURNMENT NEXT MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY IS SCHEDULED TO BE WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 17TH 9:40 A.M. REMOTELY BY WEBCAST, AND AT THIS POINT, HAVE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, AND HAPPY HOLIDAY, AS WELL. [ADJOURNED]

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