

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Programming and Allocations Committee**

December 10, 2025

Agenda Item 2g-26-0054

**MTC Resolution No. 4537, Revised. Major Project Advancement Policy: Update of the contingency on the approved Stage Gate Recommendation for Transbay Joint Powers Authority – the Portal Project**

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**Subject:**

Update of the contingency on the approved Stage Gate Recommendation for Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) – the Portal Project.

**Background:**

In October 2022, MTC adopted the Major Project Advancement Policy (MAP) as MTC Resolution No. 4537, Revised. The MAP is a regional policy to support implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050 aimed at delivering the next round of major transportation projects. This adoption included a list of projects in the MAP assigned to Levels 1, 2, and 3 based on readiness criteria and a funding endorsement matrix with funding prioritized based on project levels.

In 2024, at TJPA's request, MTC initiated a Stage Gate assessment of The Portal Project consistent with the Stage Gate evaluation framework as adopted in the MAP resolution. In March 2025, MTC approved staff's recommendation to advance TJPA's The Portal Project to MAP Level 1 conditioned on:

- Formation of a Change Control Board (CCB) with MTC as a member and charter executed prior to the start of The Portal Project Phase 2 (pre-construction).
- Development of an updated operating cost estimate and funding strategy by December 31, 2025.

The approval included an update to MTC Resolution No. 4537, Revised, Attachment C, the MAP List of Projects to reflect the Portal Project's advancement into Level 1.

**The Portal Progress and Stage Gate Conditions Update:**

TJPA has provided the following update about the project.

The Portal, also known as the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX), is engaged with its Agency Partners through a six-party Project Implementation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to develop a Change Control Board (CCB) along with a Charter

describing its purpose, function, roles, and responsibilities as outlined in the TJPA Board adopted Governance Blueprint. As prescribed in the MOU, the CCB is to be established by the start of either award of The Portal's construction contract or award of the Civil and Tunnel Contract for pre-construction services. The MOU also includes a Work Plan which includes various tasks required to request a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts, Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA). Among the tasks in the Work Plan are various project delivery management plans, agreements, and funding documentation including a 20-Year Financial Plan demonstrating costs and identified revenue sources for construction, operation, and maintenance of the system. TJPA and Caltrain have been cooperating by jointly advancing the project through memorialized interim agreements while completing required documentation to obtain an FFGA. TJPA is currently advancing all identified tasks of the Work Plan aligned with its target date of securing a FFGA in July 2027.

TJPA is currently working with its agency partners, including MTC, to establish a CCB. TJPA's project schedule indicates this task will be completed mid-2026. Work associated with developing the operating cost estimate range report and operating funding strategy is also underway. TJPA, along with Caltrain and the San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA), have formed a focused task group to address operations and maintenance (O&M) funding for The Portal. Briefings in the form of updates are provided to the TJPA's Executive Working Group (EWG) which includes MTC. Since TJPA is working towards its FFGA target date of July 2027, the schedule to complete an O&M Financial plan, a component of the project's 20-year financial plan with Caltrain, is late 2026. Staff recommend updating MTC Resolution No. 4537, Revised, Attachment C – the MAP List of Projects – to reflect the updated operating cost estimate and funding strategy due date of March 31, 2027, to allow time for review and finalization of the plan

**Next Steps:**

Staff will continue to coordinate with TJPA to track progress on the conditions. Staff plan to update the MAP Funding Endorsement table after adoption of Plan Bay Area 2050+.

**Issues:**

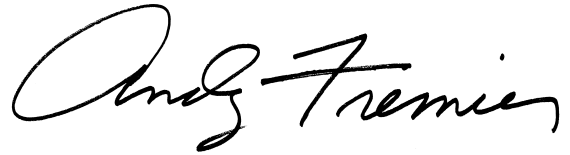
None

**Recommendations:**

Refer MTC Resolution No. 4537, Revised to the Commission for approval.

**Attachments:**

- MTC Resolution No. 4537, Revised
  - Attachment C

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew B. Fremier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" written in a large, looping script, and "B. Fremier" following in a similar but slightly more compact style.

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Andrew B. Fremier