



Existing Funds are Available to Save Muni Now. MTA Should Divert Central Subway Funds to Save Muni

In good economic times, wasteful transportation expenditures might be shrugged off as habitual pork-barreling. But in an economic calamity, like today's multi-year budget deficits, transit agencies can't focus only on service cuts and raising riders' fares. Like anyone declaring bankruptcy, one can't take financial assistance while concealing vast bank accounts and assets. Look at these numbers: The Central Subway Project has already been allocated \$384 million in existing State and Local funds, including \$124 million of our own Prop K Sales Tax Funds. City Officials and MTA management must prioritize riders' needs and reallocate these funds to save the Muni System.

If this reallocation of existing funds were to occur, Muni would have ten years of budget surpluses while fixing the existing system, instead of ten years of ravaging deficits. Like the reallocation of funds from the equally bad Oakland Airport Connector and Alaska's "Bridge to Nowhere," existing monies can solve immediate and persistent needs. Ultimately, the Central Subway's projected \$636 million in State/Local funds and \$942 million in future Federal funds could revolutionize the Muni System. Economic crisis gives good reason to re-evaluate transit priorities.

Even if built, the short 1.7 mile Central Subway does not solve Muni's citywide problems. The Central Subway's own EIR projects large reductions in surface buses to offset higher operating costs. Tens of thousands of riders north of the Washington Street Subway Station, will have reduced service. Few riders will benefit from the one-half mile subway ride from Washington Street to Union Square. Far worse, from Stockton & Pacific Avenue, the total travel time to Market Street by bus is faster than the total travel time by subway.

Furthermore, the Federal Transit Administrator (FTA) deems the Central Subway a high-risk project. In its letter to the SFMTA of January 7, 2010, the FTA requires that local funding cover all project cost increases, thus placing San Franciscans in the path of extreme fiscal jeopardy. The letter specifically states, "The Central Subway Project is a high risk

project located in a densely populated urban center. It is the largest, most complex project ever undertaken by SFMTA." Like most large public projects throughout the country, the Central Subway's cost estimates have already doubled from original estimates.

Before approving federal funds, the FTA is demanding that the MTA secure \$164 million more in local funding and \$88 million more in state funding. The MTA states that they are "turning over every rock" to find these funds. If such large transit funds are found, they must be used to save the Muni System. Meanwhile, Muni teeters on a multiyear death spiral of deficits.

The FTA explicitly requires proof that the Central Subway's operating costs will not diminish the existing Muni System! But even the construction of the T-Line's operating and maintenance costs cut back surface bus service, with more funds being sought to operate the new Metro East Maintenance Facility. Underground subway stations incur much higher operating costs.

Like a living organism, the rerouting of major blood vessel circulation away from major organs is nonsensical — as is the elimination of public transit to major urban nodes. South of Market Street, the proposed rerouted T-Line/ Central Subway will eliminate direct service to the Embarcadero Station (Ferry Building and ferry services), Montgomery Station (financial district, TransBay Terminal and future High Speed Rail), Powell Station, Civic Center Station and the entire Market Street Corridor — for perpetuity.

From northerly Washington Street, the proposed subway goes to a new Union Square Station requiring that riders walk up 8 stories and 1,000 feet to the existing Powell Station. The Central Subway would decrease connectivity to BART, Muni Metro, Ferry, High Speed Rail, crossing bus lines and major employment and commercial centers.

...Howard Wong, AIA (THD)

Land Use & Housing Committee Report

June 14, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened by Chair Hiroshi Fukuda on Monday, June 14, 2010 at 5:42 P.M. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station at Turk and Fillmore Streets.

The Committee considered the following items:

1. Planning Commission: DR hearing on July 1, 2010. Department attempting to make internal changes, and have two types of DRs to save staff time. This is not compatible with BOS decision to leave DRs as is until the "call of the BOS Land Use & Economic Development Cmte Chair".
2. Double Density for Seniors: at BOS on June 15, 2010, second reading. Expected to pass, but protection for units to remain for seniors is inadequate and developers will benefit with double the density projects.
3. Planning Commission: CEQA changes proposed by Supervisor Alioto Pier, June 24, 2010. CSFN has not had the time to evaluate the amendments, and will ask for a resolution to continue the item until September or after summer vacation. There is no urgency to approve the amendments now.
4. Parkmerced Area Plan: A presentation from the Parkmerced group was interesting. The population and the number of housing units will increase three fold. They reported that 50% of the residents have no comment, a quarter of the residents approve of the project, and the rest disapprove in varying degrees. There will not be any evictions and rents will remain the same, and rent control in affect for current tenants. The opposition was not present at the meeting.
5. Housing Element 2009
The Planning Department notified us that our second draft of the Housing Element, Part II Objectives and Policies, is available on the Housing Element website: <http://housingelement2009.sfplanning.org/>
In June 2009, the Department released the preliminary draft of the Housing Element, Part II Objectives and Policies. The Department accepted public feedback on that draft. This second draft incorporates community comments, Community Advisory Body (CAB) comments, and comments from other City agencies received over that timeframe. The Planning Department will hear our responses to this second draft over the summer, and hope to arrive at a final draft for adoption in fall/winter 2010.
6. Japantown Better Neighborhood Area Plan, possible change in process. A new Planner, Paul Lord, due to take over the assignment for the Japantown Better Neighborhood Area Plan.

The next regular meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, July 12, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station located at Turk and Fillmore Streets.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

...*Hiroshi Fukuda (RCA) Chair*

(Please see additional LU&H Cmte Report on page 4)

Notice:

CSFN will hold a Special Assembly Meeting to consider recommendations from the Gov't & Elections Committee on ballot arguments for the Voter Information Pamphlet.

The date and place are not yet determined.

This meeting will take place the second week of August. We will alert you when details are available.

Executive Committee Report

June 23, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 5:55PM by the Committee chair, 1st VP Penelope Clark. Also present were Judy Berkowitz, Angelique Mahan, Demian Quesnel, Dick Millet, Sue Cauthen, Rae Doyle and Evelyn Wilson. Jim Lew and Lorraine Lucas were excused absences. There was a quorum. The minutes from the previous Excom meeting were amended to reflect that Ms Wilson had been absent.

Officers' Reports:

President Berkowitz suggested that it would be easier to schedule programs for upcoming general assembly meetings if there was a calendar available of months which had regularly occurring events. Consequently the following calendar was devised:

- January and February** — Open for programming
- March** — Presentation of measures recommended from G&E Cmte for June Voter's Handbook ballot arguments
- April** — Presentation & discussion of other June ballot issues
- May** — Additional ballot issues or open for programming
- June** — Election review
- July** — Open for programming
- August** — Presentation of measures recommended from G&E Cmte for November Voter's Handbook ballot arguments
- September** — Presentation of other November ballot issues
- October** — Additional ballot issues or open for programing
- November** — Election review
- December** — Annual party

Other dates for standing items on the General Assembly agenda are for the CSFN officer election: April — nominations, May — election, June — installation of officers.

President Berkowitz reported that the judge will rule on the EIR of the Bike Plan in 60 days. Included in the plan is the removal of some auto parking spaces for the use by bikes. SF Beautiful has been working on the 2009 Housing Element. They will be a good ally in dealing with the new H.E. She also noted that Representative Mark Leno voted for amendments to Assemblyman Gerry Hill bill enabling building a heliad at SF General Hospital in the Senate Health Committee without meeting with opponents prior to the hearing to hear those views.

First VP Clark noted that the Planning Department's Discretionary Review fee is proposed to increase to \$500 from \$300.

Second VP Mahan said she would get out the GA minutes and the CSFN letter opposing the demolition of the church at 1601 Larkin Street and its replacement with an over-scaled condominium development. She invited Pres. Berkowitz to an Excelsior district "Parking Summit," as the issue may be brought to CSFN.

Recording Secretary Millet said he would work with President Berkowitz on the hosting schedule and the letter thanking Ramona Albright for her service to CSFN in arranging the host schedule.

At-Large Member Cauthen said she will confirm with the Sunshine Task Force's presentation at the July General Assembly meeting.

At-Large Member Doyle reported that Joan Girardot said we should have had both sides at the presentation of City (public) Power (though at this point it is a dead issue), and though we had discussed this point at length in the May Excom.

In a general discussion it was noted that the initiative regarding neighborhood schools was strictly a statement of policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM.

...*Penelope Clark (RHN)*

CSFN Draft Minutes: General Assembly Meeting June 15, 2010

- I. Call to Order.** President Judith Berkowitz (EMIA) brought the meeting to order at 7:05pm at Northern Police Station.
- a) *Quorum declared.* Delegates and alternates representing 18 CSFN member organizations. 7 guests attended.
- II. Introductions.** Delegates and guests introduced themselves. Hosts Corinne Woods (Mission Creek Harbor Assn) and Peter Tenenbaum (New Mission Terrace Improvement Assn) described their organizations' objectives, history, and current issues.
- III. Minutes.** The May 2010 General Assembly draft minutes were approved as printed on p 3 of the June 2010 newsletter.
- IV. Officers' Reports.**
- A) President Berkowitz (EMIA) reported and discussed:**
1. Update on Helipad Legislation. Sen. Mark Leno voted in Senate Health Committee to support helipad legislation, a matter which CSFN has long opposed.
 2. Expanding CSFN alliances – San Francisco Beautiful has been added to the list of alliances CSFN has made over the course of the year.
 3. Corresponding Sec Dick Millet has officially resumed Hosting duties. Thanks to Ramona for her service in this area.
 4. Installation of officers will take place at the July GA meeting.
 5. DR Reform is scheduled to be heard at the Planning Commission July 1st 2010.
- B) 1st VP Clark (RHN):**
1. Ex-Comm meeting report on page 4 of July NL.
 2. Middle Polk Neighborhood Assoc met criteria for membership and has been recommended by the Executive Committee to the General Membership for approval. General Membership unanimously approved MPNA membership by voice vote.
 3. Treasurer Jim Lew is recovering.
- C) 2nd VP Mahan (EDIA)**
- D) Recording Secretary Quesnel (EVPA)**
- E) Corresponding Secretary Millet (PBNA):**
1. Mail has been distributed
 2. Will be assuming responsibility for the Host Scheduling duties per CSFN Bylaws
- F) Treasurer Lew (NBN)**
- V. Committee Reports**
- A) Land Use & Housing:** Chair Hiroshi Fukuda (RCA) discussed the following issues:
1. LU&H Report on page 4 of July NL.
 2. DR Reform scheduled to be heard July 1 per planner Elizabeth Watty
 3. Double Density for Seniors – passed without measures in place to guarantee that the housing stock would remain designated for seniors.
4. Housing Element – 2nd draft of the 2009 Housing Element is available.
 5. Condo bypass is being considered to give people the option to pay a fee to bypass the Lottery Process.
- B) Open Space:** Kathy Howard (SPEAK):
1. Park Ranger Program and the need to increase staffing for Park Rangers.
 2. TAKE BACK OUR PARKS campaign designed to support the Charter Amendment to change the current make up of the Recreation and Park Commission from one that is solely appointed by the Mayor's Office to a commission that is appointed by the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors. Will come before the BOS Rules Committee July 8th, 2010.
- C) Water Task Force:** Chair Joan Girardot (MCIPOA)
- D) Transportation:** Chair Gary Noguera (MPIC)
- E) Bylaws:** Chair Evelyn Wilson (SPEAK):
- F) Government & Elections:** Chair Melinda LaValle (CHNA) Committee will meet prior to next GA to recommend appropriate ballot measures.
- VI. Unfinished Business:**
Resolution to support "Fix Muni Now" ballot initiative proposed by Supervisor Sean Elsbernd. Motion passed
- VII. New Business:**
Resolution Concerning 1601 Larkin Street
Resolved that Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods supports any project on the site of 1601 Larkin that shall incorporate architectural elements of the historical First St. John's Methodist Church, and disapproves the FEIR, and the current proposal for Project 2004.0557CV before the Planning Commission on June 24, 2010.
Motion Passed 19 - 0
- VIII. Program.**
San Francisco Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program.
Presenter Jason Fried, Clean Power SF
- IX. Adjournment.** The June 15, 2010 CSFN General Assembly meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM
*...Angelique Mahan (EDIA) 2nd VP,
Acting Recording Secretary*

How to Reach Us

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Land Use & Housing Committee Report

July 12, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee was convened by Chair Hiroshi Fukuda on Monday, July 12, 2010 at 5:40 P.M. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station at Turk and Fillmore Streets.

The Committee considered the following items

1. Housing Element 2009: two volumes about 1,000 pages. Public comments will be accepted from **June 30 to August 16 at 5 PM.** A **public hearing** will be held at the Planning Commission **Thursday August 5** Room 400 City Hall:
Written comments should be addressed to
Bill Wycko, Environmental Review Officer
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 200
SF CA 94103
Committee voted to ask for a 90-day continuance. Such an important policy matters requires as much time as possible for public review and comment.
2. DR "internal modification." Full DR and abbreviated DR. The testimony time remains the same as before. The concern is that Commissioners will know that the department considers the abbreviated DR request to not meet the standard for "extraordinary or exceptional," and some of the Commissioners may treat those DR requests lightly. Committee believes that if one Commissioner votes for a full DR, the DR should be rescheduled as a full DR case.
The Committee would like to know exactly what the Planner considers with each plan and what reports are generated.
3. Japantown Better Neighborhood Area Plan has a new Planner, Paul Lord. The Japantown Organizing Committee has new hope for Community Plan, and not a plan where developer profitability is a major consideration.
4. California Pacific Medical Center Long Range Development Plan: the publication of the Draft of the Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the California Pacific Medical Center Long Range Development Plan Project will occur on Monday, July 12, 2010. Notice or distribution of this DEIR will subsequently occur at that time. The review period for this project will be 60 days. Comments will be accepted until close of business on Friday, September 10, 2010. See attached official San Francisco Planning Department notification. If you have any questions, please contact Devyani Jain, Senior Environmental Planner, at (415) 575-9051 or at .
5. CEQA amendments at BOS Land Use Comm. This was the same legislation introduced by then Supervisor Fiorna Ma in 2006, it was tabled in 2006. Need to determine why it is being rushed without adequate review. Process will limit the public's ability to appeal at the BOS, and shorten the appeal period.
6. Clean-up legislation, 2010.0080T
Intention to Initiate Department-Sponsored Amendments to the Planning Code – Sections 121.2, 136.1, 151, 185, 186, 201, 204.2, 205, 205.1, 205.3, 207.2, 209.3, 209.8, 217, 249, 303, 309,
This is *not* merely a "clean-up," but has new amendments which require full review and a public hearing. Committee voted to request a continuance for full public hearing. We noted that it is over 400 pages.

The next regular meeting of the Committee will be held on Monday, August 9, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Northern Police Station located at Turk and Fillmore Streets.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 P.M

...Hiroshi Fukuda (RCA) Chair

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Greater West Portal Neighborhood Assn
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OMI Neighbors in Action
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Richmond Community Assn
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Sunset Parkside Education & Action Cmte (SPEAK)
Telegraph Hill Dwellers
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John Bardis
Judith Berkowitz
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Penny Clark
Sheryl Connell
Hon Fiona Ma
Kathryn Devincenzi, Attorney
Rafael Mandelman
Dick Millet
Gary Noguera
Joel Ventresca
Jamie Whitaker
George Wooding



**Thanks to Ramona for arranging the hosting at CSFN.
And thanks to Dick Millet for taking on this duty.**



COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Land Use & Housing • Monday 5:30PM August 9 • Northern Station • Chair Hiroshi Fukuda • ninersam@aol.com • 386-2632
Gov't & Elections • Friday 5:30PM July 23 • Northern Station • Chair Melinda LaValle • melindalavalle@aol.com
Bylaws • Chair Evelyn Wilson • evelynwilsregparl@earthlink.net • 566-7826
Open Space • Chair Nancy Wuerfel • nancenumber1@aol.com • 731-6432, Co-chair Ramona Albright 621-9621
Water Task Force • Chair Joan Girardot • 346-5525
Transportation • Chair Gary Noguera • garynoguera@earthlink.net

Special thanks to Office Depot for photocopying services!

AGENDA	
General Assembly Meeting	
July 20, 2010	
6:30	I. Sign In and Refreshments
7:00	II. Call to Order/Ascertain Quorum A. Introduction of Delegates and Guests / Short Announcements B. Hosts 1. Eureka Valley Neighborhood Assn — EVNA 2. Pacific Heights Residents Assn — PHRA
7:10	III. Approval of June 2010 Minutes
7:15	IV. Officers' Reports A. President B. Vice Presidents C. Secretaries D. Treasurer
7:25	V. Committee Action Items — written reports in Newsletter A. Land Use & Housing B. Open Space C. Water Task Force D. Transportation E. Government & Elections F. Bylaws
7:35	VI. Unfinished Business
7:40	VII. New Business
7:45	VIII. Program: Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
	IX. Adjournment

CSFN meets the third Tuesday of each month except for December at Northern Police Station, Turk & Fillmore Streets (Parking in rear off Turk) Public Transit: Muni #22 Fillmore, 31 Balboa & 38 Geary Lines

Visitors: Please Sign the Guest Register

Neighborhood Views is published monthly, the official voice of the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods, Inc., a 501(C)4 organization.
 To Submit Articles: Email articles by the 5th of the month to sfberk@mac.com
 Either inline text or an attached document can be used.
 Articles reflect the opinions of the submitter, not necessarily the opinion of the CSFN. We invite material from member organizations as well as rebuttal to articles already printed. We reserve the right to edit where necessary. Member organizations may receive two copies of the newsletter without charge. Subscription: Members \$10, Nonmembers \$15.

*Coalition for SF Neighborhoods
 P.O. Box 320098 San Francisco CA 94132*

Next Meeting
 Tuesday
 July 20

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