

Memo to the Planning Commission

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DATE: September 28, 2017
TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Doug Johnson – (415) 575-8735, doug.johnson@sfgov.org
RE: Update on Connect SF

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BACKGROUND

Led by the Planning Department in partnership with SFMTA, SFCTA, and OEWD, ConnectSF is a collaborative effort to create a long-range transportation vision for San Francisco. The process is intended to ensure better coordination among City agencies as we work to develop an effective, equitable, and sustainable transportation system. The initiative will result in:

- Future scenarios that help San Francisco better prepare for change;
- A 50-year transportation vision to align efforts between City agencies;
- A prioritization framework to help San Francisco turn its transportation vision into actual projects; and
- Greater public and political support around key choices and trade-offs ahead for transportation and land use investments.

Connect SF hosted a number of public outreach events and activities involving our Task Force and members of the public since the Commission's last briefing in June. The partner agencies involved are informing our Commissions and Boards of this process and deliverables this month. This memo and a staff presentation provide an update on activities since the last briefing and looks ahead to the end of the vision phase of ConnectSF later this year.

The attached figure provides an overview of the schedule and process for the work currently underway (see bottle diagram).

PAST AND UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

In June the ConnectSF task force met for one and a half days to continue the scenario planning process. Approximately 90 task force members attended the workshop. This part of the process identified key "drivers of change" that are likely to shape our future in yet to be determined ways. The task force then vetted the list and identified two drivers of change that are thought to be the most important for the future of transportation in San Francisco. They are 1) Political and Social Will and 2) Economic and Environmental Equity. These drivers of change have been used over the summer to craft four future scenarios for public feedback and discussion with the task force at their next meeting October 4, 2017. Staff will present a high-level summary of these scenarios at your Commission hearing.

The diverse scenarios of possible futures developed in June were used in three ways to engage the public and solicit their priorities before the next task force meeting. They are: 1) presentations to various non-

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Hearing Date: September 28, 2017

governmental organizations 2) an online survey and 3) focus groups, including one in each district and multiple in-language presentations. This critical input, which will be presented on October 4th, will be used along with the task force recommendations to craft a “preferred future scenario” this fall. Staff will return to the Commission and Boards to present the result of these efforts and solicit feedback. The “preferred future scenario” will form the basis for the transportation vision, which will reflect San Francisco’s values and guide City agencies on our long-range transportation planning efforts. These planning activities are listed below.

NEXT STEPS FOR CONNECTSF

ConnectSF and the “preferred future scenario” will serve as the City’s guiding framework for creating or updating the following transportation plans to ensure alignment between them:

- Update of the Transportation Element – San Francisco’s General Plan serves as the City’s guiding planning policy document, and the Transportation Element is intended to guide all transportation-related planning decisions in San Francisco.
- San Francisco Transportation Plan 2050 – This blueprint guides investments for San Francisco’s transportation system investment to 2050.
- Transit Modal Concept Study – This technical study will identify and prioritize initial major public transportation investments within San Francisco.
- Freeway and Street Traffic Management Strategy – This effort will examine improvements for the City’s streets and freeways.
- Subway Vision – This effort establishes a framework for expanding the City’s subway network (completed)

All of these studies are expected to begin in in early 2018.

BACKGROUND ON CONNECTSF SCENARIO PLANNING PROCESS

The ConnectSF team convened a Task Force consisting of 110+ individuals from across the City to identify possible directions the future of transportation in San Francisco could take. The Task Force includes Planning Commissioners, transportation and land use decision-makers and advocates, business leaders, subject matter experts, and members of the general public, including seniors and youth.

Task Force members will participate in two workshops using scenario planning techniques – a proven, participatory approach to visioning that combines research on future trends with imaginative new possibilities. It is not a forecasting exercise and allows participants to engage in a broader discussion of the possible future based on the 50-year horizon for the project. More information can be found at www.ConnectSF.org

ATTACHMENT

Process Diagram

ATTACHMENT: CONNECTSF PROCESS DIAGRAM

