

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

(June 3, 2021)

The Board of Directors of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority met in regular session via videoconference consistent with California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Orders N-25-20 and N-29-20 to ensure social distancing and help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair James Wunderman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He welcomed directors, staff, and meeting guests and noted that the meeting was being recorded. Chair Wunderman advised guests about offering public comment and how guests could sign up to speak throughout the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Wunderman, Director Jessica Alba, Director Anthony Intintoli, and Director Monique Moyer were in attendance.

3. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR

Chair Wunderman informed all participants that Director Jeffrey Del Bono had an emergency situation that required his attention and is regrettably unable to attend today's meeting.

Chair Wunderman stated there are a lot of encouraging positives on the horizon with the state officially opening up on June 15 affording less restrictions. He thanked Executive Director Seamus Murphy and staff for the informative and relevant updates included in the Board packet and mentioned that the August Board meeting was canceled.

Chair Wunderman reflected on the heartbreaking, tragic event at the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and offered WETA's deepest condolences to the victims loved ones, friends, and the entire VTA family. He asked his fellow directors to support adjourning today's meeting in solidarity and honor the loving memory of the victims.

4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS

The Directors agreed to adjourn the meeting in honor of the fallen.

Director Moyer added that she was looking forward to the emergency response item.

Director Alba reported that she had the opportunity to attend the Berkeley Parks and Waterfront Commission meeting on May 12 with Mr. Murphy, Senior Planner/Project Manager Michael Gougherty, and other staff to discuss the proposed ferry and pier project along the waterfront and was looking forward to exploring the next steps on the project. She thanked staff and the City of Berkeley for including WETA in the discussion.

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5. REPORTS OF STAFF

Mr. Murphy said that the Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan called for a minimum 3-foot social distancing and that WETA had recently received approval from San Francisco to move to 3-foot social distancing which WETA had implemented on May 26 noting that it helped with the huge increase in ridership on Memorial Day. He said that the 3-foot social distancing would be in place as long as it was needed with the understanding that the state would be easing the social distancing on board transit on June 15, though counties could still decide to be more restrictive.

Mr. Murphy reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force (Task Force) met to discuss network management roles and responsibilities and potential solutions to include in AB 629 which was held over for this session.

He stated that WETA had its first low tide episode that restricts the ability to operate service to the Vallejo terminal. He thanked Blue & Gold Fleet (Blue & Gold), Operations & Maintenance Manager Timothy Hanners and his team, and Public Information & Marketing Manager Thomas Hall for putting together the customer outreach program to notify customers of the event and about the contingencies that were put in place. He said that these efforts would be duplicated for the second low tide event that was expected this month and that a third and final low tide event would occur during the third week of July when more service would be operating.

Mr. Murphy stated that staff had intended on presenting a conceptual special event service plan followed by a more formal rollout for Giants' service, but with the announcement of full capacity at Oracle Park, Giants direct service will begin on June 25 before the implementation of the Pandemic Recovery Program (Program). He said that reservations can be made to help control capacity and that existing fares would be maintained from June 25 through the end of the season. He added that the need for direct service to weekday games would be minimized and that staff proposed that riders depend on the enhanced regular service with a 20-minute walk to get to and from the ballpark. He said that staff is proposing a pilot program for a free, short hop transfer service for weekend day games between the Ferry Building and Oracle Park to maximize utilization of crews to provide regular service. He credited Mr. Hanners and Planning & Development Manager Kevin Connolly for this new idea.

On emergency response, Mr. Murphy reported that staff was going through an intensive training program reflecting the mandate of the WETA. He said that live training is scheduled for the end of summer and that staff would bring a comprehensive item to the Board for discussion.

Mr. Murphy provided five written reports and offered to answer questions.

Mr. Hall said that the Giants expressed the need for additional transit service especially for evening games given that BART closes before the end of the games, so staff is hoping that the new service plan would be well received in response to Chair Wunderman. Mr. Murphy confirmed that the pilot, short hop from the Ferry Building to Oracle Park would be provided as a free service for the nine games to minimize waiting times if there are significant crowds in response to Director Alba.

Director Moyer commended everybody involved especially Blue & Gold, the harbor and ferry staff, and the passengers for their agility and flexibility in dealing with the Vallejo low tide and was delighted to hear that there were no dramatic impacts. She said that she looked forward to the item on emergency response and commended all for participating in all the exercises.

She expressed concern that ballpark parking was going to be much cheaper than a roundtrip ticket for two from Alameda to San Francisco and wanted to know how pricing was determined. Mr. Murphy explained that the fares were built around a Board adopted policy that recaptures all costs

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associated with special event service and one of the Program principles which maintains special event pricing. He said that evaluating ridership on direct service compared to the Program fares for regular service and connecting to the short hop would be an opportunity to review the special pricing policy.

Director Intintoli said that he has dealt with the dredging issues in the past and was satisfied with the efforts that were in place address the low tide situation.

Mr. Connolly provided an update on the Monthly Ridership and Recovery Report. Mr. Connolly reported that there was double digit ridership for the sixth week in a row with a steady increase. He said that it was encouraging to see a 40 percent increase in ridership on Memorial Day and an increase in reverse travel during the midday reflecting a trend in higher demand for recreational time ridership. He said that staff would continue to monitor ridership.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Seamless Bay Area Advocacy Director Adina Levin supported preserving virtual participation at Board meetings.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Board Meeting Minutes – May 6, 2021
- b. Board Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2021
- c. Approve Purchase of Commercial Insurance Policies for FY 2021/22
- d. Receive the Independent Auditor's Engagement Letter for the Fiscal Year 2020/21 Financial Audit

Chair Wunderman called for public comments on the consent calendar, and there were none.

Director Alba seconded the motion, and the consent calendar carried unanimously.

Yeas: Alba, Intintoli, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DeBono.

7. APPROVE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021/22 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

Mr. Murphy presented this item recommending approval of the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/22 Operating and Capital Budgets. He expressed his appreciation of the Board's feedback from the May 20 meeting on the budget item and shared his presentation on follow up line items related to increased expenses which included fuel, crew, engineers, insurance, and other Blue & Gold support.

Chair Wunderman said that he was satisfied with the models and felt the assumptions were reasonable.

Mr. Murphy said that it would be welcome news if ridership increased a lot more than expected and that funds would be available to carry over into FY 2022/23 in response to Director Intintoli. He added that some stress testing had been done on the budget and stated that WETA was depending on the \$3.7 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) being distributed by MTC to balance the budget if ridership does not materialize as expected. He said that MTC was expecting that agencies might be relying on the federal support from ARPA to balance the budget and was therefore, proposing multiple tranches of funding to be made available throughout the FY2021/22 and 2022/23 budget cycles. He said that service and fares may need to be

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reevaluated and other subsidy opportunities including Regional Measure (RM3) would need to be identified if ridership does not return to pre-pandemic levels.

Mr. Murphy said that staff would be prepared to make recommendations about evolving service based upon ridership patterns in response to Director Intintoli.

Director Moyer thanked Finance & Administration Manager Lynne Yu for her hard work and for providing answers to the budget questions that were addressed.

Director Alba said that it was reassuring that WETA was utilizing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRSAA) funds well into FY 2021/22 and not dependent on the ARPA funds early in the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific Regional Director Robert Estrada thanked WETA management for their deftly leadership and stewardship in maneuvering through very difficult financial times and managing to preserve the workforce and the emergency response capacity.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item.

Director Moyer seconded the motion, and the item passed unanimously.

Yeas: Alba, Intintoli, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DeBono.

8. AUTHORIZE FILING APPLICATIONS WITH THE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/22 REGIONAL MEASURE 1 AND REGIONAL MEASURE 2 FUNDS

Ms. Yu presented this item recommending approval of the following actions relative to securing operating and capital grant funds to support WETA's Fiscal Year 2021/22 Operating and Capital Budget:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to submit an allocation request to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) for a total of \$620,080 FY 2021/22 Regional Measure 1 Two Percent Bridge Toll Revenue (RM1 – 2%) funds; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director to submit an allocation request to MTC for a total of \$15,555,000 FY 2021/22 Regional Measure 2 (RM2) operating funds; and
3. Authorize the Executive Director to take any other related actions as may be required to secure these funds.

Ms. Yu said that the terms were the same as in previous years in response to Chair Wunderman. She explained that indemnify MTC meant WETA would hold MTC harmless – that MTC would not be liable for the construction if something goes wrong with the project, that WETA would not go after MTC for any liabilities, and that indemnify did not include MTC's failure to transfer funds or reduce funds in response to Director Moyer. WETA Legal Counsel Madeline Chun of Hanson Bridgett LLP added that the indemnification was a standard clause that relates to the acts or omissions of the WETA and were confined to things that were within the scope of WETA's control.

Chair Wunderman called for public comments, and there were none.

Director Alba made a motion to approve the item.

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Director Intintoli seconded the motion, and the item passed unanimously.

Yeas: Alba, Intintoli, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono

9. APPROVE AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH NEMATODE MEDIA, LLC FOR FERRY TICKET SALES AND INFORMATION SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021/22

Mr. Hall presented this item recommending approval of Amendment No. 14 to Agreement No. 04-205 with Nematode Media, LLC (Nematode) in the amount of \$83,000 for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022.

Bay Crossings, a division of Nematode Media, LLC, is a retail shop inside the downtown San Francisco Ferry Building Marketplace adjacent to the Downtown San Francisco Ferry Terminal. Bay Crossings provides transit-related services to the public including the operation of a Clipper Customer Service Center, selling San Francisco Bay Ferry tickets and MUNI Day Passes, and disseminating public transit and visitor information. Clipper Customer Service Center functions are funded under a contract with MTC. Other services provided, such as the sale of other transit tickets and passes, are supported through separate agreements with individual transit agencies.

Chair Wunderman expressed his appreciation for the partnership, efforts, and passion of Bay Crossings and the information and services provided.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Manager at Bay Crossings Jonathan D'Agostin said he strongly believed in public transit and the importance of the services provided to make public transit easy to understand and accessible to people from all walks of life, especially those that rely on public transit.

Director Moyer made a motion to approve the item.

The Directors were supportive of the partnership and appreciative of services that Bay Crossings provides.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Bellows endorsed continuing the partnership.

Director Alba seconded the motion, and the item passed unanimously.

Yeas: Alba, Intintoli, Moyer, Wunderman. Nays: None. Absent: DelBono.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No further public comments were shared.

With all business concluded, Chair Wunderman adjourned the meeting in memory of the VTA victims at 2:04 p.m.

- Board Secretary

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