

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

***(September 2, 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, N-29-20, and N-09-21 to ensure social distancing and help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Monique Moyer called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. She welcomed directors, staff, and meeting guests and noted that the meeting was being recorded. Vice Chair Moyer advised guests about offering public comment and how guests could sign up to speak throughout the meeting.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair Moyer, Director Jessica Alba, Director Jeffrey DelBono, and Director Anthony Intintoli were in attendance.

**3. REPORT OF BOARD CHAIR**

No report.

**4. REPORTS OF DIRECTORS**

Director Alba expressed her excitement on the increase in ridership prior to the peak in Delta referencing fare reductions and service increases.

Director Intintoli noted that everything was going well with the dredging process in Vallejo.

Vice Chair Moyer extended her gratitude to Assembly Speaker pro Tem and San Mateo County Representative Kevin Mullin for his leadership in securing \$5 million towards the Redwood City ferry terminal project.

She applauded and recognized Public Information & Marketing Manager Thomas Hall and his team and Executive Director Seamus Murphy for the addition of Ferry Tales to the *Full Speed Ahead* newsletter and for participation in KQED's Forum on *Checking in on Bay Area Ferries*, respectively and thanked staff for all their hard work.

**5. REPORTS OF STAFF**

Executive Director Seamus Murphy began by introducing new WETA employee, Customer Experience Specialist Rafael Regan who would be working with Mr. Hall.

Mr. Murphy said that the mask mandate that was extended on public transit through January 18, 2022 would continue to be enforced on the system but did not apply to the outdoor areas of the ferry. He said that the mandate for proof of vaccination for certain indoor businesses applied to purchasing concessions on board the ferries.

He noted that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) had launched its regional marketing campaign to encourage riders to get back on transit in collaboration with transit operators. He provided a status update on the Treasure Island development and information on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Triennial Review.

Mr. Murphy invited Government & Regulatory Affairs Manager Lauren Gularte to provide information on the update of the state budget, funding earmarks, and the support WETA has received for funding request for zero emissions. She invited FBB Federal Relations Federal Lobbyist Ray Bucheger to provide the federal update on the infrastructure and budget reconciliation bills and his firm's work to increase funding for the two federal programs dedicated to public ferries.

The Directors thanked Mr. Bucheger for his helpful and informative report.

Mr. Murphy provided five written reports and offered to answer questions and invited Planning & Development Manager Kevin Connolly to report on ridership and recovery. Mr. Connolly said that the orientation of this report would be used as a basis to track performance against the goals of the Pandemic Recovery Plan. He shared his presentation reflecting rolling averages, service enhancements, and tracking comparison to other regional operators.

Operations & Maintenance Manager Timothy Hanners said that Blue & Gold Fleet (Blue & Gold) held daily briefings to address mandates and ensure passenger compliance. Mr. Murphy added methods other transit operators were using handed down from FTA and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in response to Director Intintoli.

Mr. Connolly clarified departures and arrivals for Oakland service in response to Director DelBono.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kelly Hammergren asked about the standard requirements of specific facial coverings. Mr. Murphy said that he was not aware of any specific mask requirements other than one that needed to cover the nose and mouth.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Commuter.org Executive Director John Ford said he looked forward to receiving the updated schedule for the South San Francisco service.

### **6. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the consent calendar:

- a. Board Meeting Minutes – July 1, 2021
- b. Authorize Release of a Request for Proposals for MV *Pyxis* Generator Diesel Particulate Filter Demonstration Project

Vice Chair Moyer 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, DelBono, Intintoli, Moyer. Nays: None. Absent: Wunderman.

**7. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WATER EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

Mr. Murphy presented this item recommending the appointment of Erin McGrath to the position of Chief Financial Officer and authorizing the Executive Director to execute the employment agreement.

He invited consultant Kathleen Kelly to describe the recruitment process and the value Ms. McGrath would bring to the WETA.

Ms. Kelly welcomed Ms. McGrath and offered her the opportunity to say a few words.

Mr. Murphy acknowledged the work of Acting Chief Financial Officer Lynne Yu. He and the Directors thanked her for her dedication and her help with the transition.

Director DelBono made a motion to approve the item.

Vice Chair Moyer expressed her admiration and appreciation of Ms. McGrath with whom she had the pleasure of working with early in their careers.

Vice Chair Moyer called for public comments, and there were none.

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

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

**8. APPROVE CONTRACT AWARD TO COWI NORTH AMERICA, INC. FOR THE ALAMEDA MAIN STREET FERRY TERMINAL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT ENGINEERING AND DESIGN SERVICES**

Senior Planner/Project Manager Chad Mason presented this item recommending approval of the following actions relative to the *Alameda Main Street Ferry Terminal Refurbishment Project* (Project):

1. Approve contract award to COWI North America, Inc. (COWI) of Oakland, California for Engineering and Design Services for a not to exceed amount of \$400,000; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract and take any other related actions as may be necessary to support the Project.

He said that the scope of work for this phase of the project included assessment of the existing terminal components, preliminary design services, support of environmental permitting, the design, build construction procurement process, and engineering support services during the final design and construction phases.

Director Alba made a motion to approve the item.

Vice Chair Moyer expressed her appreciation for the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) achievement.

Vice Chair Moyer called for public comments, and there were none.

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

**9. AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES THE ALAMEDA MAIN STREET FERRY TERMINAL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT**

Mr. Mason presented this item recommending authorization to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for construction management services for the *Alameda Main Street Ferry Terminal Refurbishment Project* (Project).

He said that the selected firm is an extension of staff and will act primarily as the owner's representative providing oversight and support during the Project

Director DelBono made a motion to approve the item.

Vice Chair Moyer called for public comments, and there were none.

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

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

**10. APPROVE ACTIONS RELATIVE TO THE TIER 4 MAIN ENGINE CONVERSION GEMINI CLASS SERVICES PROJECT**

Operations & Maintenance Manager Timothy Hanners introduced Engineering & Maintenance Administrator Jeffery Powell who presented this item recommending approval of the following actions associated with the *Tier 4 Main Engine Conversion Gemini Class Services Project* (Project):

1. Approve the contract award to JT Marine Inc. located in Vancouver, Washington, to complete the Project in the amount of \$3,542,915;
2. Authorize a contract contingency in the amount of \$389,785;
3. Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with JT Marine Inc. and take any other related actions as may be necessary to support this work; and
4. Approve a budget increase to the *Vessel Engines Conversion – Gemini Class Vessels* project in the FY 2021/22 Capital Budget in the amount of \$458,400, to be funded with Alameda Transportation Sales Tax revenues.

Director Alba made a motion to approve the item.

The Directors welcomed Mr. Powell to WETA and thanked him for providing additional information on the scoring and expanding on the written report.

Vice Chair Moyer called for public comments, and there were none.

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

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

**11. APPROVE EXTENSION OF PARTICIPATION IN CLIPPER START PILOT PROGRAM**

Transportation Planner Arthi Krubanandh presented this item recommending approval of the extension of participation in the Clipper START pilot program for an additional 18-month period.

She shared her presentation on the Clipper START usage on WETA services from January through July 2021.

Director Intintoli made a motion to approve the item.

The Directors spoke in support of the extension and promotion of the program.

Vice Chair Moyer called for public comments, and there were none.

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

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

## **12. WETA 2040 SERVICE VISION & BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE**

Principal Planner Michael Gougherty introduced this informational item and CivicMakers Chief Engagement Officer Cristelle Blackford to provide a brief presentation on the project overview, the objectives, goals, and schedule for the project, stakeholder groups, the stakeholder workshop concept, and next steps.

Vice Chair Moyer and Director Alba shared their thoughts about the Service Vision and Business Plan, thanked CivicMakers for putting together a strong stakeholder engagement plan, and asked stakeholders to participate and provide comment.

## **13. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jerry Bellows thanked Ms. Yu for all her work and looked forward to following the WETA Business Plan. He added that Fleet Week will be happening and that WETA consider extra ferry service.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Port of Redwood City Port Commissioner Chair Lorianna Kastrop shared that the state had approved an additional \$5 million in funding for the Redwood City ferry terminal project and thanked Assemblymember Mullin, Redwood City Mayor Diane Howard, and WETA for their support.

With all business concluded, Vice Chair Moyer adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

- Board Secretary

\*\*\*END\*\*\*