

Agenda Item No. 4

# Update on Regional Transit Coordination

Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District  
Transportation Committee Meeting of January 21, 2021



# Presentation Overview

1. Context of Bridge District and its transit program – Managing a Corridor
2. Transit Coordination Today
3. Governance
4. Transit Network Management Concepts









# Bridge District Context in Regional Transit Coordination

## The San Rafael Transit Center

Schedules have been coordinated for over 30 years where buses from different directions and operators arrive and depart together on a “pulse” that facilitates easy transfers for passengers

- Currently, pulses occur every 15 minutes each hour between Golden Gate Transit and Marin Transit routes
- SMART train schedules are also timed to meet pulse times in the peak direction



# Bridge District Context in Regional Transit Coordination

## Reducing Congestion in the Corridor

Pre-COVID, Weekdays from 5:00-9:00 a.m., twenty-three (23) percent of all trips from Marin and Sonoma into San Francisco were on the District's Buses and Ferries, taking thousands of cars off highway 101, the Golden Gate Bridge and the streets of San Francisco every day



# Presentation Overview

1. Transit Coordination Today – MTC's Renewed Interest
2. Governance
3. Transit Network Management Concepts



## Shared Goals for Bay Area Transit

- Restore and increase Bay Area **transit ridership**
- Improve **regional connections** and overall function of transit systems as an integrated regional network
- Improve the **rider experience**, creating a **world-class network** that is more understandable, reliable, frequent, effective, and easy to use
- Focus on **equity** to ensure that the region's transit network is accessible and affordable to all
- **Identify new revenues** to ensure that new regional integration strategies can be advanced without negatively impacting riders that depend on reliable existing services

What we are  
doing today:

## Operator Framework

- **Regular Coordination:** weekly coordination involving multiple disciplines
- **Sharing Best Practices:**
  - Service planning and recovery strategies
  - Public outreach and approval processes for pandemic related service adjustments
  - Social distancing requirements
- **Service Principles:** Developing common service principles during the pandemic and into recovery
- **Regional Efforts:** Engaging with MTC-led regional efforts (i.e. Fare Integration, Mapping, Clipper START)
- **Long-Range Planning:** FASTER regional funding measure involved coordinated on long-range planning

## Coordination Today:

## Ongoing & Planned Efforts

Hold regular  
coordination  
meetings for  
upcoming  
schedule  
changes

Establish  
key regional  
hubs list and  
map

Conduct in-  
depth pilot  
case studies  
to improve  
connectivity  
at regional  
hubs

Utilize  
technology  
to visualize  
and better  
understand  
connections

Align service  
sign-up  
calendars to  
enable  
coordinated  
schedule  
changes

### **Examples:**

- *Communication between BART and connecting transit agencies in advance of Spring 2021 service adjustments*
- *Minimized scheduled gaps between Caltrain & BART at the Millbrae Station*
- *SFMTA worked with SamTrans and Bridge District to provide coverage in certain overlapping areas where SFMTA had to scale back service recently*

## MTC Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force (BTRTF):

## Transformation Action Plan

- Task Force Adopted 4 Goals
  1. Recognize Critical Recovery Challenges Facing Transit Agencies
  2. Advance Equity
  3. **Identify near-term actions to implement beneficial long-term Network Management & Governance reforms**
  4. Integrate current MTC and state transit initiatives with Network Management & Governance reforms
- Next Steps:
  - Define Problem Statement & Develop Network Management Concept Alternatives: January/February
  - Spot bill introduced by Assembly Member Chiu: January
  - Legislative Proposal Developed: Spring/Summer
  - Content of Transformation Action Plan anticipated to inform legislation: June
  - Deadline for bill to pass Legislature for 2022 enactment: September 10

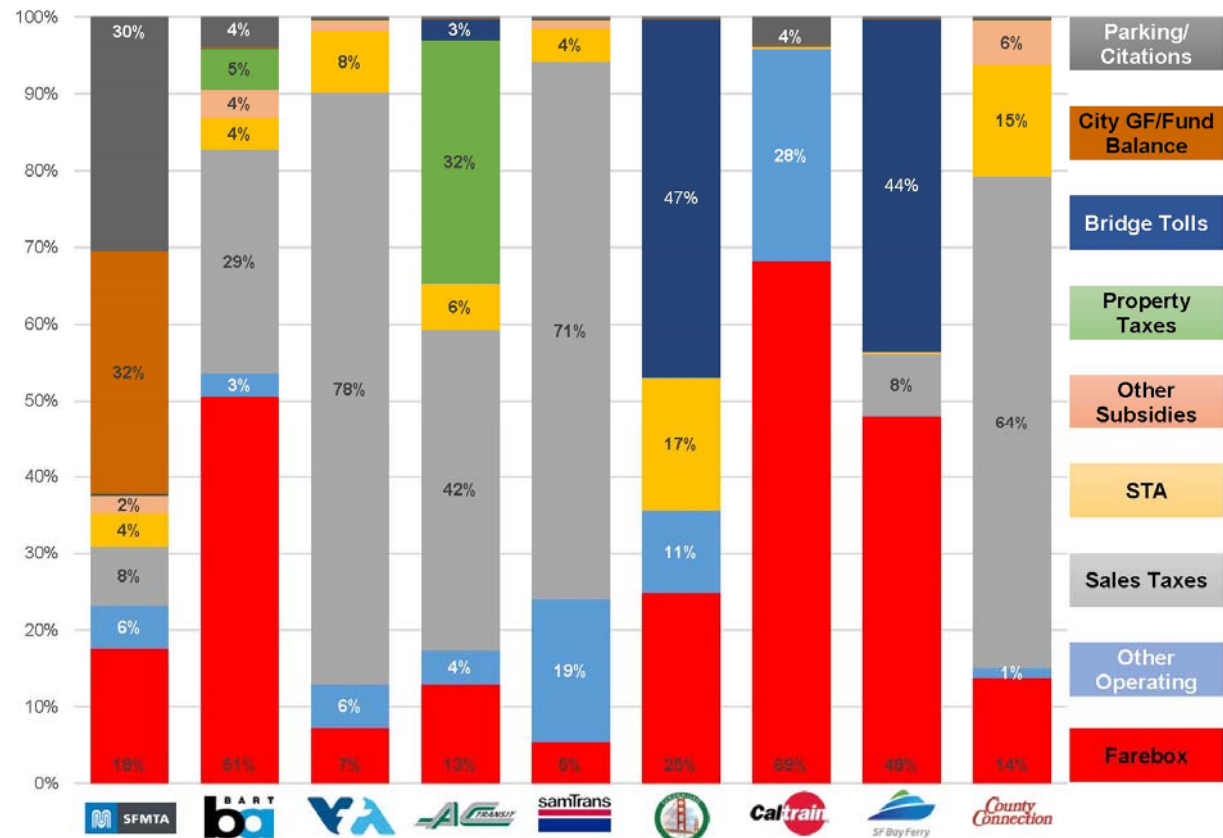


## Existing Governance & Local Authority

- Transit Agency Authority Varies by Agency but Typically:
  - Accountable to boards to deliver transit operations and capital projects as defined in enabling legislation and/or funding measures
  - Sets fares, budgets, levels of service, schedules, etc.
  - Eligible recipient of funding from various local/county, regional, state, and federal sources
  - Transit funding throughout region is often tied to specific jurisdictions with specific requirements
  - Specific to Golden Gate:
    - Bridge District created by State Legislation
    - Bridge Board sets toll rates and has authority to spend tolls to fund transit to reduce traffic on the Bridge
- MTC Authority Related to Transit Coordination
  - Long history of legislation granting MTC transit coordination authority (dating to 1970s)
  - MTC Resolution 3866 (last updated in 2015)
    - Contains requirements related to Transit Coordination, Fare and Schedule Coordination, and Regional Transit Information
    - Allows MTC to identify, recommend, establish and coordinate transit connectivity improvements, requirements and performance standards –and condition regional discretionary funds based on compliance
  - MTC may exert influence by withholding funding; however, doing so may work against the purposes of advancing coordination and providing better service

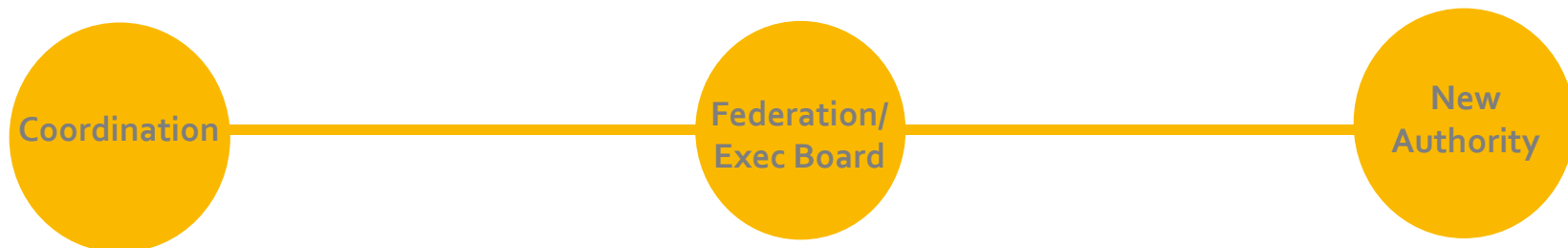
# Existing Funding Streams: Selected Comparison of Revenues

- Funding streams/sources vary substantially by agency, are locally relevant, and can come with restrictions on their use



FY19-20 Adopted Budgets – Revenue Share Comparisons

# Network Management and Governance Decision-Making Authority Spectrum



**Decision Areas:** Service/Schedules | Fares | Branding | Funding

## Critical Questions:

- As the Task Force and Draft Legislation Advance, what is the preferred balance of decision-making authority?
- What new funding will be identified to achieve a successful transformation?

# Transit Network Management Federation/ Exec Board Concept:

## Authority & Governance



Federation/  
Exec Board

- **Draft Concept** under development by Transit Operators for discussion
- **Formalizes unprecedented coordination** happening now
- Retains individual **agency control** and board **accountability**
- Recognizes **financial realities**
- Identifies **near-term priority action items**
- Ensures **public accountability & engagement**, such as Creation of a Policy Advisory Committee
- Suggests ideas for **membership** composition, including a subset of small & large operator general managers and MTC's Executive Director



# Transit Network Management:

## Key Opportunities and Challenges

### Opportunities

- Improved **regional coordination**
- Potential to improve **customer experience**, particularly related to travel on multiple systems
- Potential for improved **efficiency**
- **Transit priority** for improved reliability, frequency, and travel time savings
- Develop a **business case** for transformation that is both impactful and achievable

### Challenges

- Additional **funding** to support efforts not identified
- Loss of **local control and accountability**
- **Fares** are integral to complex funding structures unique to each locality and agency
- Tradeoffs between **regional and local** service – investment in regional service without negative impacts to local service
- Brand recognition is linked to **accountability and voter support**
- Quantifying **customer benefits**

