

March 14, 2013

Mr. Tom Nolan
Chairman of the Board
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
One South Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Request for a strong SFMTA representation at the forthcoming North Beach neighborhood meeting

Dear Mr. Nolan:

The purpose of this letter is to ask that Mr. Ed Reiskin and elements of his technical staff be present at a meeting that is being convened and organized by the North Beach neighborhood. The meeting is set for Tuesday, March 26, beginning at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center, 660 Lombard St, San Francisco. The meeting is needed because a number of important questions regarding the need to extract the Tunnel Boring Machines in North Beach have not as yet been answered.

Despite Central Subway Program Manager John Funghi's claim at the Board of Supervisors Land Use Committee of February 25, 2013 that "there have been so many meetings in North Beach I've lost count," there has only been one such meeting focused on the Pagoda proposal. As you will recall, that meeting (held on Jan 22, 2013) was cut short by a fire alarm, leaving a large number of questions unanswered. Furthermore, at the time of that meeting the lease had not been negotiated with the owner of the Pagoda, the cost was estimated to be \$6 million instead of the current \$9.15 million plus, and SFMTA had not completed its geotechnical investigation of the Pagoda parcel and adjacent properties.

At the February 19, 2013 SFMTA Board meeting, Mr. Reiskin admitted that SFMTA's outreach to North Beach had been inadequate and assured the board that he and his staff were "now working to significantly improve the way we're communicating with the North Beach community." At the close of Mr. Reiskin's presentation, you mentioned the January 22 meeting that was aborted by the fire alarm and asked if SFMTA would agree to hold another community meeting, to which Mr. Reiskin responded "absolutely."

We foresee the meeting agenda concentrating on four aspects of the Pagoda project:

1. Impact on the North Beach neighborhood;
2. Project costs, especially as they affect SFMTA operations;
3. Effect of construction on nearby structures; and
4. Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) extraction options.

Attached to this letter is a series of questions pertinent to each of the proposed agenda items. Please have the SFMTA staff and consultants research and answer each one, and return the answers via email to Aaron Peskin (aaron.peskin@earthlink.net) no later than March 20, 2013. We will review the answers and ask questions at the meeting on any responses that need clarification.

It is imperative that legitimate outstanding questions about current SFMTA plans be addressed and answered in a forthright manner. To ensure that this occurs, we strongly recommend that Mr. Reiskin bring people with him who are prepared to address the attached questions. At the minimum the following should be present: (1) a financial analyst who can address current and future project budgets and funding, (2) an engineer well versed in the various methods and costs of disposing of TBMs post construction, and (3) an engineer well versed in adverse geotechnical and groundwater conditions, especially as they might affect open cut construction.

We look forward to an informative and productive meeting.

Sincerely,

Lance Carnes, on behalf
of Meeting Sponsors

Sponsored and approved by:

Nate Baca
Judith Berkowitz, President, Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN)
Joe Butler
Dorothy and Arthur Chang
Liz Ferro, co-owner, Bottle Cap Restaurant
Lotus Fong
Lee Goodin
Dario Hadjian, co-owner, Piazza Pellegrini Restaurant
Patricia Lanao
Bernie Meyerson
Mary Etta Moose
Sherry O'Donnell
Aaron Peskin
Nan Roth
Zach Stewart
Gail Switzer
David Tse
Joan Wood

Additional sponsors to follow

cc: Edward D. Reiskin, SFMTA Director of Transportation
Roberta Boomer, SFMTA Board Secretary
David Chiu, District 3 Supervisor