

March 20, 2013

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

RE: Reply to John Funghi's March 19 letter, regarding the March 26 North Beach neighborhood meeting

Dear Mr. Nolan:

Mr. Funghi's letter of March 19, 2013 signals his initial refusal to attend a meeting convened, arranged for, and sponsored by 23 key residents and business people of the North Beach and Telegraph Hill districts of San Francisco. In this regard it is emphasized that much effort has been already gone into reserving the necessary space, identifying and securing the approval of sponsors, and publicizing the event. In his letter Mr. Funghi indicates that he would prefer to have the meeting once he has "construction plan specifics." Unfortunately, at that point MTA would likely be unreceptive to proposed changes no matter how warranted. In fact it is precisely this approach that has caused so much of the current distrust, discord, and consequent waste of time. The objective should be to consult with and elicit input from the stakeholders and public about available options and alternatives before proceeding into construction plan specifics.

We will go forward with the March 26th meeting as planned. We again urge you to make certain that the SFMTA is strongly represented at that meeting with persons knowledgeable about TBM handling and construction cost estimating, and that the SFMTA forward answers to at least the questions specified below to myself (lacarnes@gmail.com) and Mr. Aaron Peskin (aaron.peskin@earthlink.net) by Monday, March 25, 2013. If additional clarification of any of the 22 questions is desired, please let us know and we'll be happy to provide it to you.

As you know, the issues before us fall into two general categories:

- (1) Why does the SFMTA believe that tunneling to North Beach would be cheaper and better than extracting or otherwise dealing with the TBMs in Chinatown?
- (2) If Muni does tunnel to North Beach what would be the environmental impacts on the historic buildings adjacent to the Pagoda site and on the community at large because of the hundreds of truck runs that would be needed to remove a large quantity of water-soaked excavated material and demolition debris.

From a review of the reports of Lawrence Karp P.E. and the design scope statement generated by ARUP North America, particularly with respect to the additional geotechnical investigation that ARUP believes is necessary, we can appreciate that SFMTA is a long way from being able to answer all the questions set forth in our March 14th letter. However, many of the other questions on the list can and should be answered without further delay (see below).

You have acknowledged that the SFMTA's outreach to North Beach to date has been "woefully inadequate." We appreciate your willingness to acknowledge that fact and Mr. Reiskin's commitment to improving things henceforth.

It is apparent that SFMTA can at this time provide full and complete answers to at least Questions 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 20, 21 and 22 as set forth in the March 14th letter.

Please use your good offices to make certain that the above-referenced questions are answered and in our hands by the close of business, Monday, March 25, 2012, and that people qualified to answer the TBM and cost estimating questions are in attendance at the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center on March 26, 2013 beginning at 6:30 PM. Thank you.

The North Beach neighborhood awaits your response.

Sincerely,

Lance Carnes

cc: Honorable Ed Lee, Mayor of San Francisco
Honorable David Chiu, Supervisor, District 3
Ed Reiskin, Transportation Director, MTA
Judith Berkowitz, President, Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods
Jon Golinger, President, Telegraph Hill Dwellers

Meeting Sponsors (partial list):

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