

From: [Owen Stephens](#)
To: [Wong, Linda \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment Fire 210871 - Support funding for the TJPA DTX
Date: Tuesday, September 7, 2021 4:59:56 PM
Attachments: [Letter in Support of TJPA DTX Project.pdf](#)

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Dear Ms. Wong,

Please find the attached letter prepared as public comment to the Budget & Finance Committee regarding File # 210871 (proposed bonds to fund the TJPA Downtown Rail Extension project) that is scheduled for the Committee's September 15th meeting.

Please let me know if you or the Supervisors have any questions.

Sincerely,

--

Owen Stephens
o.stephens@gmail.com

Owen P. Stephens

650 California Street, 26th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94108

September 7, 2021

Supervisors Haney, Safai, and Mar
Budget & Finance Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

RE: Support of Funding the TJPA Downtown Rail Extension Project

File #: 210871

Dear Supervisors Haney, Safai, and Mar,

I am writing in support of the Transbay Joint Power Authority's (TJPA) efforts to secure \$30 million in Transbay Transit Center Community Facilities District (CFD) bonds to fund the Downtown Rail Extension Project (DTX) development work that will be presented before the Budget and Finance Committee on September 15th, and seek approval by the full Board of Supervisors on September 21st.

My interest in seeing the Transbay Transit Center reach its full potential sooner rather than later stems from being a twenty year resident of Treasure Island whose only public transit access point is through the Center. During that time I have experienced the Center in all its forms from a derelict transit hub to its present partial implementation. I am serving my third year as a MUNI riding member of the TJPA Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to learn about TJPA plans and programs and advise the TJPA Board of Directors on matters of public interest related to the Transbay Program.

I want San Francisco to keep building momentum toward fulfilling its promise to make the Transbay Center a central public transit hub that will serve the city, region and state. Taking steps now to ensure that positive federal attention and funding is directed toward this program is essential to reach that goal.

The proposed CFD Series 2021 bond will provide the necessary funding commitment that the Federal Transit Administration requires for the DTX to enter the New Starts funding pipeline, which is needed for local dollars to receive matched federal funds. Moving forward now will allow the TJPA to submit its Full Funding Grant Request in

August 2023 to take advantage of once-in-generation transit funding available on the federal level.

Completion of the DTX project will deliver the 1999 Prop H voter mandate to extend Caltrain rail service and other intended modes of transportation into downtown San Francisco. Waiting to issue bonds will delay critical work, risk missing out on federal funding available now, and result in cost escalations on the order of \$200 million per year.

I have witnessed the evolution of the Transbay Transit Center in its many forms over the span of twenty years. I would have preferred that its mission would have been completed already, but knowing the cycle of barriers and opportunities that arose during that time, I strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to approve these CFD bonds to ensure current funding opportunities are capitalized on.

Sincerely,



Owen P. Stephens

From: [Laura Tolkoff](#)
To: [Wong, Linda \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Budget and Finance Committee:- Agenda Item 8. Issuance of Tax Bonds - Community Facilities District No. 2014-1 (Transbay Transit Center)- Not to Exceed \$35,000,000
Date: Friday, September 10, 2021 2:55:05 PM
Attachments: [SPUR-BOS-Item 8-09.10.21.pdf](#)

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Dear Supervisors Haney, Safai, and Mar,

Attached please find a letter of support encouraging the Board of Supervisors to issue \$30 million in Transbay Transit Center Community Facilities District (CFD) bonds to advance the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) Project. SPUR has long supported the extension of Caltrain service from its current northern terminus at San Francisco's Fourth and King streets to the new Salesforce Transit Center.

The potential to receive federal funding for this project may never be as favorable as it is today. This Transbay Transit Center Community Facilities District (CFD) Series 2021 bond issuance process will provide the necessary committed funding that FTA requires for the DTX to enter the New Starts pipeline.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on and support this important milestone. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions at ltolkoff@spur.org.

Laura Tolkoff, AICP (she • her)
Transportation Policy Director | [SPUR](#)
ltolkoff@spur.org



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San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Budget and Finance Committee
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

September 10, 2021

Re: Agenda Item 8. Issuance of Tax Bonds - Community Facilities District No. 2014-1 (Transbay Transit Center)- Not to Exceed \$35,000,000

Dear Supervisors Haney, Mar and Safai,

We encourage the Board of Supervisors to issue \$30 million in Transbay Transit Center Community Facilities District (CFD) bonds to advance the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) Project. SPUR has long supported the extension of Caltrain service from its current northern terminus at San Francisco's Fourth and King streets to the new Salesforce Transit Center.

The Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) would bring high-quality rail service to the densest job center in the region, shorten trip times between Millbrae and San Francisco, connect San Francisco to other cities in the statewide high-speed rail network, and offer a one-seat Caltrain ride between Market Street and the cities along the Caltrain Corridor. In the future, this train could extend across San Francisco Bay and connect with the rail network in the East Bay.

The potential to receive federal funding for this project may never be as favorable as it is today. This Transbay Transit Center Community Facilities District (CFD) Series 2021 bond issuance process will provide the necessary committed funding that FTA requires for the DTX to enter the New Starts pipeline. Moving forward now will allow San Francisco to submit a Full Funding Grant Request in August 2023 during an exciting time for once-in-a-generation transit funding on the federal level.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on and support this important milestone. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions at ltolkoff@spur.org.

Sincerely,

Laura Tolkoff
Transportation Policy Director