

SAN FRANCISCO MUNICIPAL TRANSPORTATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RESOLUTION NO. 08-150

WHEREAS, The Third Street Light Rail Project Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (FEIS/FEIR) was certified in November 1998; and,

WHEREAS, On January 19, 1999, the Public Transportation Commission approved Resolution No. 99-009, which adopted the environmental findings for the Third Street Light Rail Project, including mitigation measures set forth in the 1998 FEIS/FEIR and Mitigation Monitoring Report; and,

WHEREAS, The Federal Transit Administration issued a Record of Decision on the 1998 FEIS/FEIR for the IOS on March 16, 1999; and,

WHEREAS, The Central Subway is the second phase of the Third Street Light Rail Project; and,

WHEREAS, Studies undertaken subsequent to the Final EIS/EIR certification identified a new Fourth/Stockton Alignment to be evaluated for the Central Subway Project; and,

WHEREAS, On June 7, 2005, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors adopted Resolution 05-087, selecting the Fourth/Stockton Alternative (Alternative 3A) as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) to be carried through the Supplemental EIS/EIR (SEIS/SEIR) and the federal New Starts process; and,

WHEREAS, Alternative 3B, Fourth/Stockton Alignment, was developed as a modified LPA in response to comments received through the public scoping process for the SEIS/SEIR initiated in June 2005 and also as a result of preliminary cost estimates identifying the need for Project cost savings; and,

WHEREAS, On October 17, 2007, SFMTA released for public comment a Draft SEIS/SEIR for the Central Subway Project, which evaluated a reasonable range of alternatives including: No Build/TSM (Alternative 1); Enhanced EIS/EIR Alternative (Alternative 2); Fourth/Stockton Alignment, LPA (Alternative 3A); and Fourth/Stockton Alignment, Modified LPA (Alternative 3B) with semi-exclusive surface right-of-way and mixed-flow surface operation options; and,

WHEREAS, The semi-exclusive surface right-of-way option for Alternative 3B, Fourth/Stockton Alignment, Modified LPA, would improve surface rail operations on Fourth

Street and reduce travel times for Central Subway patrons when compared to the mixed-flow option; and,

WHEREAS, The majority of comments received during the public comment period that concluded on December 10, 2007 supported construction of the Central Subway Project, and support was greater for Alternative 3B as the LPA; and,

WHEREAS, The SEIS/SEIR concluded that Alternative 3B will have significant unavoidable environmental impacts to traffic, historic resources and socioeconomics; and,

WHEREAS, The SEIS/SEIR identified Alternative 3B as the environmentally superior Build Alternative and the only fully funded alternative; and,

WHEREAS, The three other alternatives analyzed in the SEIS/SEIR, including a No Project/TSM Alternative, an Enhanced EIS/EIR Alignment (Alternative 2) and a Fourth/Stockton Alignment (Alternative 3A), are addressed, and found to be infeasible, in the CEQA Findings attached as Enclosure 3, which are incorporated herein by reference as though fully set forth. The CEQA Findings also set forth the benefits of the project that override its unavoidable significant impacts to traffic, historic resources and socioeconomics; and,

WHEREAS, The Final SEIS/SEIR was prepared to respond to comments on the Draft SEIS/SEIR and was distributed on July 11, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Planning Commission certified the SEIS/SEIR as adequate, accurate and objective and reflecting the independent judgment of the Commission on August 7, 2008; and,

WHEREAS, The SFMTA Board has reviewed and considered the information contained in the SEIS/SEIR; and,

WHEREAS, the Central Subway project will assist SFMTA in meeting the objectives of Strategic Plan Goal No. 1 to provide safe, accessible, clean, environmentally sustainable service and encourage the use of auto-alternative modes through the Transit First policy; Goal No. 2 to improve transit reliability; Goal No. 3 to improve economic vitality through improved regional transportation; and Goal No. 4 to ensure the efficient and effective use of resources; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors adopts the Central Subway Project Alternative 3B, Fourth/Stockton Alignment with semi-exclusive surface rail operations on Fourth Street and a construction variant to extend the tunnel another 2,000 feet north of Jackson Street to extract the Tunnel Boring Machine in a temporary shaft on Columbus Avenue near Union Street; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of

Directors adopts the CEQA Findings and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the SEIS/SEIR attached as Enclosure 3, and adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan attached as Enclosure 4; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors authorizes the Executive Director/CEO to direct staff to continue with otherwise necessary approvals and to carry out the actions to implement the project.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors at its meeting of AUG 19 2008.

R. Boomer

Secretary, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board