



San Francisco Bicycle Coalition  
1720 Market Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102

T 415.431.BIKE

F 415.431.2468

[sfbike.org](http://sfbike.org)

PROMOTING THE BICYCLE FOR EVERYDAY TRANSPORTATION

August 5, 2020

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
Rules Committee  
Supervisor Hillary Ronen, Chair  
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Chair Ronen,

On behalf of our over 10,000 members, I write to voice the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition's support for Mayor Breed's nomination of Sharon Lai to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

Through her work with One Vassar, Sharon has actively engaged our staff and community to understand the transportation impacts of projects she has worked on. She has repeatedly demonstrated an ability to ensure that the built environment supports safe, healthy and sustainable active transportation choices like biking. Her background as a planner grounds her work in practices of community engagement and outreach, and she has been a strong voice in pushing for our transportation system to equitably serve San Francisco's many communities and neighborhoods.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to disproportionately impact Black and brown communities in San Francisco, the equitable recovery of our transportation system, including restoring Muni service and improving the safety of walking and biking, will be central to addressing the health and economic consequences of those who have suffered the most. The SFMTA must have a strong and active governing board in order to guide that enormous task. The ongoing vacancies on the SFMTA Board have hobbled that work, and I urge you to support the Mayor's nominations to fill those vacancies and forward them to your colleagues for approval with haste.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Wiedenmeier".

Brian Wiedenmeier  
Executive Director



Transportation  
Research and  
Improvement  
Project

August 6, 2020

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Dear Supervisors,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Chinatown **Transportation Research and Improvement Project** (Chinatown TRIP) to share our support of Sharon Lai's appointment to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors. Chinatown TRIP is a community volunteer organization with the mission to improve transportation and pedestrian safety in Chinatown through research and planning, bringing improvements to transit service, traffic circulation, quality of life, and pedestrian safety.

As an organization with over 40 years of transportation advocacy in the primarily low-income and senior-heavy neighborhood of Chinatown, we would like to see a director that is sensitive to the unique needs of every individual neighborhood, particularly ones that are underserved and low income in San Francisco. Therefore, we are delighted to see Sharon's candidacy as one that supports SFMTA's initiative to increase the diversity of its board members to accurately represent their ridership. We are confident that Sharon's depth of experience in planning matters in conjunction with her volunteer experience will be an asset to the City of San Francisco and as such, we and the Chinatown community hope and look forward to working closely with her going forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this appointment and look forward to hearing the good news.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Hee", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jon Hee, Co-Chair

**From:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Li-D9, Jennifer \(BOS\)](#); [Sherilyn Adams](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Sharon Lai - Appointment MTA Board of Directors  
**Date:** Friday, August 7, 2020 10:40:25 PM

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Thanks, Sherilyn.  
Hope you and yours are staying well.  
Amy

>>>>>>>>>>

Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff  
Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
415.554.7739 | [amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)  
<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**From:** Sherilyn Adams <[SAdams@larkinstreetyouth.org](mailto:SAdams@larkinstreetyouth.org)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 7, 2020 8:03:02 PM  
**To:** Li-D9, Jennifer (BOS) <[jennifer.li-d9@sfgov.org](mailto:jennifer.li-d9@sfgov.org)>  
**Cc:** Beinart, Amy (BOS) <[amy.beinart@sfgov.org](mailto:amy.beinart@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Sharon Lai - Appointment MTA Board of Directors

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Resending and copying Amy..

Thanks  
Sherilyn

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**From:** Sherilyn Adams <[SAdams@larkinstreetyouth.org](mailto:SAdams@larkinstreetyouth.org)>  
**Date:** Friday, August 7, 2020 at 8:00 PM  
**To:** "Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org" <[Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org](mailto:Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org)>  
**Cc:** Sherilyn Adams <[SAdams@larkinstreetyouth.org](mailto:SAdams@larkinstreetyouth.org)>  
**Subject:** Sharon Lai - Appointment MTA Board of Directors

Dear Supervisor Ronen,

I am writing in support of Sharon Lai's appointment to the MTA Board of Directors. As you know, Larkin Street staff and young people rely heavily on muni to get to work, access services and to engage in safe activities that support their health and well-being. Our staff and youth need a strong voice for equitable access to public transportation and someone that values community engagement and

voice in policy decisions. I believe that Sharon Lai will be a strong voice for our youth and our workers. I know Sharon personally and professionally and am confident she will be great addition to the MTA Board of Directors.

Sharon's extensive background in urban planning and community outreach, along with her dedication to public and civic service for the past 15 years has demonstrated her ability to build consensus across diverse stakeholders. As a working parent, Sharon understands the need for a reliable and accessible public transportation system. She is keenly aware that affordable, accessible public transportation is not a luxury for highly vulnerable individuals in our City and the essential workers that care for them. I am confident she will be a strong advocate for both. Thank-you your consideration of my comments and your service.

Warmly,

Sherilyn Adams

Executive Director

Larkin Street Youth Services

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**From:** [Sherilyn Adams](#)  
**To:** [Beinart, Amy \(BOS\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Li-D9, Jennifer \(BOS\)](#); [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Sharon Lai - Appointment MTA Board of Directors  
**Date:** Friday, August 7, 2020 10:41:30 PM

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Ditto!!!'

On Aug 7, 2020, at 10:40 PM, Beinart, Amy (BOS) <amy.beinart@sfgov.org> wrote:

Thanks, Sherilyn.  
Hope you and yours are staying well.  
Amy

>>>>>>>>>>

Amy Beinart | Legislative Aide/Chief of Staff  
Office of Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
415.554.7739 | amy.beinart@sfgov.org  
<https://sfbos.org/supervisor-ronen-district-9>

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**Sent:** Friday, August 7, 2020 8:03:02 PM  
**To:** Li-D9, Jennifer (BOS) <jennifer.li-d9@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Beinart, Amy (BOS) <amy.beinart@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Sharon Lai - Appointment MTA Board of Directors

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Resending and copying Amy..

Thanks  
Sherilyn

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**From:** Sherilyn Adams <SAdams@larkinstreetyouth.org>  
**Date:** Friday, August 7, 2020 at 8:00 PM  
**To:** "Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org" <Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Sherilyn Adams <SAdams@larkinstreetyouth.org>  
**Subject:** Sharon Lai - Appointment MTA Board of Directors

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Warmly,

Sherilyn Adams

Executive Director

Larkin Street Youth Services

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August 7, 2020

Supervisors Hillary Ronen, Catherine Stefani, Gordon Mar  
Rules Committee  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Re: Support for appointment of Sharon Lai to the SFMTA Board of Directors

Dear Supervisors Ronen, Stefani, and Mar,

San Francisco Transit Riders (SFTR) is the city's member-supported advocate for transit riders and for affordable, efficient, and growing transit. I'm writing to support the appointment of Sharon Lai to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

Ms. Lai's extensive experience will be a great asset to the SFMTA Board. She has lived her life entirely dependent on public transit, including early years in Asia, later in Canada, and now in San Francisco. She has a personal understanding of the struggle of inaccessibility when public transit doesn't work well, and a global perspective of what's possible. She also has years of experience as a professional planner, and serving as a commissioner, that will serve her well.

I urge you to approve Sharon Lai's appointment to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cat Carter".

Cat Carter  
Interim Executive Director  
San Francisco Transit Riders

cc:

SFTMA Board of Directors  
Jeffrey Tumlin, Director of Transportation



August 7, 2020

City & County of San Francisco  
Board of Supervisors - Rules Committee  
City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Re: Support for Mayor Breed's nomination of Sharon Lai to SFMTA Board of Directors

Dear Chair Ronen, Supervisor Stefani and Supervisor Mar:

I am writing to register Walk San Francisco's support for Sharon Lai's appointment to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors.

Walk San Francisco is the city's only pedestrian advocacy organization. We believe San Francisco can and should be the safest, most walkable city in the United States. Yet annually 30 people lose their lives to traffic-related fatalities, and close to 600 people live with serious injuries that can be life-changing. Dangerous driving is all too common. As a city, we need to be doing all we can to stop traffic violence, especially for our most vulnerable road users. In 2014, San Francisco took a bold step and passed Vision Zero, our policy goal of eliminating all traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by 2024. This policy is data driven. We know where and how crashes happen and who suffers the most - children, older adults, people with disabilities, immigrants, and low-income residents - therefore it is achievable. As the city's lead agency on Vision Zero, it is imperative SFMTA Board Members prioritize this policy in every decision.

I believe that Sharon Lai will have our most vulnerable road users top of mind, and understands the most urgent need in increasing the pace of change towards Vision Zero. On a daily basis she experiences the challenges and threats of unsafe street design, fast moving vehicles, and the pains of unreliable transit service as she moves around the city, whether that's getting her two small children to school and daycare, or taking MUNI and walking to her office (pre-COVID). As a former Senior Planner at the San Francisco Planning Department and a Director of Development at One Vassar, she understands the importance of working with community stakeholders to get the best results. She knows first-hand the variety of resources available as well as the constraints of city government. She brings both the personal and professional experience to the position.

We are in a critical time for the SFMTA. Bold decisions and hard choices will need to be made to steer the agency out of the economic crisis caused by the pandemic. As funding for pedestrian safety projects is steeply declining, we need to appoint SFMTA Board Members who will prioritize the most vulnerable to get to Vision Zero. I believe Sharon will.

Her first-hand experience, personal values and professional know-how makes her a great candidate for this leadership role, and she will be a valuable member of this agency.

On behalf of Walk SF, I ask that the Rules Committee send Sharon Lai's nomination to the full Board of Supervisors with a positive recommendation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jodie", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jodie Medeiros  
Executive Director

CC:

Honorable Mayor Breed  
Norman Yee, Board President  
Jeffrey Tumlin, Director of Transportation  
Sharon Lai, SFMTA Board Candidate

August 07, 2020

Rules Committee: Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Pl., Rm #244  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**RE:** Support of Sharon Lai's Appointment to the SFMTA Board of Directors

Dear Supervisors,

My name is Arcadi Kolchak, and I am the former Executive Director for San Francisco Hep B Free – Bay Area, a non-profit organization that is focused on community screening and education of hepatitis B and the associated liver cancer, throughout the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the Japan Center Garage Corporation as an advocate for community and cultural preservation, as well as community safety, and as a Steering Committee member for APA Heritage month, which is also focused on community and cultural preservation.

I am submitting this letter today in support of Sharon Lai for the appointment to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Sharon for several years and have worked with her in various capacities, from community organizing, fundraising, program planning and development, to community outreach. Her dedication, commitment, and passion are what drew me to submitting this letter today, to encourage her growth and involvement within San Francisco. I truly believe her background as an urban planner, her ability to strategically think outside of the box, and her deep involvement within various communities, will speak volumes in this position and can make a tremendous impact on the strength of the SFMTA.

Given the current state of this country and the challenges that are being faced throughout this city, I believe now is the time to bring this level of leadership and care to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

Supervisors, I thank you for your time and consideration, and urge you to support Sharon Lai for this appointment.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Arcadi Kolchak, MPH  
Email: [rkd.kolchak@gmail.com](mailto:rkd.kolchak@gmail.com)  
Phone: (408) 718-3084

## Patrick Monette-Shaw

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975 Sutter Street, Apt. 6  
San Francisco, CA 94109  
Phone: (415) 292-6969 • e-mail: [pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net](mailto:pmonette-shaw@earthlink.net)

August 6, 2020

Rules Committee, Board of Supervisors  
The Honorable Hillary Ronen, Chair  
The Honorable Catherine Stefani, Member  
The Honorable Gordon Mar, Member  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Re: Testimony Agenda Item 7: Appointment to SFMTA Board (Lai) — Support**

Dear Chair Ronen and Members of the Rules Committee,

This is testimony for the Rules Committee meeting on August 10, 2020.

I strongly support the Motion at Agenda Item 7 to accept the Mayor's appointment of **Sharon Lai** to SFMTA's Board of Directors. She's a very qualified appointee, and MTA's Board currently lacks an Asian American member.

She'd make a great addition to SFMTA's Board. Please send a unanimous, and strong, Rules Committee recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors to approve Ms. Lai's appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patrick Monette-Shaw**

*Columnist*

*Westside Observer* Newspaper

cc: The Honorable Sandra Lee Fewer, Supervisor, District 1  
The Honorable Aaron Peskin, Supervisor, District 3  
The Honorable Dean Preston, Supervisor, District 5  
The Honorable Matt Haney, Supervisor, District 6  
The Honorable Norman Yee, Supervisor, District 7  
The Honorable Rafael Mandelman, Supervisor, District 8  
The Honorable Shamann Walton, Supervisor, District 10  
The Honorable Ahsha Safai, Supervisor, District 11  
Victor Young, Clerk of the Rules Committee  
Carolyn Goossen, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Hillary Ronen  
Lee Hepner, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Aaron Peskin

**From:** [kateinsf@aol.com](mailto:kateinsf@aol.com)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: MTA Board Recommendation - Sharon Lai  
**Date:** Friday, August 7, 2020 8:01:05 AM

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Hello Victor,

Thanks for returning my call yesterday. Below is the letter in support of Sharon Lai I sent to the BOS and all their aides (I removed all their email addresses from the message - there were 53, but I did not have any bounce-backs).

Best regards,

Kate Black

-----Original Message-----

Sent: Wed, Aug 5, 2020 12:02 pm  
Subject: MTA Board Recommendation - Sharon Lai

Dear Board of Supervisors Chair Yee and Members Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Preston, Ronen, Stefani, Safai and Walton:

It is with pleasure that I write this recommendation for Sharon Lai to a position on the MTA Board.

I hired Sharon as an urban planner in 2005 and was her immediate supervisor in a small, active department at the City of Piedmont. Throughout her employment, I was impressed by Sharon's smarts, work ethic, energy and initiative. Due to her interest in transportation as an essential urban function, she asked to be the City's representative with the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, a regional consortium tasked with addressing transportation matters on a regional basis. Although this was a responsibility typically given to a more experienced planner, I gave her the responsibility because of her strong interest and demonstrated ability to exceed in work-related demands, and I knew she would perform well. Sharon was an excellent employee who was respected by the City Council and Planning Commission, and well-liked by co-workers and members of the community.

Since Piedmont, Sharon has distinguished herself in each step of her career, making her a strong candidate for this position. She will bring fifteen years of urban planning, development and community engagement experience. As a longtime urban planning professional prior to my retirement, and now as an Historic Preservation Commissioner, I value the importance and can attest to the necessity for decision-makers to listen to and communicate clearly across all stakeholder groups. Sharon has demonstrated her ability to do this through her personal and professional life, including her current role as Vice President of the Treasure Island Development Authority Board and various non-profit work.

On a more personal level, as a working parent of school age children, Sharon has managed to find homelife balance with her work and volunteer efforts. As a fluent Chinese speaker, she will bring diversity to the Board, along with the characteristics that make her a strong leader, a collaborative partner, a persevering advocate, and an energetic supporter.

I strongly recommend her to the MTA Board without reservation.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Black  
70 Vicksburg Street  
San Francisco, CA 94114