

**From:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS-Supervisors](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Opposition To Jane Natoli  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 18, 2020 12:14:07 PM

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**From:** Jordan Davis <jodav1026@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2020 11:58 AM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Opposition To Jane Natoli

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Dear Supervisors,

As a former commissioner who happens to be trans, I am a deep supporter of transgender representation in San Francisco's robust ecosystem of boards and commissions. However, Jane Natoli is not someone who should be serving on a commission as powerful as the SFMTA board.

Ms. Natoli, a white trans woman who is a recent transplant, does not represent the many equity issues that current face the agency. To wit, she has:

- Supported fare increases, only backtracking in desperation to save her bid.
- Been very dismissive of people who raise concerns about scooters and bike shares, as it relates to seniors, the disabled, and communities of color facing gentrification
- Has genuflected towards out-of-town Falun Gong practitioners over the Chinese Community on the naming of Rose Pak station, and failed to reach out to Chinatown Trip
- Sits on the board of YIMBY Action, which steers the conversation on transit-oriented development towards housing Reaganomics as opposed to development that benefits the community and doesn't displace people.
- During her failed bid for Democratic County Central Committee, received a donation from Josephine Zhao, a former school board candidate who called a Chinese supervisor a "race traitor" and has MADE TRANSPHOBIC REMARKS AND GAVE DUPLICITOUS APOLOGIES!!!!

You don't have to take my word for it, a multiracial and multitendency coalition including such trusted names as: United To Save The Mission, Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club, Housing Rights Committee, Tenderloin People's Congress, Latinx Democratic Club, Rose Pak Democratic Club, DSA EcoSocialist Committee have all weighed in against Jane Natoli, and I am sure there are others as well. In addition, several people who have signed onto a letter organized by the director of the Office of Transgender Initiatives have expressed second thoughts about signing on to it.

And as a transgender woman, I would like to strongly oppose the use of the Mayor's Office of Transgender Initiatives as a political organizing tool to push trans people who may have a quid pro

quo with the mayor for commissions, but may not care about pushing people like me who are progressive and critical of this mayor. I know I never got help from them, and they would never support me for appointment to any board or commission.

I ask you as a transgender person, a low-income person, a disabled person, an SRO tenant, an environmental studies major, a transit geek, a Muni rider, a pedestrian who has nearly been hit by both cars and scooters, a housing rights advocate, and someone who has been uplifted by the communities of color on the front lines for a more equitable city to oppose the appointment of Jane Natoli, and to consider trans people for committee appointments who are good on equity issues and reflect the diversity of this city.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Davis  
(she/her)  
District 6



August 18, 2020

**Richmond District Rising Opposes the Appointment of Jane Natoli to the San Francisco Municipal Transit Authority (SFMTA) Board of Directors**

Richmond District Rising (RDR) builds electoral and political power for working class people, people of color and other historically oppressed communities to ensure a progressive, liberated & equitable Richmond District. Under the purview of our mission statement, we believe that transit justice is a critical equity issue, not just in the Richmond District, but for the entire City and County of San Francisco. Therefore, we cannot support the appointment of Jane Natoli to the SFMTA Board of Directors. While we appreciate and believe in elevating trans people into seats of influential power, we do not believe that Ms. Natoli is the right person for this seat, especially at this time.

Low-income people, the unhoused, people living with disabilities, low-wage essential workers, seniors, and communities of color have been hit the hardest by the COVID19 Pandemic. Many of these members of our most vulnerable populations rely on the SFMTA to get to work, to buy essential needs, and sometimes, even shelter. Regressive funding, the decrease in services, while the increasing fares, towing, and parking meter rates; as well as more aggressive fare enforcement have only made services that many San Franciscans take for granted even less accessible to these heavily transit-dependent communities. While we agree that Ms. Natoli is well qualified to serve based on her policy experience, it is our strong opinion that Ms. Natoli will not meet the needs of those who rely on SFTMA as a lifeline.

Ms. Natoli holds significant membership with two organizations, which have historical issues with a lack of racial and class diversity in their membership, The San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and YIMBY Action. Both of these organizations have also repeatedly failed to stand with communities of color, specifically Black, Brown, and low-income API residents when these communities have demanded action from their allies. The latter organization, YIMBY Action has

a well-documented record of aggressive tactics against anyone who opposes them, including shouting down people of color, making the false equivalency that market rate housing will end the housing crisis, spreading misinformation, and doxing.

Ms. Natoli herself, has made disparaging comments about the late Rose Pak, a respected Chinatown elder, calling her a “divisive figure in the Chinese community,” despite having no relationship with the communities that Rose Pak served throughout San Francisco, and admittedly not knowing Rose Pak’s entire legacy. The Richmond District, in which both we and Ms. Natoli reside, has one of San Francisco’s highest populations of Chinese residents, many of whom are monolingual, immigrants, low-income, and have long revered Rose Pak as a community organizer. This characterization of Rose Pak indicates a serious error in judgement by discounting the perspectives of this important community and is not the type of leadership we need.

Furthermore, not only has Ms. Natoli stated support for increases in both fares and enforcement, she has also been a fierce advocate of corporate commuter shuttles, red lanes, and the electronic scooter and bike-share industries - symbols of the growing economic disparity and displacement in our city that also pose physical danger to pedestrians and transit users, especially seniors and people with disabilities, who we aim to protect under Vision Zero. She was also a proponent of Senator Scott Wiener's failed Senate Bills 50 and 827 which would have been a one-size-fits-all approach to transit and housing density throughout the state and would have significantly limited local control.

We ask the members of the Board of Supervisors to reject the appointment of Ms. Natoli until a candidate can be put forward who better understands the needs of ALL members of our communities. With this appointment we do not see any improvement to the existing lack of representation from communities of color on the SFMTA Board of Directors and at best will only enable existing inequities to continue. We are also concerned about the accountability of our elected officials to the people who put them into office. Accountability does not begin and end at the ballot box. It should also mean that decisions of great impact to the people of San Francisco should be subject to scrutiny, and conversations and debate about direction should go beyond the halls of city hall and into our communities to empower people in a real way. We have a voice, and our elected officials have the responsibility to represent it

Sincerely,  
Richmond District Rising



Transportation  
Research and  
Improvement  
Project

August 17, 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 **oppose Jane Natoli'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. With over 40 years of transportation advocacy in the primarily low-income, senior-heavy, and MUNI-reliant neighborhood of Chinatown, our organization has worked diligently to hold the SFMTA accountable to achieving their mission: Connecting San Francisco through a safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation system. A SFMTA Director has the responsibility to represent and listen to **all** communities within the City of San Francisco when making impactful decisions that affect the essence and livelihood of every neighborhood in the City. Throughout Jane Natoli's appointment process to the board, she has failed to perform any outreach to the Chinatown community, a community that has one of the highest transit-usage and lowest car-ownership rates in San Francisco.

Jane Natoli has not demonstrated that she possesses the willingness to listen to our community's concerns or a voice that will echo our community's transportation needs. We support candidates that are proactive in community outreach and show the ability to keep our community top of mind when guiding the SFMTA towards providing equitable transportation options for all. We are disheartened by the fact that Natoli never once reached out for even a brief conversation in the past several months and it is apparent that she treats the Chinatown community as an afterthought in the overall vision for the SFMTA. Now more than ever, a SFMTA board member's future decisions will have a drastic effect on the livelihood of our at-risk and vulnerable population as we prepare for life in a post-pandemic world. As our population represents a significant portion of total MUNI riders, a board member that makes decisions without even attempting to hear our voice can have a significantly detrimental effect on our community.

An example of Jane Natoli's disconnect with the community is represented in her views on the campaign to name the future Central Subway Station as the Chinatown Rose Pak Station in 2019. Rose Pak dedicated her life to making Chinatown a resilient neighborhood, ensuring the city adequately served its predominantly low-income and senior population, and advocated for the creation of the Central Subway. As such, our community felt there was no one more deserving and no place more fitting to name in honor of her legacy than the Chinatown Rose Pak Station. We learned that Natoli tweeted in 2019 that this campaign was being pushed solely by Supervisor Peskin without community backing. In

reality, this is the furthest thing from the truth, as a broad coalition of community groups, concerned citizens, and other members of the Chinatown community, including TRIP, campaigned in full support of the station renaming. As such, this incident is indicative of how far Natoli needs to go in order to truly understand the context and needs of the constituency she wishes to serve. The SFMTA cannot achieve its mission of providing an equitable transportation system without board members that are able to consider the needs of all neighborhoods and communities, especially those that are the most MUNI-reliant, such as Chinatown. It is clear to Chinatown TRIP that Jane Natoli's record is indicative that she will not represent the communities that need their voices to be uplifted most, especially during these unprecedented times which have created social and economic hardships throughout the City. We urge the Board of Supervisors to oppose Jane Natoli's appointment onto the SFMTA Board of Directors and to ensure that the vision and goals of those appointed in the future align with the needs of those who most rely on the services of MUNI in their daily lives.

Sincerely,

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

Jon Hee  
Co-Chair

**From:** [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Oppose Jane Natoli nomination to SFMTA Board  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 18, 2020 3:44:29 PM

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*Alisa Somera*

Legislative Deputy Director  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415.554.7711 direct | 415.554.5163 fax  
[alisa.somera@sfgov.org](mailto:alisa.somera@sfgov.org)

**(VIRTUAL APPOINTMENTS)** To schedule a “virtual” meeting with me (on Microsoft Teams), please ask and I can answer your questions in real time.

*Due to the current COVID-19 health emergency and the Shelter in Place Order, the Office of the Clerk of the Board is working remotely while providing complete access to the legislative process and our services.*

Click [HERE](#) to complete a Board of Supervisors Customer Service Satisfaction form.

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**From:** Angulo, Sunny (BOS) <[sunny.angulo@sfgov.org](mailto:sunny.angulo@sfgov.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 18, 2020 2:31 PM  
**To:** BOS Legislation, (BOS) <[bos.legislation@sfgov.org](mailto:bos.legislation@sfgov.org)>  
**Cc:** Somera, Alisa (BOS) <[alisa.somera@sfgov.org](mailto:alisa.somera@sfgov.org)>  
**Subject:** FW: Oppose Jane Natoli nomination to SFMTA Board

**FYI: Official correspondence to the BOS on Item 21**

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**From:** Emily Algire <[emily.algire@gmail.com](mailto:emily.algire@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2020 11:42 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <[board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org](mailto:board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org)>

**Subject:** Oppose Jane Natoli nomination to SFMTA Board

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Dear Supervisors,

The Ecosocialist Working Group of the San Francisco Democratic Socialists of America hereby urges you to reject the nomination of Jane Natoli to the San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Agency Board at this Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting.

We are concerned about the following issues:

- Ms. Natoli has had a history of supporting fare increases on Muni in derogation of a resolution passed by the Board of Supervisors that calls for no increases in fares during the COVID-19 pandemic, in which neighboring transit agencies actually made their transit systems free. Though she walked her comments back in committee, we do not think this was genuine, and we do not think that she will keep her promise. She also stated in a questionnaire from the Harvey Milk Democratic Club that she does not ride Muni regularly.
- Ms. Natoli, on her twitter account, has made comments attacking those critical of privatized forms of transportation (ie: scooters, bike share programs), despite concerns about gentrification and the negative impact of scooters on seniors and disabled pedestrians. While we believe in decarbonization, we cannot support someone who does not believe in community-conscious approaches by allowing scooters and bike lanes to operate without robust community input from low-income and working class folks, especially communities of color, seniors, and disabled people.
- Ms. Natoli also has ties to YIMBY Action, an organization that supports continuing to build market rate housing over the objections of working class communities of color. Given the link between transit and development, any SFMTA Commissioner must have an equity lens and must be sensitive to gentrifying communities and support green development without displacement. Ms. Natoli has not shown the level of accountability to at-risk communities necessary to be in a position of such great power.

We join United to Save The Mission, the Harvey Milk Democratic Club, and other organizations to urge the Board of Supervisors to reject Jane Natoli's appointment to the SFMTA board.



**From:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)  
**To:** [BOS-Supervisors](#)  
**Cc:** [Young, Victor \(BOS\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please advance nomination of Jane Natoli and Sharon Lai to MTA Board  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 18, 2020 4:17:42 PM

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**From:** Luke Swartz <lswartz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2020 11:12 PM  
**To:** Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** RonenStaff (BOS) <ronenstaff@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Please advance nomination of Jane Natoli and Sharon Lai to MTA Board

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Supervisor Ronen,

Thank you so much for approving these great MTA Board candidates in committee—please also approve them at tomorrow's full Board meeting!

Thank you for your work during this trying time,

Luke Swartz  
D9 Resident/Voter

On Fri, Aug 7, 2020 at 4:56 PM Luke Swartz <[lswartz@gmail.com](mailto:lswartz@gmail.com)> wrote:

Supervisor Ronen,

Please advance the nomination of Jane Natoli and Sharon Lai to the Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors.

Both have a long history of advocacy for San Franciscans traveling by bicycle, walking, and transit—which is crucial for me, since our family does not own a car (and especially both during and after the pandemic we need to find ways for people to get around safely without cars). Both nominees also bring unique perspectives (transgender & Chinese-speaking immigrant) that will help the MTA Board better serve our diverse City.

As you know, the MTA Board now barely has a quorum, so in addition to their skills/expertise/experience, these nominees can help MTA continue its crucial business during this challenging time.

Thank you for your consideration,

Luke Swartz  
D9 Resident/Voter



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

Contact: Mayor's Office of Communications, [mayorspressoffice@sfgov.org](mailto:mayorspressoffice@sfgov.org)

**\*\*\* STATEMENT \*\*\***

**MAYOR LONDON BREED ON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'  
REJECTION OF JANE NATOLI TO SFMTA BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

**San Francisco, CA** — Mayor London N. Breed issued the following statement following the Board of Supervisors' 6-4 vote against the appointment of Jane Natoli to the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors.

"The Board of Supervisors' decision to reject the nomination of Jane Natoli for the SFMTA Board is a deeply cynical move that represents what is wrong with San Francisco politics. And let's be clear, this is simply about politics.

The Board made her wait for over 100 days just to have a hearing. During this time, the SFMTA Board could barely make a quorum while the SFMTA is having to make countless difficult decisions as a result of COVID-19. When Jane finally received a hearing, the Board did not question her qualifications, in fact she received a unanimously positive recommendation in her committee hearing. Jane is a transit rider, a bicycle rider, and a transportation advocate who is well-respected for her advocacy. She would have been the first trans Director in the history of the SFMTA Board, bringing a unique perspective that the SFMTA Board has never had before. But the Supervisors decided that their political differences with her are more important than having qualified Directors on the SFMTA Board.

We should be thankful that people are willing to provide their expertise and serve our City. The message that the Board of Supervisors continues to send is that it does not matter if you are qualified, in order to serve San Francisco you must be aligned with them politically."

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