



Transportation  
Research and  
Improvement  
Project

March 15, 2021

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 for Sharon Lai's reappointment 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 expect a director who is sensitive to the unique needs of every individual neighborhood, particularly ones that are underserved and low income in San Francisco. Ever since Sharon has been appointed in August 2020, she has been in close communication with Chinatown TRIP, understanding our needs and being receptive of our feedback.

We are delighted to hear of Sharon's candidacy for reappointment, which supports SFMTA's initiative to continue the diversity of its board members and to accurately represent their ridership. We have seen Sharon's depth of experience in planning matters in conjunction with her volunteer experience. She will continue to be an asset to the City of San Francisco and as such, we and the Chinatown community look forward to continuing our working relationship with her reappointment. We anticipate working closely with her going forward.

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

Sincerely,

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

Jon Hee, Co-Chair



March 15, 2021

ROSE PAK DEMOCRATIC CLUB STATEMENT: REAPPOINTMENT OF SHARON LAI TO  
SFMTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Rose Pak Democratic Club (RPDC) is writing to express our full support for the reappointment of Sharon Lai to the San Francisco MTA Board of Directors.

During her tenure of several months on the MTA Board, Director Lai has proved herself to be a tremendous advocate for the community. When talks around the upcoming MTA budget began, Director Lai was proactive about reaching out to Chinatown TRIP and RPDC. We met and spoke about the pandemic's effect on transportation throughout the API communities in San Francisco. Director Lai was methodical in explaining proposals that would impact the API community and anticipated the difficult trade-offs that had to be made given budget shortfalls. She asked for our feedback on each issue because she understood the value of input from the community.

Director Lai is an invaluable asset to our city. As a mother, she has advocated for the needs of working families. As an immigrant, she has fought for more meaningful language access and communication between MUNI and our monolingual communities. As a San Franciscan, Director Lai has pushed for a MUNI system that better serves the needs of all residents in our city. RPDC is excited by what Director Lai will accomplish under a full term on the MTA Board, which is why we strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to reappoint Sharon Lai to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Kitty Fong  
President  
Rose Pak Democratic Club

Jeremy Lee  
Vice-President  
Rose Pak Democratic Club



March 15, 2021

Supervisors Aaron Peskin, Rafael Mandelman, Connie Chan  
Rules Committee  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
City Hall, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

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

Dear Supervisors Peskin, Mandelman, and Chan,

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 re-appointment of Sharon Lai to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

Ms. Lai's extensive experience has been 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.

In her short time serving on the board, she has shown herself to be thoughtful and incisive. She asks excellent questions of staff and is helping to set a high bar for the Muni service we need in San Francisco.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Cordes".

Mark Cordes  
Executive Director  
San Francisco Transit Riders

cc:  
SFTMA Board of Directors  
Jeffrey Tumlin, Director of Transportation



*West Bay Pilipino Multi Service Center*

175 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

(415) 431 6266

[www.westbaycenter.org](http://www.westbaycenter.org)

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14 March 2020

Dear Board of Supervisors,

My name is Carla Laurel and I am the Executive Director of West Bay Pilipino Multi-Service Center, the oldest Filipino led non profit in Northern California. We have been and continue to serve vulnerable communities in the South of Market neighborhood for the past 50 years. We are an extended family and imperative resource for many recent immigrant families in San Francisco. We strive to even the playing field for underserved, vulnerable youth and their families by supplementing our academic programs with financial, social, emotional, and cultural support.

I am writing this letter in support of the reappointment for Sharon Lai to be on the SFMTA Board. There needs to be diversity on the SFMTA Board and having Sharon on it is vital. We need more Asian American women in positions like this. Sharon has an understanding for diversity, community voice and makes sure those that are most vulnerable not just have a voice, but are able to have opportunities to thrive. Sharon goes above and beyond her professional capacities to understand what the community needs are and the impact decisions that are made affect organizations like West Bay and our community members. She has made an effort to really understand the needs of our vulnerable youth and families here at West Bay. She volunteers at our events and constantly stays engaged to make sure our families are heard and represented. As an immigrant, like many of our families, she has first hand experience of what it's like navigating through San Francisco, especially since most of our families are heavily reliant on public transportation.

We truly appreciate Sharon and her commitment to the community. We consider her as part of our extended family here at West Bay. She has always been professional, caring, thoughtful, fair and inclusive. We appreciate her commitment to making sure all voices are heard and are excited for the opportunity at more diversity on the SFMTA with her reappointment. West Bay is happy to support Sharon Lai on her reappointment to the SFMTA and we believe that her reappointment will help ensure our vulnerable community members are valued and represented.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carla Laurel".

Carla Laurel  
Executive Director