



March 12, 2021

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 Sharon Lai's reappointment to SFMTA Board of Directors

Dear Supervisors Chan, Mandelman and Peskin,

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

Since Vision Zero was adopted in 2014, 200 people have lost their lives to traffic-related crashes, and 3,500 people live with serious injuries. We know where and how crashes happen and who suffers the most - children, older adults, people with disabilities, immigrants, and low-income residents. As the city's lead agency on Vision Zero, it is imperative SFMTA Board Members prioritize this policy in every decision.

In her six-months on the SFMTA Board, Board Member Lai has had the most vulnerable and non-English-speaking communities at the forefront of her decision-making and meeting discussions. She's been thoughtful about her questions on the agency's Vision Zero safety projects, and has participated in important discussions around the expansion of Slow Streets program to reach every neighborhood.

Both Vision Zero and Slow Streets will be front and center in the next 12-18 months as our city moves out of crisis and into recovery. We need Board Members to look at our streets as an extension of our transportation system, and prioritize giving communities across our city safe mobility choices like walking, biking and scooting to get to schools, jobs, recreation, and essential services while Muni recovers.

We believe Sharon Lai will continue to ask the hard questions, have our most vulnerable front and center to help guide the agency to make the necessary choices that will lead to a more equitable, safe, accessible, and sustainable transportation system.

Walk SF supports Sharon Lai's nomination for a full-term on the SFMTA Board.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jodie", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Jodie Medeiros
Executive Director

CC:

Honorable Mayor Breed

Shamann Walton, Board President

Jeffrey Tumlin, Director of Transportation

Sharon Lai, SFMTA Board Member



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

T 415.431.BIKE
F 415.431.2468

sfbike.org

PROMOTING THE BICYCLE FOR EVERYDAY TRANSPORTATION

March 12, 2021

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

Dear Chair Peskin,

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

During her first seven months as a member of the SFMTA Board, Sharon Lai has demonstrated her ability to ask tough questions of SFMTA leadership, holding the agency to account when it comes to delivering on its promises to the people of San Francisco. She also has shown an understanding of the many competing demands and pressures that the SFMTA faces in meeting those promises, balancing equitable service, safety, and extraordinary budget pressures.

The challenges facing the SFMTA as San Francisco begins its recovery from the coronavirus pandemic also come with opportunities. How can Muni services be rebuilt better in order to serve the communities that most depend on it? How can low-cost street treatments like car-free space in our parks and Slow Streets citywide be made permanent to support our neighborhoods and commercial corridors? How can San Francisco continue to lead the way in addressing the climate crisis by reducing its single greatest source of carbon emissions: transportation? Sharon Lai's experience and perspective will be invaluable as the SFMTA tackles all of these questions in the year ahead, and all San Franciscans, including people who bike, will benefit from her presence on the SFMTA Board. For those reasons, I urge you to support Mayor Breed's renomination of Sharon Lai to the SFMTA Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

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

Brian Wiedenmeier
Executive Director



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



West Bay Pilipino Multi Service Center

175 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

(415) 431 6266

www.westbaycenter.org

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



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