

Update on Implementation of Late Night Transportation Working Group Report's Next Steps

9/22/15

1. Begin a process to refresh and consider expansion of all-night local and regional bus service

As a first step to address our recommendations regarding public transit's availability and coverage during overnight hours, we recommend conducting a comprehensive review of local and regional all-night bus service. The goal of this effort should be to review the current network, propose modifications to the local and regional network serving San Francisco if warranted in light of evolving travel demands and needs, and consider scenarios of local and regional expanded service levels with cost estimates.

Update:

- OEWD has asked transit agency partners to identify staff to participate in transit service planning refresh.
- SFCTA is in the process of further refining the scope of this effort and selecting a consultant with transit service planning expertise.
- SFCTA will facilitate several service planning meetings over the coming months, working with transit agency staff and other stakeholders to develop recommendations for cost-neutral and cost-incurring service plan changes.

2. Develop a pilot program funded by challenge grants for location-specific improvements

The Working Group has identified a number of location-specific strategies that could be implemented to improve the safety, security, and comfort of traveling through a particular neighborhood, commercial corridor or area. After defining the parameters of a challenge grant program, we recommend identifying at least two corridors or areas to implement improvements during an initial pilot period. The results should include a feasible plan developed in at least two corridors, implementation of short-term items, cost estimates and implementation plans for longer term items, write-ups of "lessons learned," and an evaluation to inform further rounds of challenge grants.

Update:

- OEWD is currently preparing a Request for Proposal to fund challenge grants for organizations to implement location-specific improvements in two neighborhoods.

3. Develop and launch a coordinated information campaign to better communicate existing services

To increase awareness of existing transportation choices, we recommend the development of a coordinated information campaign. This campaign should produce accurate and easy to understand all-night travel information available through multiple communication channels, including physical collateral and signage as well as a flexible, sustainable website with comprehensive travel information.

Update:

- In the next few months, OEWD will engage a consultant to help develop and launch the information campaign.
- We will be asking working group stakeholders to help identify content for inclusion in the information campaign, provide feedback on draft messaging and collateral, and assist in the distribution of informational materials.

4. Establish an all-night monitoring practice to be used to make data-driven recommendations

Comprehensive data analysis on late-night and early-morning transportation trends (and how those trends compare to daytime conditions) was not possible given the scope and schedule of this effort. For need areas identified related to transit reliability, cleanliness, and safety and security, we recommend that a regular transportation monitoring practice be developed to monitor data and diagnose trends. We recommend a coordinated effort across relevant agencies to define an appropriate set of metrics to collect relevant data, identify trends, and make public reports that are useful and meaningful.

Update:

- SFCTA is in the process of selecting a consultant with data expertise.
- OEWD will convene an initial meeting of transit agencies and other stakeholders to understand the current availability of relevant data sets and scope out the development of the monitoring practice.
- The consultant will develop the set of metrics to be reported and work with transit agency staff to develop protocols to regularly report data.
- Data will be collected by OEWD for distribution to the Working Group and posting online.

5. Continue convening the Late Night Transportation Working Group

The Working Group's efforts to date were very broad in scope, seeking to define all transportation needs affecting overnight travel and feasible strategies to address these needs. Going forward, our work will unfold in more defined channels and some Working Group members will be more interested in and have more expertise to participate in some initiatives than others. We recommend that the Working Group continue to be convened periodically while the more detailed specific initiatives are pursued. We believe

that the Working Group should hear about progress in implementing our recommendations, leveraging our collective expertise to resolve obstacles as needed.

Update:

- OEWD and the Entertainment Commission are convening our next meeting on September 30. We propose to hold full meetings of the working group every quarter and will suggest a calendar of future meetings at the September 30 meeting.
- We will periodically send updates to the full group regarding smaller group meetings and other developments in the implementation of the other next steps discussed above.