



David W. Dippel

336-15th Ave., San Francisco, CA-94118-2807

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(Phone/FAX 415/386-1345)

To: Supervisor Aaron Peskin, Chairman, SFCTA Board of Commissioners

Fr: D.W. Dippel, 45-year resident, Richmond District, S.F.

Re: Request for one (1) month postponement, Geary BRT EIR vote

Date: December 28, 2016

I am asking you, as Chairman of the TA Board of Commissioners, to propose to fellow Commissioners a one (1) month postponement for the vote on the Geary BRT EIR at your meeting on Thursday, January 5, 2017. This request is being made for the following reasons:

- 1) Firstly, the proposed TA Commission vote on Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> would take place 3-days (1-weekday and 2-weekend days) before the swearing in (inauguration) of 4 newly elected members of the S.F. Board of Supervisors, your new fellow TA Commissioners, on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Secondly, voting on the acceptance and approval of the Geary BRT EIR will be 4 lame duck Supervisors who, in deference and respect for the voters in their respective Districts, should defer their votes out of respect for those who succeed them and must manage future projects and their obligations for potentially the following 8-years.
- 3) Voting at what must be publicly seen as the 11<sup>th</sup> hour for a hugely expensive, impactful and far reaching project as the Geary BRT smacks of not only sharp practice but as a fearful act of desperation driven by a fear of public discussion or review. The rush to judgement is not driven by any timeline other than expiring terms and the fear of some outgoing Supervisors that the Geary BRT won't stand public discussion or review without their self-declared importance.
- 4) Accelerated timelines have historically been used to curtail and avoid full public discussion and silence opposition. A rush to judgement and action is rightfully seen as an element of the trickery used in confidence games by con-artists. The business of the public must always be conducted to promote transparency and accountability through full public disclosure and discussion, not by speedup games used to rig a vote.

The touchstone for public conduct for all government officials has been the awareness that the American public does not trust people with power. The people always want transparency and accountability. Speedup of public business promotes well organized paperwork and continuity in public contracts and payrolls, the hallmarks of political machines. But, do accelerated timelines represent open government process or just clerical efficiency?

Please don't buy into this stampede psychology. Ask to put off approval of the Geary BRT EIR for at least 30-days so that the thinking and opinions of the new Board can be involved.

Cc: Supervisor/Board Commissioner Norman Yee