



To the Commission Streamlining Task Force,

Thank you for your work to rationalize the City's public bodies and ensure that Boards and Commissions serve the public transparently and effectively. On behalf of ConnectedSF and its members, I am writing to provide our position regarding the SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council (CAC).

We strongly support eliminating the CAC.

While the stated intent of the CAC is to serve as a channel for public feedback to SFMTA, the reality is that it functions as an echo chamber of insiders with pre-existing advocacy positions and tightly aligned agendas. Rather than representing broad resident perspectives, the CAC amplifies a narrow subset of voices that already enjoy disproportionate influence. Many members participate in policy formation within their affiliated advocacy organizations, then arrive at the SFMTA Board meetings to endorse the same outcomes during public comment while presenting themselves as general community participants.

This has made the CAC appear less like a true advisory bridge to the general public and more like a reinforcing loop of predetermined opinions - a circular pipeline of influence that erodes trust rather than building it.

It is increasingly clear that San Franciscans are frustrated with a pattern of closed-loop decision-making at SFMTA. Residents are asked to trust SFMTA, to vote on parcel taxation, and to support infrastructure spending, yet, **the advisory structure is dominated by individuals who are not independent of the agency's policy ecosystem.**

Eliminating the CAC would:

- Reduce duplicative advocacy structures
- Remove a false intermediary layer that purports to represent the public
- Increase direct accountability to the MTA Board of Directors and elected officials
- Compel SFMTA staff and Board leadership to hear and engage directly with the broader public
- End an insular mechanism that is currently damaging SFMTA's public credibility

Importantly, this recommendation aligns with the evaluation framework and task-force logic used for other eliminations, where bodies that are duplicative, narrowly representative, or ineffective in delivering genuinely diverse input are targeted for dissolution. This alignment is supported by the criteria-based analysis in the staff memo around elimination of narrowly focused advisory bodies with overlapping or redundant functions.

The CAC has not ensured balanced representation. It has not broadened feedback channels. It has not built trust. Its continued existence functions as a veneer of “community consensus” that does not reflect the actual diversity of transit-user and general public experience in San Francisco.

ConnectedSF respectfully recommends that the Task Force:

Eliminate the SFMTA Citizens Advisory Council.

We further recommend that the MTA Board rely on:

- direct public comment
- rider surveys
- targeted outreach
- district-based listening sessions
- and accountability to elected officials

instead of a single selectively composed advisory body.

Removing the CAC will help restore public confidence that SFMTA decisions are made through transparent, accountable processes - not through insider-driven channels.

We appreciate the consideration and hope we have your support.

- ConnectedSF Staff

A few examples of Recommendations made by the CAC that has led to more harm in their respective communities, financial mismanagement and the loss of public trust.

February 6, 2025 meeting - filed motion to support Biking & Rolling Plan, after extensively collaborating with SFMTA to develop the “plan”. Also recommended the agency to find additional opportunities to implement separated biking and rolling lanes rather than shared lanes.

Demanded that SFMTA not endorse any service cut scenario and urged SFMTA to exhaust all other options-including seeking additional funds from the Mayor and Board of Supervisors, before reducing muni service.

May 2, 2025 meeting - Recommended that SFMTA implement sweeping alterations to the streets and traffic patterns in the area of West Portal Station by EOY of 2024.

June 6, 2024 meeting - Recommended that SFMTA Board of Directors endorse a side-running bike lane proposal for Mid-Valencia corridor

July 11, 2024 meeting - Recommended that SFMTA Board of Directors approve West Portal Safety and Community Space Improvements. At the same meeting, the CAC recommended that the SFMTA Board of Directors implement a pilot of integrating turn restrictions from the original proposal.