

Getting Heard & Taking Action

At the Chamber's Annual CityBeat Luncheon, President & CEO Steve Falk talked about the need for the business community "to be more effective in getting our opinions and priorities heard".

"We can no longer just complain about undesirable results," said Falk, "but must be proactive in moving our agenda forward."

ChamberVoice is part of the solution.



ChamberVoice is a comprehensive, online public policy communication system. All members need to participate is an internet connection – and to register. (There is no fee to register.) Once registered, members will receive direct communication from the Chamber on public policy issues, analysis and calls for action.

The system enables registered members to send messages directly to their elected officials at the local, state and federal levels based on the address registered in the system. Business owners/managers

may register both business and personal addresses to allow their voice to be heard from their business and home. For example, if a member lives in District 7 and does business in District 2, a message will be sent to the supervisors representing both districts.

The time to start is now. "In the coming weeks and months, we anticipate a number of issues about which business will want to have a say," says Jim Lazarus, Chamber senior vice president/Public Policy. Stay tuned for when and how to register for the first action alert.

Once registered, members will be able to immediately communicate with local, state and federal officials on other key issues that come up in the course of the public debate.

"Together, we can use this powerful communications tool to extend our reach and influence for the betterment of San Francisco," says Falk.

SF Works Launches Business Innovation Series Highlighting Promising Workforce Practices

In February, SFWorks and the Chamber joined the Social Venture Network and Net Impact NorCal in hosting a reception and panel with local luxury hotelier Chip Conley, direct marketing guru and business owner Mal Warwick and former Harvard Business School professor Mark Albion on Business Innovation: Happy Workers, Healthy Community, High Returns. Moderated by Mike Hannigan, founder and CEO of Give Something Back (an office supply company that donates its profits to charity), the panel focused on how to create businesses that foster healthy employees without sacrificing revenue. In addition to highlighting win-win opportunities for employers and their employees, the speakers illustrated how profitable it can be to run a values-based business, particularly for small- and mid-

sized employers.

The panel served as a kickoff for a quarterly series of Business Innovation Panels that will highlight innovative practices employers can implement to support their workers and achieve bottom-line results. The next Business Innovation panel is planned for next month, and will feature authors of *Wall Street Journal* best seller, *True North: Discover Your Authentic Leadership*. Watch for details in *The Monday Report*.

The series is complemented by themed round tables sessions for small, medium and large employers aimed at supporting them in customizing and implementing the highlighted practices. For more information, contact Lori Lindburg at llindburg@sfworks.org



Share Your Input with Transit Effectiveness Project

The Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) is a partnership between the Municipal Transportation Agency (MTA) and the city Controller's Office to increase Muni's effectiveness. Launched in May 2006, the 18-month, \$2.4 million effort is intended to:

- Improve overall performance and promote long-term financial stability of the MTA
- Provide faster, more convenient travel that reflects current travel patterns
- Develop more cost-effective operating practices
- Develop an action plan that clearly articulates goals, strategies and resources, and provides a long-term road map for the MTA.

Over the past nine months, the project team has conducted extensive data collection and analysis to understand the existing and potential markets for transit service in the city. The TEP is also reviewing the operational factors impacting Muni's service reliability and identifying strategies to improve on-time performance.

The project welcomes public input through the following:

- TEP Citizen Advisory Committee meetings. Members of the public may attend these meetings held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 5-7 pm, at 1 South Van Ness Ave., 3rd Fl.
- Citywide public meetings. The project will host two rounds of meetings later this year as findings and draft recommendations are available. Check online for dates and locations.
- Community group presentations. Interested neighborhood or community groups may request a TEP project briefing at one of their meetings.
- Mail and/or e-mail updates. Individuals may join the TEP mailing list to receive future notices by mail and/or e-mail.
- Ongoing feedback via e-mail, phone or fax. E-mail: info@sftep.com or call 415-701-4599.

For more information, Chamber members and city residents are encouraged to visit www.sftep.com for regular updates and/or to contact Julie Kirschbaum, TEP program manager at 415-701-4394, or Sally Allen, Controller's Office project manager, at 415-554-7498