

The Billion Dollar Mile

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OVERVIEW

- Brief review of Central Subway Project
- Similarities to other large, Federally funded projects
- 10 steps to fight wasteful Public Works Projects

CENTRAL SUBWAY PROJECT

1989 - PRESENT

- 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake
 - ✓ Vote by fear
 - ✓ 2-miles, \$2 Billion dollars, 30 years later
- 25 years of public protests, including the immediate past SFMTA Director who initially supported the project





Flickr: Central Subway

What's Wrong with the Project?

“In the world of civic projects, the first budget is really just a down payment. If people knew the real cost from the start, nothing would ever be approved.

The idea is to get going. Start digging a hole and make it so big, there's no alternative to coming up with the money to fill it in.”

– SF Mayor Willie Brown

What's Wrong with the Project?

- ADA issues – disconnects current transit lines, causing long walks (.5miles +) for disabled persons and senior citizens
- Spending \$80M to retrieve \$4M of boring equipment
- Lowest bid came in \$500M higher than the highest project estimate

Inside the Debacle

- Misappropriation of funds
- Infighting between Subcontractors
- Complex accounting system that thwarts transparency

Controllers Office: 1.011 Project Management Budget: \$7M

CSP Reports: 1.011.05.234.45 Project Management Budget: \$17M

FTA Reports: 2.012.05.487.45 Project Management Budget: \$27M

- Falsified reports of “on-time, on budget”
- FTA PMOC lack of enforcement

OTHER FEDERAL PROJECTS

- SF New Bay Bridge debacle
- Central Subway 25 years too late and over-budget
- Oakland AirBart Project
- California High Speed Rail Project

10 STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZING

- 1) Executive Director with strong management skills
- 2) Support staff to follow up on action items
- 3) PR with mainstream media (TV/Radio)
- 4) Coalition building
- 5) Fundraiser who believes in the cause and has financial contacts

10 STEPS TO SUCCESSFUL ORGANIZING

- 6) Outreach staff to recruit volunteers
- 7) Web Designer
- 8) Web Content curator to keep the site up to date and relevant
- 9) Social media presence must be interactive and dynamic
- 10) Research team to gather information to support the cause