

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Policy Advisory Council**

May 11, 2022

Agenda Item 10

**Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) Training**

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**Subject:**

Brief overview of the Brown Act from MTC's General Counsel.

**Background:**

The Brown Act, passed in 1953, guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies. The Brown Act requires public notice of meetings, with posted agendas and the opportunity for public comment, with narrow exceptions. The purpose of this item is to provide an introduction regarding key principles of the Brown Act, open an avenue for further discussion and advice, **and answer questions from the Council.**

**Link:**

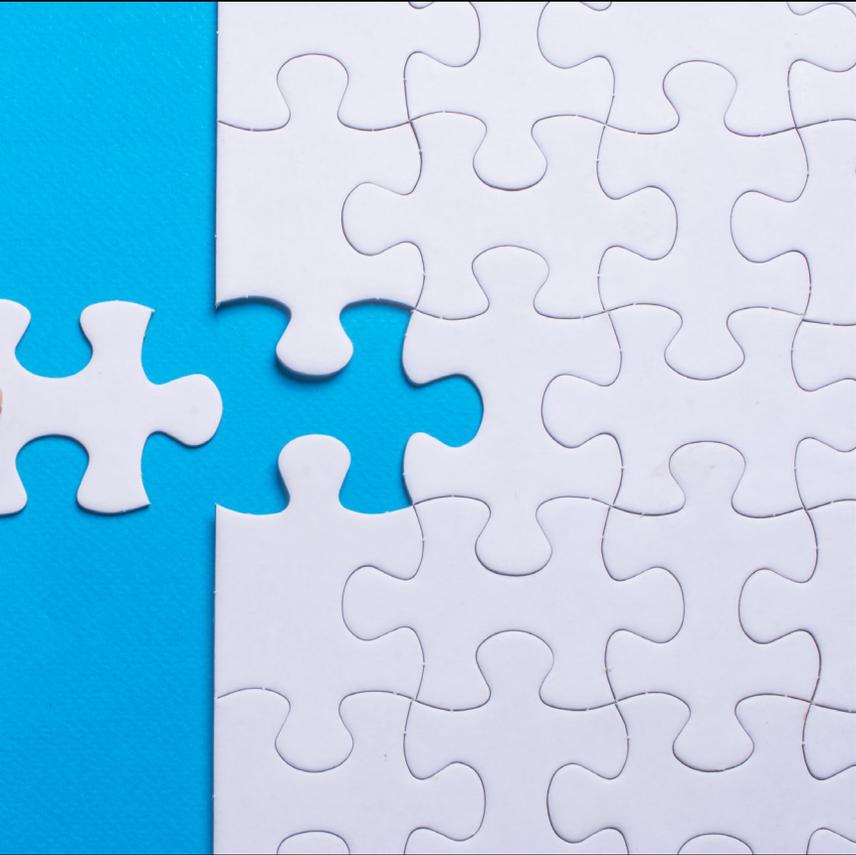
- [“Open and Public V: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act” – League of California Cities](#)

**Issues:**

None identified.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Presentation



# Policy Advisory Council Brown Act Training

May 11, 2022

*Kathleen Kane – MTC General Counsel*



### **Kathleen Kane** General Counsel



### **About me:**

- Born in: San Francisco
- High school ambition: wanted to be an archaeologist in Greece. Missed that mark by a little!
- Stanford for Undergrad + Law School
- Served as City Attorney for E. Palo Alto & Burlingame; have worked for federal, state and local governments
- Became MTC General Counsel in 2020

# Brown Act: Transparency in Government

- The People's business happens in public
  - Agendas give notice of what is, and is not, going to happen
  - Wherever and *whenever* there's a quorum, there's a meeting
  - The public has access to the information that informs decisions
  - Exceptions are narrow and defined by statute

An aerial photograph of San Francisco, California, showing the city skyline, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the surrounding bay. The image is used as a background for a presentation slide.

# Thank You

**Questions or concerns?  
Please Contact:**

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