

Date: January 25, 2023  
W.I.: 1111  
Referred by: Commission

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 4560

Resolution of Appreciation for Therese McMillan for her service as Executive Director at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Date: January 25, 2023  
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RE: Resolution of Appreciation for Therese W. McMillan

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
Resolution No. 4560

WHEREAS, Therese W. McMillan is retiring after four years of service as Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and retiring for a second time from the Commission staff after a combined total of almost 30 years of service and nearly four decades in all of innovative, inclusive and uplifting work at multiple levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the Commission in 2009 adopted Resolution No. 3922 in appreciation of the distinguished record of achievement Therese established between her 1984 hiring by MTC as an assistant transportation planner/analyst and her eventual selection by the administration of then-President Barack Obama to fill the prestigious post of Deputy Administrator at the Federal Transportation Administration, thus obviating the need to recite the long list of policies she initiated, the programs she pioneered, the partnerships she formed or the promotions she received during those years; and

WHEREAS, a testament to Therese's career-long dedication to ensuring healthy and equitable transportation systems and corridors in communities throughout the Bay Area already has been read into the Congressional Record by U.S. Representative and former MTC Commissioner Mark DeSaulnier, thus also rendering unnecessary detailed recapitulation of her remarkable accomplishments as Executive Director since 2019, which include establishment of the agency's Equity Platform, steady guidance through the COVID-19 pandemic, formation of the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force, expanded efforts to solve the Bay Area's longstanding housing affordability problems, championing a new Transit-Oriented Communities policy, development and implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050, and updating her own work on the regional transit expansion policy adopted by the Commission as Resolution No. 3434 with a new Major Projects Advancement Policy; and

WHEREAS, among the aphorisms favored by Therese include a quote often attributed to poet Maya Angelou, which states, ‘I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.’; and

WHEREAS, Therese makes others feel seen, heard and cared for; consistently remembering and celebrating staff members’ birthdays, marriages, baby showers and other life events; unwavering in her willingness to meet with other members of the staff whenever asked for a few minutes of her time; invariably inquiring, “How are you?” once the business portion of a meeting is concluded; being genuinely eager to hear others’ perspectives; and always leaving those with whom she has met feeling appreciated, encouraged, and with several new ideas or questions that may not previously have been considered; and

WHEREAS, Therese puts extraordinary thought and effort into staff development, encouraging other agency executives to let more of their own staff make presentations to the Commission and its various committees in order to develop their public speaking skills, conducting her own workshop on how to make effective presentations, and welcoming new members of the staff with warmth, kindness and patience for any inexperience they may have with the ways of MTC; and

WHEREAS, Therese reminds us nonetheless that our relationships are more lasting than our memos and our laughter more resounding than our presentations, urges us to take time to be still, to pause and breathe deeply, and to notice the beautiful small things that can escape our hurried eyes; and

WHEREAS, Therese demonstrated for other parents and parents-to-be with whom she worked how to balance a high-powered career with raising two amazing young women who have begun registering their own records of achievement; and

WHEREAS, Therese is as creative as she is compassionate, keeping the wheels of her artistry spinning through media that range from dance to poetry to jewelry making, and sharing generously of the products of her craft; and

WHEREAS, Therese's passion for her professional as well as personal pursuits prompt periodic passages into the blue spectrum of the English language, with a technically precise F-bomb here or a strategic S-missile there; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the staff and commissioners shall heed Therese's call to find space for gratitude and wholeheartedly thank her for decades of devotion to the public good; pay tribute to the enduring policies and practices she originated, nurtured and instituted; attest to just how much fun it has been to work with her; extend to Therese and her whole family the very best wishes for a healthy and happy retirement; pledge to celebrate with joy her remarkable career; and follow her advice to end this paragraph before it has to be transcribed on a g\_\*\$@n scroll.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Alfredo Pedroza, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission held in San Francisco, California, and at other remote locations, on January 25, 2023.