



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
September 28, 2022

Retirements

Linda Lee – Linda started with MTC in January 1999 as an Assistant Planner/Analyst. Her last day with MTC is September 30, 2022 as a Principal Planner/Analyst in the Design and Project Delivery section.

New Appointments

Shawn Lindahl– Shawn started with MTC on September 6th as a Section Administrator in the Funding Policy and Programs section.

Elliot Huang– Elliot was rehired with MTC on September 19th as a Principal Data Scientist in the Regional Planning Program section.

Julie Snyder– Julie started with MTC on September 19th as a Principal Legislative Advocate, Housing and Local Government in the Legislation and Public Affairs section.

Key Updates

High-Speed Rail Update

In August, the California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) Board of Directors certified the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIR/EIS) and approved the approximately 43-mile project for the San Francisco to San Jose section. This action completes the environmental clearance for high-speed rail in Northern California and extends environmental clearance to 420 miles of the project's 500-mile alignment from San Francisco to Los Angeles/Anaheim.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

In early August, the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) submitted a grant application to the competitive **Bridge Improvement Program in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** seeking \$185M in grant funding for the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge West Span Restoration Project. At that time, MTC also provided support for the application for the Golden Gate Bridge Seismic Retrofit project. The Commission's March 2022 grant strategy included the two projects and identified the Golden Gate Bridge project as the first priority for this fund source. As part of BATA's application, the project received letters of support from the Bay Area Congressional Delegation, Caltrans, and business and labor partners, as well as partners in local and regional transportation and local government. Caltrans is the implementing agency for the project.

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Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) Update

Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) in early August closed its first-ever transaction, funding a \$5,000 grant through its Welfare Tax Exemption Preservation Program to enable nonprofit Eden Housing to convert its recently acquired 24-unit De Anza Terrace apartment complex in Alameda County's unincorporated Ashland community to permanently affordable housing.

Clipper BayPass

MTC in partnership with BART and all other transit agencies that participate in the Clipper fare payment systems launched, on August 25th a 2-year pilot program to study the impact of a single pass that will provide close to 50,000 Bay Area residents with free access to all bus, rail and ferry services in the nine-county region. The new passes initially will be distributed to participating students at San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, the University of California's Berkeley campus and Santa Rosa Junior College and then expanded to include residents of select affordable housing communities managed by MidPen Housing.

<https://mtc.ca.gov/news/clipperr-baypass-sets-sail-unlimited-transit-access>

Items to Note

U.S. DOT Secretary Visit

Secretary Pete Buttigieg this month visited the San Francisco Bay Area to tour the region's infrastructure projects and see the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in practice. Therese McMillan joined Secretary Buttigieg, Speaker Pelosi and others in San Francisco to celebrate the near completion of SFMTA's Central Subway project. The Secretary also visited other Bay Area projects, including the GoMentum Station in Contra Costa County. In Oakland, Commissioner Schaaf and Congresswoman Lee led him on a bus tour of "Reconnecting the Town" mobility improvements and rode down Interstate 980.

ITS World Congress

MTC was featured in [a video produced for the ITS World Congress](#) in Los Angeles last week. The video tells the story of how the Bay Area turned the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity to rethink how the region's transit system operates and focus on rider experience. Watch the video:

<https://youtu.be/s5diGxDXSMA>.

Transit Month

This month MTC along with Bay Area transit agencies and others is celebrating [Transit Month](#), a celebration of the role of public transit in the Bay Area's pandemic recovery. MTC is sponsoring the month-long event. On September 16, Therese McMillan joined the General Managers/CEOs from 11 Bay Area transit agencies as they rode multiple modes of transit together, ending with a public happy hour in Oakland.

Bay Day

September marks the arrival of [Bay Day, a month-long, region-wide celebration](#) of the San Francisco Bay put on in partnership with the San Francisco Bay Trail. This event encourages residents of all ages and abilities to get out and explore the bay by signing up to participate in the Bay Day Trail or Activity Challenge.

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Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)

On September 10th, I along with Commissioner Worth and Commissioner Glover attended the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Bay Area Rapid Transit system. The celebration highlighted the changes over the last five decades that BART has been in service and showed how important this transportation system is to the Bay Area.

SB 9 and Missing Middle Housing Workshop

Over 65 attendees, ranging from local and regional staff to non-profit housing developers, non-profit partners and other housing professionals, came together at the **Best Practices to Implement SB 9 and Missing Middle Housing**, an in-person event on Sept. 13 held at the Bay Area Metro Center. Co-hosted by ABAG, the Turner Center for Housing Innovation and the San Francisco Foundation, this event focused on SB 9, missing middle housing and effective strategies for creating small-scale housing development that advances equity. The event was recorded; the recording and all materials presented will be [available on ABAG's RHTA website](#) as well as the Turner Center's website.

International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association

Deputy Executive Director Andrew Fremier, after serving a year as its Vice President, was appointed President of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association on September 22, 2022.



Therese W. McMillan