

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

December 14, 2022

Agenda Item 10

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – December 2022

Staff Liaison Report – December 2022

Special Notice: Disability advocate Hale Zukas passing. Founder of Berkeley’s Center for Independent Living (CIL), and longtime disability rights advocate [Hale Zukas passed away recently](#). Awarded MTC’s Doris Kahn Accessible Transportation Award (named after a former MTC Chair and SF Commissioner), Mr. Zukas was passionate about transportation and advocated for the [Federal 504 Rehabilitation Act](#) as well as the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#), and more robust [Lifeline transportation funding](#). Zukas was one of a core group in the region and the nation to open up mobility for all of us.

Legislative Updates:

Nothing to report this month.

Executive Director’s Report:

The following items are excerpts from the November 16, 2022, Executive Director’s Report to the Commission. To read this and past reports in their entirety, check the agenda from a given Commission meeting (search for past meetings on [MTCs Legistar webpage](#)).

Transportation and Emergency Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Assembly Hearing

On November 1, 2022, Director McMillan provided an overview of MTC’s role in disaster preparedness and recovery of the transportation network, its supportive role in response coordination, and its transportation resilience efforts to integrate hazard mitigation and climate adaptation strategies into long-range planning. Attendees, including the Committee’s Chair, Assemblywoman Lori Wilson, as well as Assemblywoman Mia Bonta, provided positive feedback on the presentation and helpful responses from Director McMillan and MTC’s emergency response lead, Stephen Terrin.

Express Lanes Update

Construction of the Express Lanes from Whipple Avenue in Redwood City to I-380 in South San Francisco is nearly complete, and testing of the tolling equipment has begun. In October, the lane opened to carpools with three or more people while testing continues. BATA is a significant funding contributor to this project, and BAIFA is installing and will operate express lanes tolling, which is projected to start in early 2023.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update

In October 2022, MTC and Caltrans jointly submitted a grant application to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Reconnecting Communities Pilot seeking \$21M toward construction of the West Oakland Link. This project, for which BATA is currently finalizing the environmental phase, would restore access to the West Oakland community that has long been isolated by active railroad lines, the Port of Oakland and commuter truck traffic headed to nearby interstate highways by providing a safe, direct and seamless bicycle and pedestrian connection from West Oakland to the existing Bay Bridge multi-use pathway, jobs at the Port of Oakland, and eventually to San Francisco.

Regional Early Action Planning Grant Update

This month, MTC staff will request approval to apply for nearly \$103 million in formula-based state funding through Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021 (REAP 2.0 program). These funds will support a variety of regional programs that The staff recommendation includes funding for advance infill development, reduce VMT, and affirmatively further fair housing. Transit Transformation Action Plan Implementation (\$31.6 million), a Priority Sites Pilot (\$28 million), a Housing Preservation Pilot (\$15 million), an extension of the Regional Housing Technical Assistance Program (\$15 million), and Community Choice Initiatives (\$8 million).

Clipper® BayPass Program

MTC has expanded eligibility to the program to study the impact of a single pass that will provide up to 50,000 Bay Area residents free access to nearly all bus, rail and ferry services in the nine county region. Residents of 12 affordable housing communities managed by MidPen Housing in Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties will now be eligible for the program.

MetroTalks:

On October 19, 2022, MTC and ABAG held a [Metro Talks: Access for All webinar](#). Participants, including MTC Commissioner Dorene Giacomini, discussed why equity requires that public agencies design for people who face the biggest barriers to access and why that work makes for a better system for everyone.

Midterms:

MTC-ABAG staff are currently tracking and analyzing the incoming midterm election results and will report out on measures of interest once the results are in. On November 15 from 2-3:30 pm, MTC-ABAG hosted a [New State Housing Laws webinar](#) with attorneys from Goldfarb & Lipman LLP to discuss the most significant changes in legislation regarding California's housing laws and what it means for jurisdictions.

News Headlines from [The Bay Link Blog](#):

[MidPen Housing joins BayPass pilot program](#): residents of 12 affordable housing communities managed by MidPen Housing in Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties will be eligible for the MTC-led [Clipper® BayPass Program](#).

[BayREN launches Resilient Libraries Network to bolster community resilience](#): As temperatures continue to rise and climate hazards become more prevalent in the Bay Area, libraries can serve as integral locations to help the community stay safe during these increasingly common extreme weather events.

[MTC weighs bikeshare opportunities and challenges in post-pandemic landscape](#):

Commission members who serve on MTC's Operation Committee this month received a performance update on Bay Wheels and other MTC-supported bike-sharing initiatives around the Bay Area.

Further News Updates:

The [Bay Link blog](#) offers a more in-depth look at these topics, often in the context of the work that the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and MTC are doing, along with other stories of interest to Bay Area residents and professionals. The Bay Link Blog E-Newsletter, with the top Bay Link features of the week, is distributed every Tuesday. You can find more newsletters to subscribe to at this [link](#).

Have a Question? Ask a Librarian

If you need assistance locating information or are having difficulty navigating the MTC-ABAG websites, please feel free to contact the MTC-ABAG head librarian. Reference assistance is available by telephone (415-778-5236), or email library@bayareametro.gov Information can also be found on the [MTC-ABAG library webpage](#).

For MTC and Plan Bay Area glossaries:

- [Glossary of Transportation Planning Acronyms & Terms](#)
- [Plan Bay Area Glossary](#)