



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
February 22, 2023

Personnel:

- **Retirements**
 - **Therese McMillan** – Therese joined MTC as the Executive Director in March 2019. Her last day with MTC was February 1, 2023, as the Executive Director in the Executive Office section.
 - **Bruce Samar** retired from MTC's information technology team at the end of January after nearly 28 years of combined service with ABAG and MTC.
- **New Appointments**
 - **YT Chang**- YT started with MTC on February 6th as the Project Manager-Express Lanes in the Field Operations and Asset Management section.
 - **Tim McGowan**- Tim started with MTC on February 6th as an Associate, Budget and Grant Financial Analyst in the Budget and Financial Planning and Analysis section.
 - **Grace Li**- Grace started with MTC on February 21st as a Financial Analyst in the Treasury and Revenue section.

Key Updates

- **Legal challenges to Senate Bill 595 and RM 3** filed in 2018 were dismissed by the California Supreme Court on January 25, 2023. BATA is awaiting final procedural orders from the state Court of Appeal, which should arrive shortly. We anticipate that the Authority will then be able to unlock the funds held in escrow and put them to work on long-needed projects to improve mobility and create new jobs across the Bay Area.
- The California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) in late January awarded more than \$2.5 billion in grants through the state's **Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP)**. MTC's endorsement for the awards focused on major transit capital projects that are leveraging federal funds and are either ongoing or nearing construction, a criterion that was incorporated into last year's state budget largely as result of advocacy led by MTC and partner transit agencies. In sum, the Bay Area secured 85 percent of funds available for projects outside Southern California, including \$375M for BART Silicon Valley (Phase 2), \$367M for Caltrain electrification, and \$250M for BART Transbay Core Capacity.
- **HCD recently awarded over \$192 million** to Bay Area cities and counties for affordable housing development as part of their Super NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability). Developers had applied for these funds in July 2022.
- Earlier in February, MTC, BCDC and Caltrans District 4 entered into a Partnership Agreement with CalSTA, the California Natural Resources Agency, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop and implement both near- and long-term projects to improve the **Highway 37 corridor linking U.S. 101 in Novato with**

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Interstate 80 in Vallejo. This agreement puts transportation improvements and environmental health on the same page.

- This winter, MTC released four Calls for Projects to provide **grants that support implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050's** climate, housing, transportation, and economy goals. The specific grant programs – including links to the guidelines, virtual workshops, and application portals – are:
 - [Priority Development Area \(PDA\) Planning Grants](#) (applications due 2/23/23)
 - [Priority Production Area \(PPA\) Pilot Program](#) (applications due 2/23/23)
 - [Parking Management Planning Grants](#) (applications due 3/31/23)
 - [Mobility Hub Grants \(capital and planning\)](#) (applications due 3/31/23)

These Calls for Projects are part of \$73 million in funding approved by MTC as part of the OBAG 3 program to implement Plan Bay Area 2050's Growth Framework and Climate Initiatives.

Items to Note:

- BAHFA's **Affordable Housing Pipeline report and presentation** to the Joint Housing Committees got great press: KQED, NBC Bay Area, SFGate, the SF Business Times and the Solano County Daily Republic all covered the region's existing affordable housing pipeline and the potential for a 2024 housing bond.
- Earlier this month, the Bay Area legislative caucus invited MTC Director of Legislation and Public Affairs Rebecca Long, along with senior leaders of five transit operators (AC Transit, BART, Caltrain, Muni & VTA) to present on the **financial challenges facing the region's transit agencies**. Bay Area legislators urged caution and pragmatism given the state's budget deficits; staff are taking these words of caution into consideration as we formulate our multi-year budget request.

Looking Ahead:

- An MTC/ABAG delegation will visit Sacramento February 28 – March 1 to meet with state leaders and advocate for **MTC/ABAG's joint 2023 state advocacy priorities**. Topics of discussion include a request for state assistance to mitigate impending transit operations fiscal cliffs and Assembly Housing Committee Chair Buffy Wicks' AB 1319 BAHFA clean-up bill.
- We are looking forward to welcoming all Commissioners back to 375 Beale in person for the March Committee and Commission meetings!



Alix A. Bockelman