

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments  
Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee**

**December 9, 2022**

**Agenda Item 4c**

**Sacramento and Washington D.C. Visits**

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**Subject:**

Update on preparations for MTC/ABAG's 2023 Sacramento and Washington D.C. legislative advocacy trips.

**Overview:**

Preparations began this month for in-person MTC and ABAG advocacy visits to Sacramento and Washington, D.C., Staff recommends the MTC/ABAG delegation visit Sacramento twice. First during the week of February 27 to introduce 2023 advocacy priorities and again in mid-to-late May after the Governor releases the May Revise, which jumpstarts budget negotiations. Given the range of MTC/ABAG budget-focused priorities, it will be essential to have a strong presence in Sacramento during that budget negotiation window.

Regarding Washington, D.C. advocacy, we recommend a March visit for the MTC/ABAG annual advocacy trip, with the last week of March (March 26 – March 29) as a preferred option. Although this is later than our usual mid-March visit, the leadership changes in Washington, D.C., make it more likely that key items we typically schedule our visit around – namely appropriations schedules – will shift at least a few weeks backward. This date also aligns with the National League of Cities conference, which works well for our southern California partners who jointly host the California Transportation Reception. We will wait to finalize a date with MTC and ABAG leadership until after the Congressional Calendar is released – typically in late December or even January after an election year – so we can be sure to schedule our visit while Congress is in session.

As in previous trips to Washington, D.C., we expect the trip would extend from Sunday evening to Wednesday afternoon and would include meetings with the Bay Area Congressional delegation, officials within the U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, partner organizations, and relevant committee staff. We additionally propose that MTC again co-host the annual California Transportation Reception, a long-standing tradition placed on hold in previous years due to COVID. The reception is

typically held in the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee (House T&I Committee) Room in the Rayburn House Office Building. However, as we engage with our southern California partner agencies who typically co-sponsor the event and get a better handle on the expected number of guests, we will explore whether it makes sense to consider a larger space for the reception since the House T&I Committee Room can get very crowded.

We look forward to hearing the Committee's feedback and answering any questions you may have.

**Recommendation:**

Information

**Attachments:**

None



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