

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

January 12, 2022

Agenda Item 5

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Relevant MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – January 2022

Staff Liaison Report – January 2022

Former Policy Advisory Council Member Michelle Hernandez Passes

Staff received the sad news that former Policy Advisory Council Member Dr. Michelle Hernandez [passed away](#) on December 26, 2021. Dr. Hernandez, a tireless disability advocate, served on MTC's Policy Advisory Council and was a fixture of the Council and the Equity and Access subcommittee. She passed away due to complications while receiving cancer treatment. Dr. Hernandez demonstrated the commitment that the Commission and staff are privileged to experience and receive from our Policy Advisory Council, and the agency is better for her efforts. Staff will relay to the Council information about any memorial services and directed donations by her family and loved ones.

BATA Lowers Violation Penalties at Bay Area Toll Bridges

The Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) announced a sharp reduction in the penalties associated with toll violation notices sent by the FasTrak® customer service center to customers with unpaid invoices for toll bridge crossings. Effective now — and retroactive to all violation notices since Jan. 1, 2021, for outstanding tolls at the San Francisco-Oakland Bay, Antioch, Benicia-Martinez, Carquinez, Dumbarton, Richmond-San Rafael and San Mateo-Hayward bridges — the penalty for first violation notices drops to \$5 from the previous \$25 and the penalty for second violation notices falls to \$15 from the previous \$70.

Start of New Year Brings Toll Hike at Seven Bay Area Bridges

The Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) reminds drivers that tolls at the region's seven state-owned toll bridges went up \$1 at 12 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2022. This is the second of the three \$1 toll increases approved by the Legislature in 2017 through state Senate Bill 595 and by voters through Regional Measure 3 in June 2018. The first of these toll hikes went into effect on Jan. 1, 2019. The last of the Regional Measure 3 toll increases will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2025.

Transportation, Housing News Right to Your Inbox

MTC offers a convenient [Daily News Headlines](#) subscription, delivering a curated list of stories about transportation, housing, development, the environment and more directly to your email inbox. The headlines are sent each weekday, arriving just in time to enjoy with your morning coffee.

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.

[Sign up for each of these newsletters](#), along with others from the MTC-ABAG family, including the Plan Bay Area 2050 E-Newsletter and updates about MTC Express Lanes.

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, Julie Tunnell. 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](#)

Executive Director's Report

The following items are excerpts from the December 2021 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 [Legistar](#)).

Key Updates:

Youth Internship for Summer 2022

Agency staff are beginning the planning and recruitment process for the 2022 college and high school internship programs. Last summer's remote programs were an overall success, with 6 and 29 students participating in the respective college and high school programs, recruited predominantly from Equity Priority Communities. While it is unclear whether public health protocols will allow for a return to an in-person internship experience for the students, the Commission can provide greater clarity by dedicating budget and staff resources to grow this key facet of the Equity Platform.

Transportation Listening Session

On Monday, December 13th, MTC held a listening session on a potential regional revenue measure with a focus on transportation. MTC Chair Pedroza led the meeting, which was structured as a webinar and included a wide range of speakers and perspectives. The session can be viewed via this [link](#) using the passcode **BNr1QJ9!** and we will provide a summary of what we heard at the January Legislation Committee meeting.

Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force Implementation

On December 15, the Executive Committee will hold a special meeting to discuss the next steps related to implementation of the Blue-Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force's Transit Transformation Action Plan. This includes a fare integration policy and vision statement, a timeline for near-term funding requests associated with the early action items (fare integration, mapping and wayfinding, and transit priority), a high-level preview of items to consider including in an update to Resolution 3866 (MTC's Transit Coordination Implementation Plan), and an update on the Network Management Business Case.

Recent Executive Director Invitations

- On November 22, 2021, KQED aired the documentary “[Moving San Francisco](#)”, examining the City’s transportation history from “its unique cable cars that conquered impossible hills to the current wave of ride-sharing companies and autonomous vehicles”—with an eye to the many challenges seen today that will shape its transportation future. I was one of several interviewees for the documentary.
- On December 9, 2021, I served as a panelist for the Bay Area Council webinar: “[Bay Area Impact: How Will Federal Infrastructure Funding Change the Bay Area?](#)”; along with Congressman Mark DeSaulnier and Darlene Gee, Senior Vice President HNTB. The large attendee list spoke to the intense interest in the federal program, and how we can best use the funds to advance much needed investment and change in the region.