

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

December 9, 2022

Agenda Item 4a

Proposed Final 2023 Joint Advocacy Program

Subject:

Final 2023 Joint Advocacy Program for MTC and ABAG outlining the agencies' state and federal legislative priorities.

Overview

Attachment A is the proposed Final 2023 Joint Advocacy Program, which incorporates adjustments based on the Committee's feedback last month as well as feedback from partner agency staff and other stakeholders. Text changes are shown in italics and strikeout. Changes include:

- Addition of transit operations advocacy to the federal program to complement advocacy efforts in Sacramento. (See Federal Item 1B, p. 9)
- New federal advocacy item related to ensuring the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) and other Build America Bond issuers continue to receive federal subsidy payments, which are at risk of being eliminated beginning in 2023. (See Federal Item 1C, p. 10)
- Revise state advocacy item related to regional transportation revenue measure preparation to indicate the intention to "develop" such legislation with target for enactment in 2024 versus "explore."
- Expansion of the description of the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) clean-up bill, including specifying that the bill should authorize BAHFA to purchase land and/or buildings where it will advance established objectives to produce and preserve affordable housing. (See State Item 3A, p. 4)
- Addition of a provision recommending support for legislation to enable the State Department of Housing and Community Development the option to provide an extension to the deadline for certifying a local jurisdiction's housing element if it determines the extension is justified. (See State Item 5B, p. 7)

- Clarification in the item description that enhancing customer communication is a key aim of state advocacy item 6B related to toll agency operations. (See State Item 6B, p.8)
- Clarification that supporting local governments in meeting state housing goals is an overarching objective within the Joint Advocacy Program’s state housing advocacy priorities. (See State Items 3A, p. 4 and 5A, p. 6)
- Revise state advocacy item related to supporting a range of strategies to help localities meet housing goals to “support” (vs. “explore”) legislation that would reduce the upfront subsidy local governments or other funding partners must invest in affordable housing projects. (See State Item 5B, p. 7)

Outreach to Date

In addition to seeking feedback from the Joint Legislation Committee last month, the draft advocacy program was presented to MTC’s Policy Advisory Council, MTC’s Partnership Legislative Committee comprised of staff in Bay Area transportation agencies and other advocacy organizations involved in transportation policy, housing partners from around the region and legislative staff from the Bay Area’s delegation in Sacramento for feedback. Additionally, in developing advocacy priorities staff conferred with Bay Area regional agency partners, regional transportation planning agencies from across the state, and state and national transportation and housing groups.


A wide range of stakeholders, including members of the Policy Advisory Council, conveyed that transit operating assistance should be a top priority this year, which is reflected in the final advocacy program. Housing partners voiced BAHFA clean up legislation, statewide ballot measure advocacy, and federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) reform as top state and federal priorities. A revision was made to the Brown Act reform recommendations to clarify that the item aims to expand flexibility for participation from advisory board members (in addition to MTC/ABAG board members), based on comments from the Policy Advisory Council (State Item 10, page 10).

Recommendation:

Staff recommends this committee refer the final 2023 MTC ABAG Joint Advocacy Program to the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission for approval.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Final 2023 Joint Advocacy Program



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