



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
September 23, 2020

Retirements

Laura Thompson– Laura started with ABAG in September 1999. She started with MTC as an Assistant Director in the Planning section on July 1, 2017 as part of the ABAG and MTC staff consolidation. Her last day with MTC is September 25, 2020.

New Appointments

Lucy Linan – Lucy started with MTC on September 8 as a Principal Accounting Manager in the Finance & Accounting section.

Terence Lee – Terence started with MTC on September 8 as an Assistant Program Coordinator in the Funding Policy and Programs section.

Laura Krull – Laura started with MTC on September 21 as an Assistant Program Coordinator in the Design and Project Delivery section.

Key Updates

Plan Bay Area: Public Comments Available Online

Comments on the Draft Blueprint closed in August, and all the feedback we received from digital workshops, telephone town halls, a tribal summit, a statistically valid poll, emailed or written correspondence is now easily accessible on the Plan Bay Area website. Check it out on the link below. The feedback can be found under "Your Comments."

<https://www.planbayarea.org/your-comments/plan-bay-area-2050>

We look forward to more public engagement opportunities in 2021.

I-880 Express Lanes

On October 2, operations begin on MTC's second express lane, I-880 between Oakland and Milpitas. This is the culmination of more than three years of construction to improve safety and operations, and it represents a major step in building out the regional express lane network to make buses and carpools fast and reliable. The corridor improvements include new pavement; a new, taller median barrier; and the express lanes themselves. Also, on October 2, clean-air vehicles on both of BAIFA's express lanes (I-680 and I-880) will start to pay half price tolls.

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Riding Together: Healthy Transit Plan and Dashboard

As recommended direction from the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force, MTC staff will present a monthly report to the Commission on common data metrics developed by the Bay Area's public transit operators based on their [Riding Together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan](#) that was released in August. The transit agencies developed a common set of health and safety commitments, grounded in health directives from the California Department of Public Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, County health officials, and international best practices.

Federal Highway Administration Certification Report

Earlier this month, we received our federal certification report from FHWA and FTA, which certifies MTC's planning process every 4 years. Along with several commendations on the exemplary work MTC is doing in transit asset management, FHWA and FTA issued one corrective action: to improve administration of its Surface Transportation Block Grant Program and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program – also known as our One Bay Area Grant, or OBAG, program.

Specifically, the concern is about our use of a formula for the distribution of STP funds via the OBAG county program. FHWA's position is that sub-allocation is not allowed by federal regulation and that MTC may not be exercising an appropriate degree of project selection authority over STP/CMAQ funded projects within the OBAG program. Going forward, we will need to examine how these funds are programmed to address the concerns and comply with the corrective action, prior to adoption of the 2023 TIP in 2022. We must clearly demonstrate (in both our documentation and communications) that our OBAG 3 program is in full compliance with all applicable federal regulations.

ATP Quick Build Pilot Program

The California Transportation Commission released recommendations last week for the quick-build pilot program within the Active Transportation Program. CTC Staff recommends funding \$4.4 million for eight projects around the state. The Bay Area was recommended to receive 50% of the funds, with \$2.2 million going to four projects in the cities of Berkeley, Richmond, San Carlos, and San Jose.

The quick-build pilot is an exciting new program that provides funding for cities to test and implement relatively inexpensive safety measures that address active transportation needs quickly, before committing to more expensive solutions. Bay Area cities have established themselves as leaders for quick build projects, with proven prior successes in San Jose, San Francisco, and Oakland. MTC staff will continue to work with the CTC to evaluate the pilot program and to include quick-build funding in future ATP cycles permanently.


The CTC will consider the recommendations for adoption at the October 21-22, 2020 meeting.

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October Metro Talks: Gender Equity in Transportation

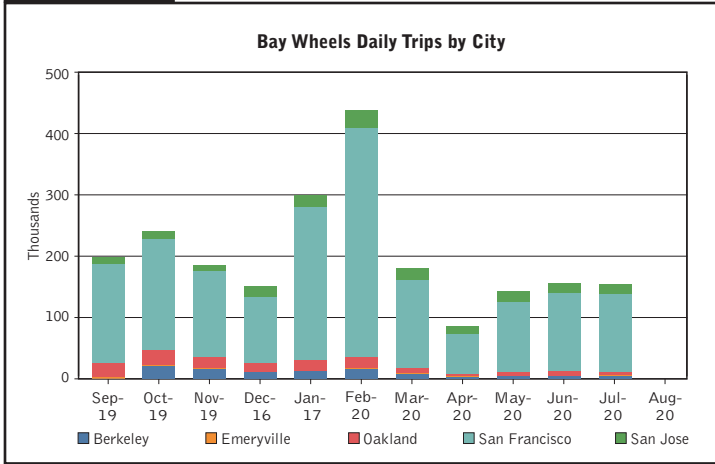
On Thursday, October 3, at 4 p.m., I will moderate a discussion on what a safe and equitable transit system, accessible for women and girls, can look like in the Bay Area. Join us for a conversation exploring how the Bay Area transportation can be more welcoming to women and girls, especially those from our communities of color facing greater burdens in the current COVID crisis—and what the transit sector can do to support riders and provide career pathways with elevated economic opportunities.

Public access via MTC-ABAG YouTube and Facebook

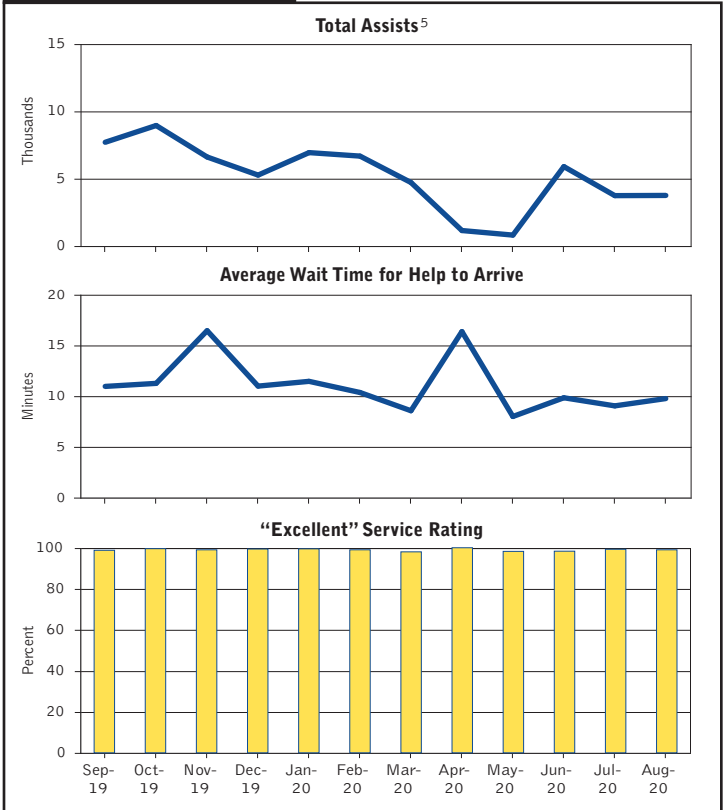


Therese W. McMillan

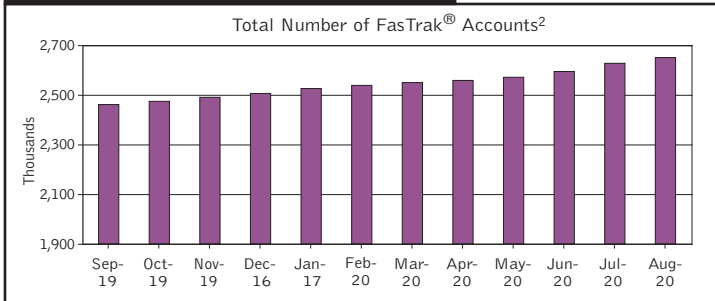
Bay Wheels



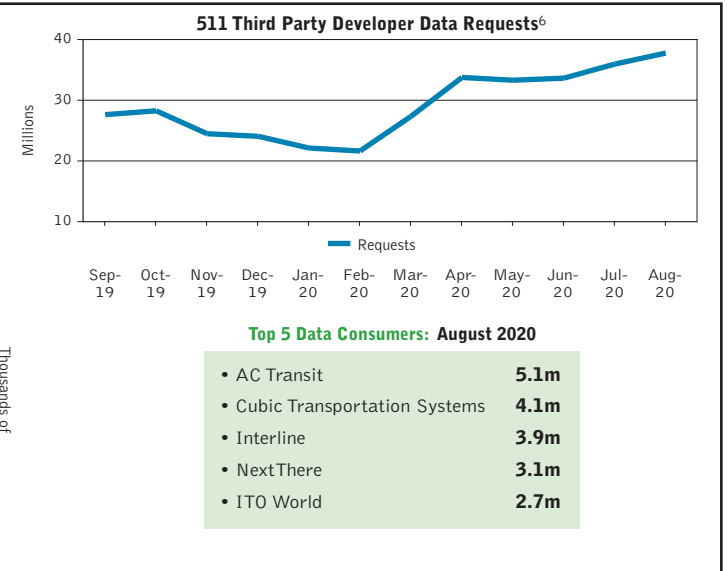
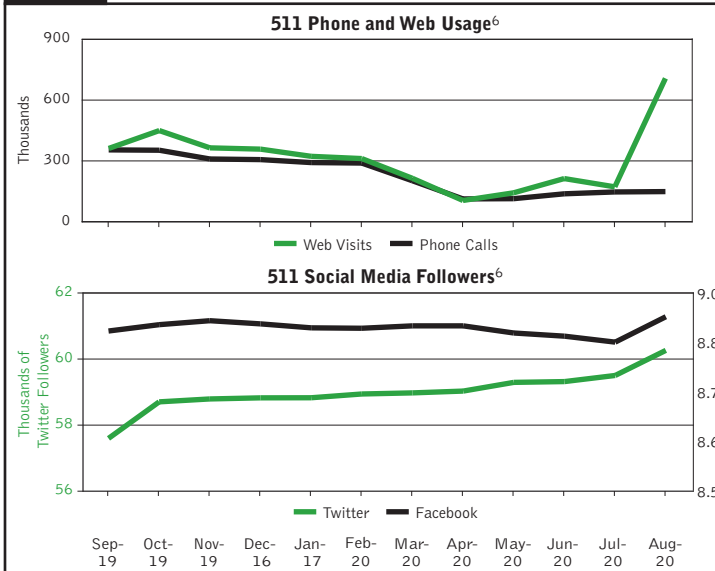
Freeway Service Patrol



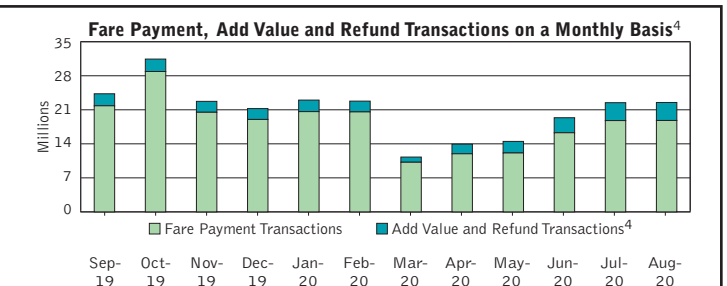
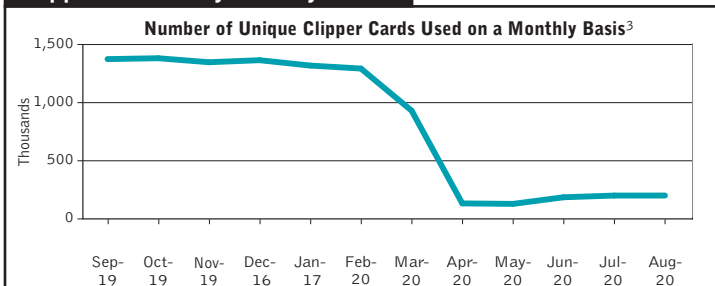
FasTrak® Electronic Toll Collection¹



511



Clipper® Fare Payment System



Notes: ¹ MTC, as the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), assumed responsibility for FasTrak® customer service operations in Jan. 2004. Figures are cumulative. ² Number of debit accounts opened through BATA service center; each account may represent more than one toll tag issued. ³ New category as of September 2003; data collected since Aug. 2002. ⁴ As of November 2009, refund transactions are counted with add value transactions. This chart includes refunds in the Add Value bars for the past 12 months. (Past reports did not include refunds, which, with few exceptions, have accounted for less than 50 transactions each month.) ⁵ FSP Assist numbers for the most current month are a best estimate, and may be subject to change. Final assist numbers are available at the end of the month, and the report is updated accordingly. ⁶ 511 launched a new phone system and website in June 2016 and now tracks two new types of data in addition to call and web usage: social media followers and developer data requests.