

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

May 8, 2019

Agenda Item 7

Staff Liaison Report – May 2019

Subject: Relevant MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Recommendation: Information

Attachments: Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – May 2019



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

**Agenda Item 7
Attachment A**
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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council
DATE: May 8, 2019
FR: Marti Paschal, Staff Liaison
W.I. 1114
RE: Staff Liaison Report – May 2019

Bay Area Bike to Work Day Is May 9

More than 100,000 new and seasoned bike commuters will celebrate the 25th annual Bay Area Bike to Work Day, Thursday, May 9. Bay Area Bike to Work Day encourages local residents to try commuting on two wheels for the first time and celebrates those who regularly bike. The event is presented by MTC, [511](#) (the region's traveler information system) and Alaska Airlines.

With some 400 energizer stations scattered throughout nine Bay Area counties, riders can make a pit stop on their way to work for free refreshments and encouragement from thousands of volunteers. Local bike groups and employers are planning a range of activities throughout the day and into the evening, including group rides and after-work happy hours. Local elected officials — including several commissioners from MTC and the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) — will participate in the event. Complete event information, including energizer station locations, is available at Bayareabiketowork.com.

Toll Authority Issues Statement on Court Order Upholding Regional Measure 3

MTC and the BATA issued the following statement on the ruling filed by Judge Ethan P. Schulman of the Superior Court for the City and County of San Francisco, in which the Court granted BATA's and the state Legislature's motions to dismiss the Jarvis complaint without leave to amend in the case of *Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, et al v. The Bay Area Toll Authority and the California State Legislature*:

“We are pleased, of course, by the Court's ruling,” said MTC/BATA Chair and Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty. “We will await further action by the Court, and look forward to evaluating next steps.”

MTC and BATA will make no further comment until the Court has submitted a Notice of Entry of Judgement. Staff is studying further actions to be brought to the Commission and the Authority for consideration.

Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Joint Replacement Project Reaches Key Milestone

On April 22, 2019, Caltrans and the Bay Area Toll Authority issued the first of a weekly series of updates on the work underway to replace 31 joints on the westbound upper deck of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.

Construction crews have now replaced 10 of the 31 deck joints, and now expect to finish at least two joint replacements each week, with the entire project on track for completion this July. Each of the original 1950-era joints is being replaced by a new joint that features a rubberized seal designed to shrink and expand with changing temperatures. This will prevent cracking of the surrounding concrete road deck.

To minimize impacts to commute traffic, joint replacement work is being done at night. Drivers can expect one lane of traffic to be closed most nights from 9 pm to 5 am. New steel plates have been installed at work locations. Drivers can pass over these plates at posted speeds.

Transbay Joint Powers Authority Removing Fremont Street Temporary Shoring

On Sunday, April 21, 2019, the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA) began removing the temporary shoring system on Fremont Street. The overnight work will take place Sundays through Fridays for four weeks between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m., requiring a one-block closure between Howard and Mission streets. Work is limited to nighttime only to minimize impacts to the public. The street will be reopened each day in time for the morning commute.

The month long nighttime street closures are required to remove shoring, restore lights, restore fire and life safety systems and ceiling panels, and reestablish Muni overhead lines. All lanes will be restored to their original configuration. Work to remove a temporary shoring system on First Street will begin in early May. The entire repair and reinforcement project is on track to be complete by June 1, 2019.

“Completing repairs at the Fremont Street location is a major milestone, moving us closer to reopening the center to the public,” said Mark Zabaneh, executive director of the TJPA. “At the same time, we are fully cooperating with an independent review of the transit center and await their findings before announcing a reopening date.”

Building-wide independent reviews and monitoring continue at the transit center. To date, no additional fissures or issues have been found. A reopening date for the transit center will be announced after the independent review is complete.

Former MTC Chairman Robert Schroder Passes

Former MTC Chairman Robert "Bob" Schroder died March 29 at the age of 90. Mr. Schroder represented Contra Costa County on MTC from 1978 through 1993, serving as chairman from 1985 to 1987. He earned the name "Mr. Transportation" for the many projects he supported while serving on MTC's board. He was an original board member of the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority, which later became County Connection.

Born in 1928 in San Francisco, Mr. Schroder moved to Walnut Creek at a young age. Mr. Schroder worked in the insurance business and served on the Walnut Creek City Council for 16 years, starting in 1960, and was mayor three times. He also served on the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors for 16 years, representing District 3. He was first elected in 1976 and held the seat until 1992. Schroder's son, Rob, is the mayor of Martinez.

Mr. Schroder is survived by his wife, Frances, and their children, Mayor Schroder and his two sisters, Susan Mendes and Sharon Schlagel, as well as several grandchildren. A memorial service was held on Tuesday, April 16, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Walnut Creek. Obituaries for Mr. Schroder have been published in the [Martinez Gazette](#) and the [East Bay Times](#).

Executive Director's Report

The following items are excerpts from the April 2019 Executive Director's Report to the Commission. To read the report in its entirety go to:

<http://www.mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/executive-directors-report>.

WTS and COMTO Reception – April 3

The San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) and NorCal Chapter of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) welcomed me back to the region at a reception on April 3, 2019 in San Francisco. As a decades' long member of WTS, I was extremely honored by the tremendous turnout of friends and colleagues from across the Bay region, and several former associates from Southern California. I spoke to the great opportunities and deep challenges ahead in grappling with the intersecting issues of transportation and housing, and the overarching commitment to equity as we seek to lift all members of our community in addressing them.

Commonwealth Club of San Francisco/USF Symposium: "Innovation for Good" – April 4

I was invited to speak as part of a cross section of public service thought leaders during a daylong event hosted by the Commonwealth Club and University of San Francisco. Here too, equity was a centerpiece of the various panels that spotlighted the necessity of placing the public interest front and center in the push for innovation in services, projects and programs.

TransForm "All Aboard" Celebration – April 11

I and several representatives from MTC attended a reception acknowledging TransForm's 22 years of community coalition building and advocacy on behalf of the region's many transportation users and stakeholders. TransForm has been a leading voice for change and has worked collaboratively with MTC while holding true to its mission of challenging government to do better.

Congratulations especially to founder Stuart Cohen who recently retired from TransForm's leadership helm. We look forward to working with the organization's new leaders going forward.

National American Planning Association (APA) Conference – April 11-16

San Francisco hosted the National APA Planning Conference at the Yerba Buena Center. On April 11 MTC hosted a daylong "Livable Communities Regional Planning" session for Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) planning directors and staff from around the country. Many thanks to Ken Kirkey and his team for organizing that well-received event. On April 13 I spoke on a panel of outstanding women titled "Women of Color – Piercing the Ceiling." Social equity was a major track throughout the conference, and this session allowed the panel to share our experiences, lessons learned, and advice to the next generation of leaders. It was a standing room only crowd on a Sunday – reflecting the resonance of inclusion across public and private sector planning professionals.

Visits to State Delegation Members – April (various)

This month was the launch of a suite of introductory meetings with various members of the State Legislative Delegation. I visited with Assemblyman David Chiu (San Francisco), Assemblyman Marc Levine (Marin County) and Senator Jim Beall (South Bay) this month and will go to Sacramento for a number of member visits on May 15. With the legislative session in full swing, each visit has presented a valuable chance to introduce myself as the new Executive Director, and to talk about issues facing the region and each member's constituents in particular.

MTC Operational Statistics

The monthly report on the performance of MTC's operating programs is attached.

Upcoming Events

May 3 Senator Wiener, San Francisco

May 16 East Bay Leadership Council Transportation Task Force, Walnut Creek

Regional Measure 3 Update

The ruling was finalized April 23rd with the Court's submission of a Notice of Entry of Judgement (attached) in the case of *Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, et al v. The Bay Area Toll Authority and the California State Legislature*, through which the Court granted BATA's and the Legislature's motions to dismiss the complaint without leave to amend.

Despite dismissal of the Jarvis complaint, RM 3 is not yet completely out of the litigation woods; as the Jarvis group's window for appeal will remain open [until June 24th](#); and a similar lawsuit, *Randall Whitney v. MTC*, is still pending in San Francisco Superior Court. MTC and its legal team are pursuing dismissal of the Whitney suit as well, and we are hopeful that this issue can be put to rest within the next several months.

In the meantime, MTC will initiate some preparatory activities, such as development of the policies and procedures to guide RM 3 allocations, to be ready to advance the voter-approved slate of congestion-relief investments at the earliest appropriate time.