



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Metropolitan Transportation Commission

### July 26, 2023

## Personnel

### Retirements

- **Jenny Berg** – Jenny started with ABAG in January 2013. She started with MTC as the Principal BayREN Project Manager on July 1, 2017, as part of the ABAG and MTC staff consolidation. Her last day with MTC was July 21, 2023, as the Section Director in the Energy Programs section.

### New Appointments

- **Yoosi Mills-Gharthey** – Yoosi started with MTC on July 3 as an Information Systems Specialist I in the Technology Services section.
- **Maurice Candido** – Maurice started with MTC on July 3 as an Information Systems Specialist I in the Technology Services section.
- **Jane Elias** – Jane started with MTC on July 10 as the Section Director in the Energy Programs section.
- **Diane Dohm** – Diane started with MTC on July 10 as an Associate Planner- Next Gen Trails in the Design Project Delivery section.
- **Gordon Hansen** – Gordon started with MTC on July 10 as a Principal Co-Manager, Mapping and Wayfinding in the Legislation and Public Affairs section.
- **Drew Levitt** – Drew started with MTC on July 24 as an Associate Planner/Analyst in the Regional Planning Program section.

## Key Updates

- **State Funding for Port Infrastructure:** In early July, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a statewide investment of more than \$1.5 billion including funding from the Port and Freight Infrastructure program and a Grade Separation set-aside from the TIRCP cycle 6 program. Awards to the region from the Port and Freight Infrastructure include:
  - \$102.3 million for the Port of Oakland Terminal Modernization project
  - \$17.3 million for the Port of Oakland Arterial Roadway Improvement project
  - \$21.6 million for the Port of San Francisco's Maritime Eco-Industrial Complex Improvement Program
  - \$13.5 million for Alameda County's 7th Street Grade Separation project

The TIRCP money for ACTC's 7th Street Grade Separation in Oakland was featured in an ACTC press event held Monday, July 24, at the Port (Middle Harbor Shoreline Park), at which Commissioner Miley along with Commissioner Thao, Mayor of Oakland, were participants and speakers.

- **State Funding for Grade Separations:** The state also announced the final portion of the TIRCP Cycle 6 program, which consists of grant awards for the grade separation project set-aside. Of the \$350 million in funding available for this category, the Bay Area received \$114 million, or about a third of the funds available for four projects, including grade separations in Burlingame, Mountain View, South San

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Francisco and Palo Alto. MTC supported projects in this category that were consistent with our regional Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant strategy, highlighting the fact that having a consistent set of priorities and communicating those to our funding partners can have real benefits when it comes to competitive grants.

- MTC and ABAG kicked off **Plan Bay Area 2050+** earlier this month, a limited and focused update to the regional vision for transportation, housing, economic development, and environmental resilience, which was featured at the Joint MTC Planning/ABAG Administrative Committee earlier this month. Given that there is no parallel RHNA process this cycle, Plan Bay Area 2050+ is an opportunity to educate residents about the purpose of long-range regional plans, to integrate updated post-pandemic planning assumptions, and to continue the region's focus on plan implementation. Over the next six weeks, MTC/ABAG staff will be holding pop-up workshops at community events to get early input on this planning process in all nine counties, with a specific focus on Equity Priority Communities. Staff also will seek input on the parallel Transit 2050+ network plan and hear residents' priorities for the potential 2026 regional transportation revenue measure at these events. [Review a list of the events on the Plan Bay Area website.](#)
- MTC and ABAG in June launched the **Bay Area Housing and Land Use Viewer**, a web-based mapping tool created to provide the public with access to data related to housing, land use, transportation, equity and the environment. This is the first time this level of detail has been available in one place and publicly accessible on the agency website.

## Items to Note

- The **Regional Housing Technical Assistance (RHTA) Program** has received the 2023 Planning Agency Award of Excellence from APA California in recognition of RHTA's unprecedented array of critical resources for the Bay Area's 101 cities and 9 counties, saving jurisdictions significant time and money and advancing important regional policies through a shared sense of regional priorities and increased capacity and momentum. The award will be presented in September at the APA California 2023 conference.
- MTC recently participated in the inaugural **Sustainable Mobility Careers Awareness & Innovation Challenge** through the Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure (IYAI) organization. The Bay Area IYAI youth team, Transit Titans, were awarded second place for its Return to Transit presentation. Thanks to Luz Campos, MTC staff, and our partners at BART, Caltrain, Golden Gate Bridget Transportation District, SamTrans, SFMTA, and VTA for supporting this workforce challenge. The Transit Titans team participants included Alexander Hirji, Jaylene Perez, Nicholas Wilsey, and Sahij Sandhu. [Learn more by watching this project video.](#)
- On July 12, I spoke at the **Alameda County Supervisors' Conference** business meeting about the genesis of MTC and ABAG, the staff consolidation, the makeup of the respective governing boards, and the services the agencies provide to the nine-county Bay Area.
- The **Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA)** will be holding two public workshops on August 16 and 24 on regional bond measure planning. Stay tuned for invitations.
- BAHFA staff recently have provided information and presentations to the following entities:
  - San Mateo Board of Supervisors
  - San Mateo City/County Association of Governments
  - Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers

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- Contra Costa County Mayors' Conference
- Alameda County Board of Supervisors

Upcoming BAHFA meetings include:

- Cities Association of Santa Clara County + broader elected officials and housing stakeholders for housing symposium
- Solano County Board of Supervisors
- Solano County City Managers
- Sonoma County Mayors and Council Members
- San Leandro City Council
- Walnut Creek City Council
- Contra Costa Board of Supervisors
- Napa County Council of Governments

## Looking Ahead

- Enjoy August while the Commission is in recess, and we will see you in September.



Andrew Fremier  
Executive Director