



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

**Agenda Item 6a**

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*Memorandum*

**Date:** January 22, 2025  
**To:** Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)  
**From:** MTC Policy Advisory Council Vice Chair  
**Regarding:** January 2025 Council Report to Commission

**Summary:**

This memo provides a summary of the activity of the Policy Advisory Council (Council) over the previous two months.

**December 17, 2024 Meeting:**

The Policy Advisory Council meeting on December 17, 2024, focused on several key topics, including the Transit 2050+ Final Network Update and the PBA 2050+ Final Blueprint.

**November 19, 2024 Meeting the Council received four items from Staff:**

**1. Transit 2050+ Final Network Update (Kara Vuicich and Andy Metz):**

Councilmembers raised questions about the scenario analysis for Transit 2050+. MTC Staff explained that due to limited resources and time, a scenario analysis was not conducted specifically for Transit 2050+. However, future scenarios were considered in the comprehensive update of PBA 2050+. Questions were also raised about mapping driverless vehicle territories. MTC Staff confirmed that driverless vehicle integration is being tracked and considered in future modeling. Discussions included the balance of network investments, such as VTA frequency and BART to San Jose, with no current plans to remove projects from South Bay or San Jose. Questions were raised about the removal of the Redwood City Ferry Terminal from the plan. MTC Staff cited budget constraints and prioritization of other projects based on performance.

**2. PBA 2050+ Final Blueprint (Chirag Rabari):**

The PBA 2050+ Final Blueprint, presented by Chirag Rabari, included several key points. Questions were asked about the transportation element, which totals \$512 billion, with \$82 billion allocated to the expansion category, including Transit 2050+. The majority of the budget is for operations and maintenance. MTC Staff discussed the non-transit aspects of the plan, including the T6 "Modernizing Freeways" initiative aimed at improving traffic and safety through advanced technology. They emphasized that any freeway expansion must mitigate impacts, as required by SB-43. The plan includes \$3 billion for freeway expansion and mitigation, a small fraction of the total budget. MTC Staff also addressed questions about funding for sea-level rise adaptation, estimating \$6 billion through 2050. They highlighted partnerships with BCDC and potential significant funding from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Discussions on Equity Priority Communities (EPCs) focused on the complexity of defining EPCs and suggested a more nuanced approach. MTC Staff responded that a comprehensive re-envisioning of EPCs is planned, incorporating feedback and a spectrum of categories. Concerns were shared about the high cost and inefficiency of public transportation. MTC Staff acknowledged these concerns, noting that the plan addresses broad strategies rather than specific lines or fares. Emphasis was placed on the importance of community feedback and the need for earlier implementation of certain projects. MTC Staff highlighted the constraints in the first 10 years and the focus on improving frequency in the near term.

Discussions included the need for consistent bus service between North Bay, Vallejo and BART connections at Richmond and El Cerrito, inclusive of increased frequency. MTC Staff addressed these concerns, noting the balance of resources and demand. The need for flexible and adaptive transit solutions in response to rapid technological advancements and climate change was stressed. The importance of equity in transit access was also highlighted. Suggestions were made for incentives for employers to provide transit passes. The Council discussed existing commuter benefits and potential expansions. The need for high-frequency transit services, particularly

during peak commute times, was discussed. MTC Staff provided insights into the scheduling and operational challenges.

**3. Draft 2025 Advocacy Program (Julie Snyder):**

Discussions included the need to address vacant housing and proposed a citizenship initiative. Recommendations were made to refine GHG laws and make coordinated transit and land use more viable. Inquiries were made about Transportation Demand Management. Challenges of current housing policies and the importance of supportive services in affordable housing were discussed. Successful housing programs from around the world, such as Vienna's social housing and Finland's housing-first program, were highlighted.

**Final meeting for Chair Pamela Campos:** The Council recognized Chair Pamela Campos for her remarkable contributions and leadership. Pamela has been elected to represent District 2 on the San Jose City Council and is presently serving a four-year term.

**Leadership nominations:** Anticipating the leadership vacancies with Campos' departure and indications from Vice Chair Michael Baldini that he will seek the Chair, an open nominations period began where Councilmembers could nominate themselves or others for the Chair and/or Vice Chair position. Johnny Parker Jr. nominated Howard Wong for Vice Chair. Gabriela Orantes nominated Carina Lieu for Chair and Diana Benitez nominated Gabriela Orantes for Vice Chair.

**Additional Comments:** Suggestions were made for a common lunch break for long agendas. Requests were made for an update on the work plan and emphasized the importance of clear communication of Council discussions to the Commission.

Sincerely,  
-Michael Baldini  
*Policy Advisory Council Vice Chair*