

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

December 13, 2024

Agenda Item 3a

Draft 2025 MTC and ABAG Joint Advocacy Program

Subject:

Draft 2025 Joint Advocacy Program for MTC and ABAG, expressing the agencies' state and federal legislative priorities.

Background:

MTC and ABAG each year adopt a joint advocacy program that guides the agencies' state and federal advocacy. Staff throughout the fall seeks input on advocacy program priorities from agency issue area experts, stakeholders and other key partners (including MTC's Partnership Legislative Committee, the Policy Advisory Council, key housing partners, and Bay Area state and federal delegation staff). We will return to the Committee in January with a proposed final advocacy program for Commission and ABAG Executive Board adoption that month.

Proposed 2025 Legislative Priorities:

Staff anticipates MTC/ABAG's top 2025 state advocacy priority will be securing new revenues for transit operations to sustain critical services and support a reliable, safe, easy-to-navigate and integrated transit network, including through securing legislative authorization for a transportation revenue measure in 2026. Other anticipated priorities include:

- Maintaining existing state transportation and housing resources, including through supporting an extension of California's Cap-and-Trade program past 2030, ensuring the state and federal government honor transit funding commitments from the Fiscal Year 2023-24 state budget deal and 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL);
- Continuing to engage with state leaders and regional partners to position the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority and a future regional housing measure for success; and
- Engaging in a holistic review of California's regional transportation and land use planning framework with the goal of improving how state and regional agencies collaborate to make progress toward the suite of state and regional climate, housing, and transportation-related objectives.

Staff also anticipates the legislature in 2025 will explore updates to the Regional Housing Needs Allocation process. ABAG/MTC will engage in those discussions to ensure any updates are:

1. Aligned with Plan Bay Area 2050's guiding principles and housing goals.
2. Structured to empower regions to balance the state's sometimes competing goals related to climate, housing and equity.
3. Implementable at both the regional and local levels.

Other state focus areas such as transportation system effectiveness, transportation project delivery, and climate, resilience, and environment remain largely consistent with last year's advocacy program. However, staff significantly streamlined the draft advocacy program text to enhance clarity and focus. Similarly, draft federal advocacy goals track closely with those from 2024, with two caveats: First, we anticipate a significant shift toward "defending" federal resources. Second, staff recommends MTC/ABAG develop a surface transportation reauthorization platform to share with federal partners at the agencies' annual Washington, D.C. advocacy trip. Though the current surface transportation law – the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act – extends until October 2026, it is customary for reauthorization discussions to begin two years ahead.

Recommendation:

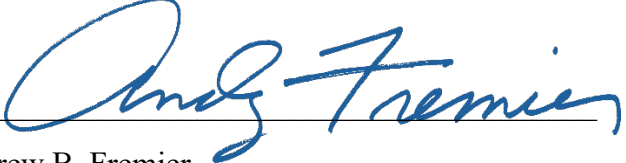
Information

Issues:

None identified.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Draft 2025 Joint Advocacy Program


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