



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 3a

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Memorandum

Date: March 26, 2025
To: Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
From: Carina Lieu, Policy Advisory Council Chair
Regarding: March 2025 Council Report to Commission

Summary:

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

February 25, 2025 Meeting:

The Policy Advisory Council meeting on February 25, 2025 covered three items, as well as leadership elections at the top of the meeting.

Leadership Elections

- **New Chair Elected:** Carina Lieu of Oakland/Alameda County will serve as Chair of the Council until December 2025.
- **New Vice Chair:** Gabriela Orantes, based in Sonoma County, was elected as the new Vice Chair.

Plan Bay Area 2050+: Implementation Plan Update

- **Accomplishments and Challenges:** MTC staff highlighted achievements over the past four years and discussed the push for unified real-time systems among transit operators.
- **Public Opinion Shifts:** Significant changes in public opinion and political will were noted, particularly in environmental strategies and work-from-home scenarios.
- **Survey Distribution:** Emphasis on distributing surveys to a wide audience, including county and city staff, public employees, and unions.
- **Strategy Assessment:** Clarification on strategy categories and the importance of understanding current conditions and public/political support.
- **Transit 2050+:** Early stages of developing the implementation plan with opportunities for community feedback.

Council Feedback

- **Transit Improvements:** Support for enhancing local transit services and faster, more reliable projects.
- **Prioritization Process:** Explanation of strategy prioritization involving MTC, partners, and labor.
- **Public Engagement:** Plans to build on past engagement processes and explore new opportunities, targeting non-transit users.
- **Next Steps:** Consensus on growing engagement and distributing surveys, with the next round planned for summer.

Draft Transportation Revenue Measure Principles and Polling Update

- **Sales Tax Proposal:** Discussion on a 0.5 cent sales tax as the best option for the revenue measure.
- **Principles:** The measure should be simple, prevent major service cuts, and include accountability provisions.
- **Polling Challenges:** Need for more reliable data, especially in the North Bay.
- **Funding Efforts:** Ongoing efforts to secure additional state funding.

Council Feedback + Next Steps

- **Concerns Addressed:** Assurances on federal funds security and emphasis on fairness and contributions from all counties.
- **Updates:** Expected updates in March with potential amendments to SB 63.

Council Work Plan

- **Key Issues:** Focus on PBA 2050+, Transit 2050+, Transportation Revenue Measure, and corridor pricing.
- **Emphasis:** Equity, public engagement, disability community needs, and sustainability of transit services.
- **Future Plans:** Refining Equity Priority Communities methodology and continuing Regional Network Management initiatives.

Council Feedback

- **New Council Structure:** Discussion on developing a combined council and its organizational structure.
- **Continued Initiatives:** Emphasis on fare coordination, real-time data standardization, and disability/senior services.
- **Equity and Access:** Support for topics related to equity and access.

- **Sea Level Rise:** Need for transit districts to address sea level rise.
- **Trust Building:** Importance of delivering services cost-effectively to build trust with voters.