

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Administration Committee

June 10, 2026

Agenda Item 3c-26-0704

**International Travel Request: MTC staff and Commissioner participation in the 2026
Social Housing Field Study in Vienna, Austria**

Subject:

International travel requests for MTC staff and commissioner participation in the 2026 Social Housing Field Study in Vienna, Austria.

Background:

Pursuant to MTC Resolution No. 1058, Revised, this memorandum constitutes the monthly travel report to the Administration Committee. As a reminder, the Commission revised the policies governing Commissioner and staff travel to require that three items be approved by, or reported to, this Committee:

1. International travel (outside the United States and Canada) must be approved in advance by this Committee at a regular public meeting.
2. All MTC-funded Commissioner travel must be disclosed in regular monthly reports to this committee.
3. On a quarterly basis, actual vs. budgeted travel expenditures must be reported to this Committee.

International Travel Requests:

The Global Policy Leadership Academy (GPLA) has invited MTC to participate in the upcoming Vienna Social Housing Field Study Trip from September 13 to September 19, 2026. Program participants will learn from and engage with GPLA key faculty and a variety of Viennese housing experts to gain firsthand knowledge about a proven model of social housing. Key topics include urban planning, construction, financing, land management, and community engagement. The exclusive curriculum will include daily lectures, symposia, gatherings, exhibits, and field trips.

MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments sent delegations to the July 2024 and September 2025 Field Studies that included Commissioners Abe-Koga, Ramos, Schaaf, Fleming, and Melgar, as well as Executive Director Fremier, Deputy Executive Director Daniel Saver, Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) Director Kate Hartley, and Legislation and Public Affairs Director Rebecca Long. GPLA staff intend to continue to offer these trips on at least an annual basis, building a social housing “community of practice” across the Bay Area, California, and other metropolitan regions in other parts of the country.

For the September 2026 Field Study, GPLA staff anticipate delegations from regional housing finance agencies in Los Angeles and San Diego, a delegation from Fresno, state housing officials, state legislators, and other stakeholders from the Bay Area that will include elected officials, high-level staff, and public housing officials. Chief Deputy Executive Director Alix Bockelman and the new BAHFA Assistant Director were identified as staff for whom the upcoming study trip would be valuable because

of their expertise as well as the opportunity to deepen relationships with fellow participants that can advance the mission and workplans at MTC and BAHFA.

In addition to the above listed staff, the following commissioners have been identified by MTC Chair Noack to participate as valued contributors in their role as representatives of the SF Bay Area:

1. Vice Chair Stephanie Moulton-Peters
2. Commissioner Alicia John-Baptiste

During this program, the delegation will discuss:

1. The role of government in planning and funding social housing
2. The economics of the Vienna Social Housing Model including rents and incomes served
3. A comparison of affordable housing in the USA to the Vienna Social Housing Model
4. Urban planning and urban design
5. Creating permanent affordability for all housing subsidies in Vienna
6. Creating a walkable and bikeable city

Registration costs include the educational programming, lodging, meals, and ground transportation. All registration and travel expenses will be coordinated and covered by MTC.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

1. Staff recommends that the Committee authorize MTC staff Alix Bockelman and the new BAHFA Assistant Director for international travel as described above, with full registration and associated travel costs covered by MTC.
2. Staff recommends that the Committee authorize Commissioners Stephanie Moulton-Peters and Alicia John-Baptiste for international travel as described above with full registration and associated travel costs covered by MTC.

Attachments:

- Request for Committee Approval – Summary of Proposed International Travel Request



Andrew B. Fremier

Request for Committee Approval

Summary of Proposed International Travel Request

Work Item No.: 5100
Staff: Alix Bockelman and BAHFA Assistant Director
Commissioners: Stephanie Moulton Peters and Alicia John-Baptiste

Travel Location: Vienna, Austria
Travel Dates: September 13, 2026 through September 19, 2026
Purpose of Travel: Vienna Social Housing Field Study

Travel Cost Estimate: \$50,000
Funding Source: Expenses covered by MTC

Fiscal Impact: \$50,000

Motion by Committee: Alix Bockelman, Chief Deputy Executive Director; new BAHFA Assistant Director; MTC Commission Vice Chair Stephanie Moulton Peters; and Commissioner Alicia John-Baptiste are authorized for international travel as described above, with a requirement to set aside funds.

Administration Committee: _____
Gina Papan, Chair

Approved: June 10, 2026