

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee**

January 10, 2025

Agenda Item 9b

MTC and ABAG Advisory Council Strategy

Subject:

Approval of the proposal to integrate the MTC Policy Advisory Council and ABAG's Regional Planning Committee into a single advisory council to serve both the Commission and ABAG Executive Board.

Feedback and Updates to Advisory Council Integration Strategy:

In November, staff provided the committees with background on recent MTC and ABAG committee integration, noting that staff would develop a specific proposal to integrate the MTC Policy Advisory Council and the ABAG Regional Planning Committee so that the agencies have a single advisory council serving both organizations.

Staff presented this concept to the Policy Advisory Council on November 19, 2024, and has had further discussions on the topic with leadership from MTC, ABAG, and the Policy Advisory Council. Based on this feedback, staff has further refined and developed the proposal to create an integrated advisory body to serve both MTC and ABAG.

Key goals informing the proposed integrated council:

- Ensure that ABAG and MTC are equal partners in selecting county-based and at-large nominees.
- Retain an open nomination process while providing added weight for candidates endorsed by ABAG Executive Board Members and/or Commissioners. (See below for more details.)
- Limit membership to 27, similar to the current MTC Policy Advisory Council.
- Reserve membership for non-elected Bay Area residents to expand the diversity of viewpoints influencing MTC and ABAG decisions. This limitation would not apply to elected offices held at jurisdictions other than local jurisdictions (e.g., a community college board).

Proposed Nominations and Selections process:

In line with the goals noted above, staff propose to retain a 27-member council as follows:

- Nine equity representatives (representing the interests of communities of color (4), low-income/environmental justice (4) or one of either)
- Nine members representing the interests of seniors (4) or persons with disabilities (4) or one of either.
- Nine at-large members representing institutions that advocate for or otherwise represent the following: Labor, Business/Employers, Environment, Transit advocacy, Social equity, Youth, Civic, Public Health, and Fair/Affordable Housing. The organizations represented would ideally have a nine-county footprint; if any were selected that were more subregional in nature (e.g., representing the South or North Bay), staff would strive to ensure that the overall membership in this category was geographically diverse and representative of the nine counties.

Staff recommends nominations for the Council be open to the public. Following the practice used for the MTC Policy Advisory Council, staff would first review applications and provide a list of recommendations to the MTC and ABAG board members representing a given county (or city within a county) for their feedback. Nominations endorsed by ABAG Executive Board Members and Commissioners would be given additional consideration. Final selection of the county-based and at-large representatives would be made by the MTC Chair and ABAG President, subject to approval by the Commission and the ABAG Executive Board.

Next Steps:

Staff will draft a resolution for consideration by both the MTC Commission and the ABAG Executive Board to establish this integrated advisory body based on the above proposal. Staff will request action on this resolution at upcoming meetings in February or March. Recruitment for the successor integrated advisory body would begin in the summer of 2025, selections would be finalized in the fall of 2025, and the new body would begin meeting in January 2026.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendation:

Approve the proposal and direct staff to draft the resolutions, establishing a unified advisory body serving both ABAG and MTC, as described above.

Attachment:

None



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