



## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
March 24, 2021

### **New Appointments**

**Grecia Mannah-Ayon** – Grecia started with MTC on March 8<sup>th</sup> as an Assistant Regional Housing Planner in the Planning section.

### **Key Updates**

#### **COVID-Related Activities**

A reminder that all Covid-19 related reporting items can be found on our MTC webpage. We provide monthly updates on all related activities, and statistics that are affecting the region. The website address is below:

<https://www.mtc.ca.gov/covid>

#### **SR-37 Town Hall**

Senators McGuire and Dodd will be hosting a 4/15 Town Hall For the SR-37 project, which I will attend. We will report back to the senators on the flooding fixes that have been made on the corridor, our congestion relief project, the multi-modal project, and CalTrans work. It's a nighttime event at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Equity Bench**

On March 10, MTC's Administration Committee approved the On-Call Equity Bench, a resource for MTC and ABAG staff and our regional partners to connect with equity-focused thought leaders to partner within advancing equity outcomes in our regional workplan. Notably the bench uses "Cooperate Use" clauses, allowing for partner agencies including ABAG members to enlist the vetted equity consultants on the bench. Information on the bench and the qualified vendors can be obtained by contacting Nalungo Conley, Chief of Staff at [nconley@bayareametro.gov](mailto:nconley@bayareametro.gov).

### **Items of Note:**

#### **Speaking at Social Equity Forum**

On March 17, my Chief of Staff spoke at a Social Equity Forum hosted by Metro Analytics and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program as part of their series "Metropolitan Planning Organizations: Strategies for Future Success." The project hopes to develop a comprehensive resource to inform and guide the evolving roles and functions of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). This session focused on Regional Equity and the steps that agencies like MTC were taking to address long-standing issues of inequity in our region. It was well attended with over 400 participants live-streaming the event through YouTube.


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**Commission Orientation Presentation**

MTC staff has been working on updating the Commission Orientation presentation for new and current Commissioners. This Power Point will be provided to all Commissioners, providing a detailed overview of the various departments at MTC and the major workplans that they carry out. In addition, it highlights the various Committees and their functions in relation to the agency. We will send out shortly, and please feel free to reach out and ask questions on any of the information contained in the presentation.

**Executive Director "Top Five" focus areas for 2021**

The incoming Commission leadership and Committee assignments provides an opportunity for me as the Executive Director to look back over the last extraordinary year, and look forward with an eye to not only managing the sweeping— and often daunting— portfolio of the agency, but spotlighting a few key areas to rise to the top of that leadership agenda. In particular, this list (presented as an attachment to this report) reflects my charge to lead a combined staff serving both MTC and ABAG, and the commitment of its leadership to govern to the benefit of our shared constituents— the people of the Bay Area. I plan to return periodically to the Commission and Executive Board with reports of how these strategic challenges are being met in the next year. Thank you, as always, for your support of me and our exemplary staff.



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Therese W. McMillan

## **MTC/ABAG Executive Director: Top five STRATEGIC focus areas for 2021**

### **1) Lead Bay Area Transportation Pandemic Recovery**

#### **a) Fiscal *Stabilization* – “the Necessity”**

There are two critical on-going efforts that will be reaching key milestones in 2021:

- Transit Agency Budgets- operations recovery focus/ Scenarios **for FY 20-21 and FY 21-22**
- BATA Bridge revenue recovery/impact assessment of core asset needs

#### **b) System *Rebuilding*- “the Opportunity”**

The COVID crisis presents some “silver linings” that staff and the Commission are mobilizing to take advantage of:

- Blue Ribbon Task Force “Transformation Action Plan”
- Advocacy and Readiness for “stimulus” funding under the new Biden-Harris Administration (highway and transit- capital focus)
- Express lanes development and coordination- adoption of the strategic plan and new step implementation lays the foundation for critical road pricing discussions, among others
- Keep eye out: reset for next generation regional transportation revenue measure, as assessment of a healing regional economy manifest

### **2) Tackle Deepening Housing Challenge**

#### **a) Support urgent housing funding assistance: state and federal**

- Monitor emergency relief/eviction moratoriums, and legislative efforts to address
- Determine regional “value add” outside of funding advocacy, such as technical assistance
- Work with State Delegation on next wave Legislation

#### **b) Root the Regional Housing Portfolio**

- ABAG’s leadership via Housing Committee/ \$18.5 M State Budget ask
- Establish BAHFA Oversight Committee and working Board level partner
- Implement Regional Portfolio as baseline for Housing Revenue “campaign”

#### **c) Define clear role/agenda for homelessness**

- Define BAHFA and ABAG presence on Regional Impact Council: regional leadership OR partnership role?

### **3) Wrap UP PBA 2050**

#### **a) Establish Executive/Commission priorities within “Implementation Phase” (i.e., 1-2 each with key themes)**

- Support Commissioner/ABAG EB leadership (e.g., Board member “champions” for particular implementation plan actions)

## **MTC/ABAG Executive Director: Top five STRATEGIC focus areas for 2021**

- b) Highlight and Address Multi-sectoral Policy Conflicts as basis for SB 375 Reform effort

### **4) Drill down on Mega Project Delivery Priority Program**

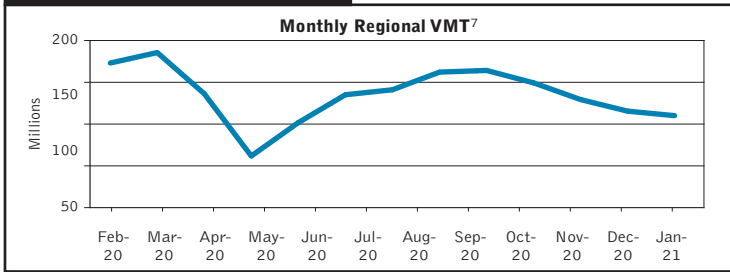
- a) Lead the “regionals”
  - Clipper 2
  - AET
  - Bridge Rehab
- b) Redefine “Partnership” for locally sponsored projects
  - Facilitate a different regional paradigm for project delivery
  - Consider resource capacities and limitations of local (county/CTA) partners to effectively delivery projects of regional scale and impact
  - Examples of challenges now: DTX, Diridon station, Caltrain Electrification, Hwy 37)

### **5) NEW JOINT MTC/ABAG Initiative: “Regional Governmental Partnership for Local Economic Rebound”**

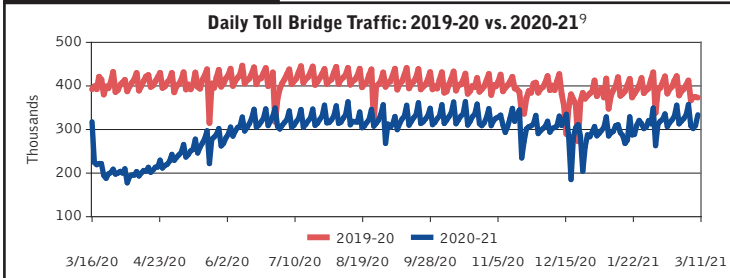
In addition to the established areas of focus highlighted above, the COVID impacts on the health and resilience of the Bay Area economy directly impacts on the sectoral health of transportation and housing—both of which exerted impacts on the region’s economic health **before** the pandemic. With the support of the MTC Chair and ABAG President, staff will explore in what roles—lead, partner, and/or support—MTC and ABAG can bring regional “value add” to a larger Economic Pandemic Recovery strategy? *Potential* avenues to explore include:

- Deploy existing transportation, land use and housing authorities to assist the current recovery in our areas of strength—infrastructure delivery as stimulus, both traditional and emerging.
- Assist leadership in a “listening tour” of local government and private sector partners to better understand the depth and nature of economic recovery among the broad and diverse spectrum of the region’s economic drivers— and what MTC and ABAG might contribute in response.
- Keep a clear and steady eye on the equity challenges and opportunities that present themselves to our most vulnerable communities and evaluate any potential economic recovery actions with better outcomes in mind for them.

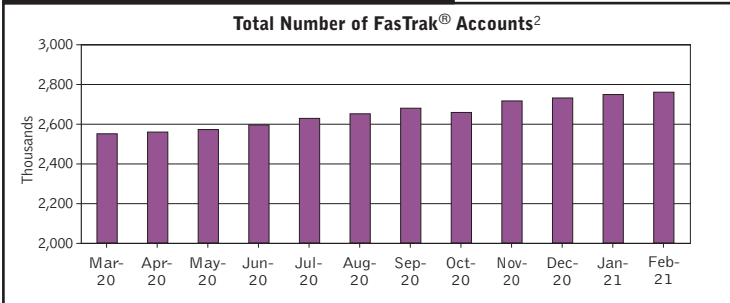
## VTM in COVID-19 Pandemic



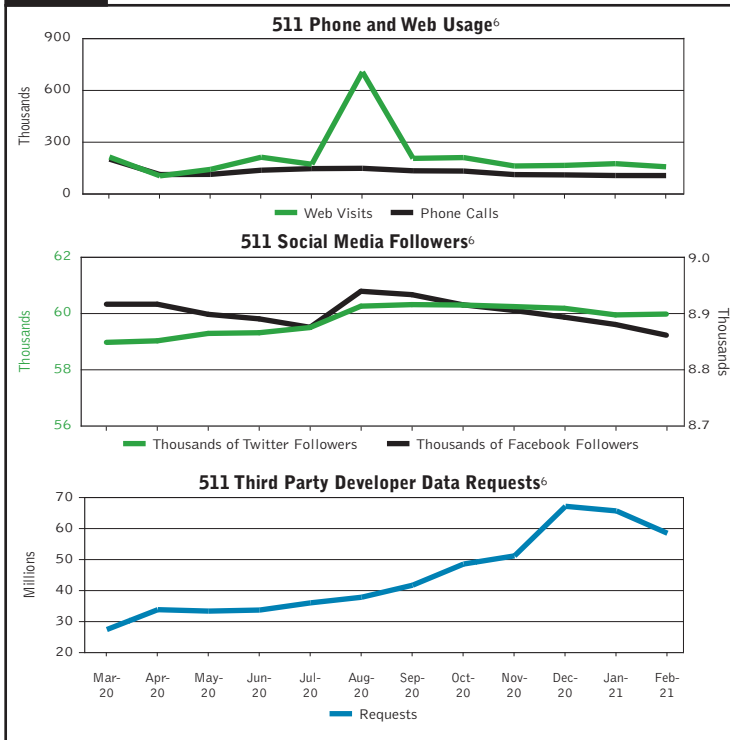
## Toll Bridge Crossings



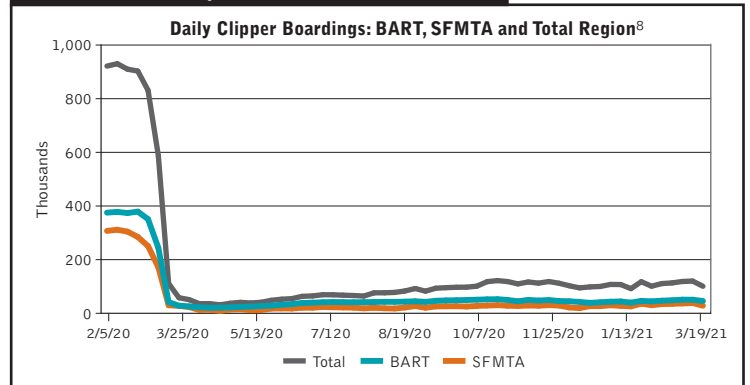
## FasTrak® Electronic Toll Collection<sup>1</sup>



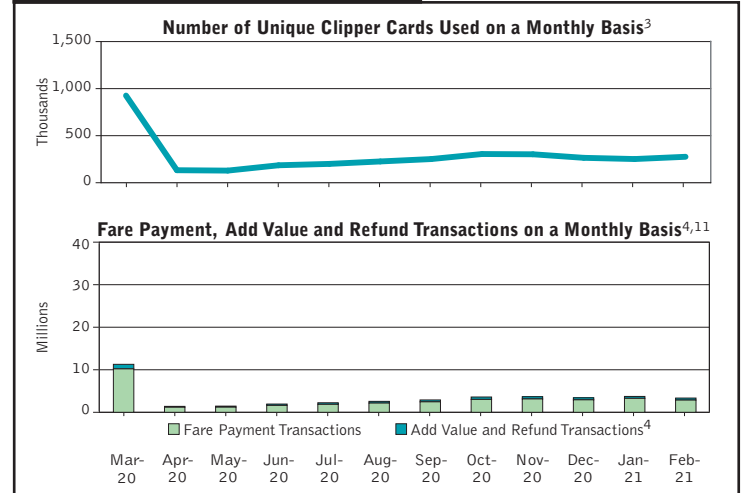
## 511



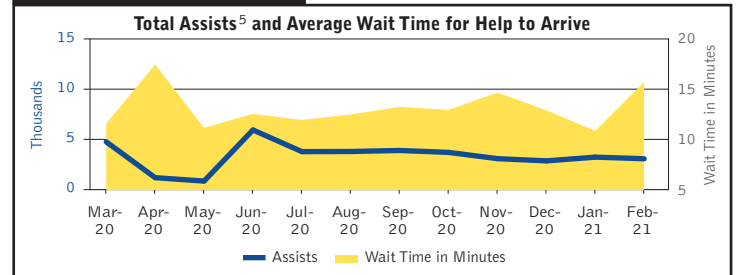
## Transit Ridership in COVID-19 Pandemic



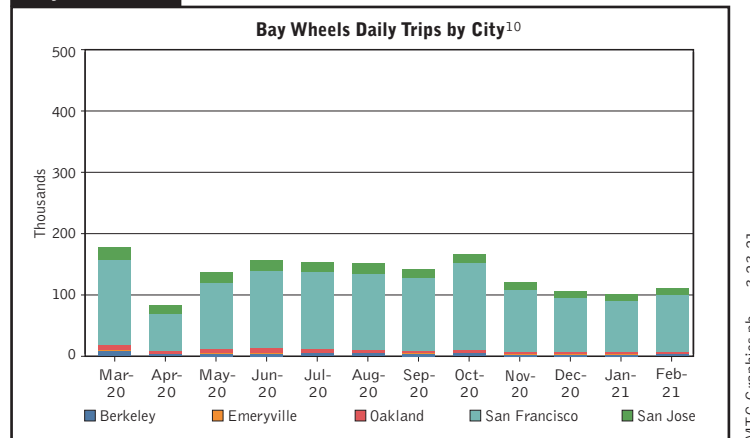
## Clipper® Fare Payment System



## Freeway Service Patrol



## Bay Wheels



Notes: 1 MTC, as the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), assumed responsibility for FasTrak® customer service operations in Jan. 2004. Figures are cumulative.

2 Number of debit accounts opened through BATA service center; each account may represent more than one toll tag issued.

3 New category as of September 2003; data collected since Aug. 2002

4 As of November 2009, refund transactions are counted with add value transactions. This chart includes refunds in the Add Value bars for the past 12 months.

5 FSP Assist numbers for the most current month are a best estimate, and may be subject to change. Final assist numbers are available at the end of the month, and the report is updated accordingly.

6 511 now tracks two new types of data in addition to call and web usage: social media followers and developer data requests.

7 VMT data courtesy of StreetLight Data.

8 Clipper-paid boardings recorded on Wednesdays of each week.

9 Daily crossings in the toll-paid direction on the Bay Area's seven state-owned toll bridges. Does not include Golden Gate Bridge.

10 Please note that Lyft is resolving a data reporting issue starting 11/23 so the trip totals for November may be lower than actual usage.

11 Due to a graphing error, Fare Payment, Add Value and Refund Transactions were shown as much higher than actual in previous versions of this sheet. Correct data is now in place.