



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

February 23, 2022

### Remembrances

Bob Planthold, an outspoken advocate for seniors and people with disabilities, died last month. For many decades Mr. Planthold did his part to advance the common good for those with disabilities at public meetings held by MTC and SFMTA, and by serving on civil grand juries. With limited mobility after contracting polio as a baby, Mr. Planthold dedicated much of his adult life to making the case for increased access and accommodations for those who need it most – and by extension all of us. Our thoughts are with Mr. Planthold's family, loved ones, and the many people whose lives he touched.

We also received news that Michael Evanhoe passed away last November. Mike served as the chair of the California Transportation Commission in the early 1980s, and subsequent to that, headed the Santa Clara Valley Sales Tax Authority, retiring in 2003 to work in the private sector. Mike was a colleague to many of us, and a mentor to me when I was an upstart intern to the CTC my last year as an undergrad at UC Davis. We remember Mike for his dedication to transportation.

### Retirements

**Julie Tunnell** – Julie started with MTC in January 2001 as a Library Technician I. Over her 20 years of service to the agency she advanced in her career to the position she now holds as the Senior Head Librarian for MTC and ABAG. Her last day with MTC is February 25, 2022 and we thank her for her commitment and wish her a retirement full of travel and leisure.

### New Appointments

**Derek Hansel**- It is my pleasure to announce that Derek Hansel will be our next CFO. Derek most recently was the CFO for the San Mateo County Transit District, the San Mateo County Transportation Authority, Caltrain and the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority. He comes to MTC/ABAG with over a decade of experience in both public service and the capital markets. His start date will be March 22<sup>nd</sup>. I look forward to having you meet our new CFO!

**Kate Hartley** – Kate Hartley is our new Bay Area Housing Finance Authority Section Director. Since 2019, Kate has served as Chief Lending and Investment Officer for the San Francisco-based *Housing Accelerator Fund*, which has to date invested \$284 million in new financing and construction models. Before that, she served as Director of the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development where she led a \$2billion public housing preservation and rehab program. Kate's first day with MTC was on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and we could not be more excited to have her lead the BAHFA team.

**Alexandra Thomsen** – Alexandra started with MTC on February 7<sup>th</sup> as a Junior Planner/Analyst in the San Francisco Estuary Partnership section.

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**Gavin Lohry** – Gavin started with MTC on February 22<sup>nd</sup> as a BATA Project Manager, Transportation Planning and Operations in the Field Operations and Asset Management 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>

#### **Bay Area Secures over \$650 Million in State Funding for 1,372 Affordable Homes:**

In February, [the Governor's office announced the first round of awards for the California Housing Accelerator](#), a \$1.75 billion one-time investment to provide bridge funds to shovel-ready affordable housing projects. The program is derived from funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The first round of awards totaled \$923 million stateside, with projects within the Bay Area securing over \$650 million in funding (roughly 71%) that will lead to the production of 1,372 new affordable homes. The Housing Accelerator prioritizes projects for people experiencing homelessness and for those below 30 percent of the Area Median Income. Nearly all projects are expected to break ground this summer.

#### **Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Grant**

The Strategic Growth Council has adopted awards for the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities grant program. The Bay Area will receive \$279 million in funding for twelve grants in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.

#### **Legislative Update**

On Friday, Assemblymember Ting introduced AB 2594, which makes statewide changes related to toll collection notices and penalties in response to media coverage related to the SPUR report on the impact of toll penalties. We are evaluating the bill and met with Assemblymember Ting in advance of its release last week. The Assemblymember has assured us that he wants the bill to protect our toll revenue stream and is open to amendments. We are further analyzing the bill and will bring it forward to our Legislation Committee for a position at the appropriate time.

### **Items to Note**

#### **Housing Technical Assistance:**

In the area of collaborative projects with ABAG, I would like to spotlight the work we are doing on housing technical assistance for fair housing. Staff is creating data reports for each jurisdiction in the region that provide major indicators on segregation (race and income) as important baseline consideration for Housing Element development.

#### **Express Lanes**

The US 101 Express Lanes in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties began tolling on 2/11. Commissioner Abe-Koga participated in the ribbon cutting event on 2/10 at the VTA bus yard in Mountain View. As a reminder, MTC is operating the express lanes in San Mateo County on behalf of the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority.

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**High-Speed Rail**

The High-Speed Rail Authority released a draft Business Plan for public review and comment as part of a 60 day period that ends on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. MTC staff will be reviewing and providing comments.

**Bay Area Summer Academy**

Applications for the 2022 Bay Area Summer Academy are now open! MTC, ABAG, the Air District, and BCDC are putting on a **paid** remote learning experience to encourage youth, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, to learn about regional governments and consider a career in public service. Students can apply here:

<https://mtc.one/bayareasummeracademy> .

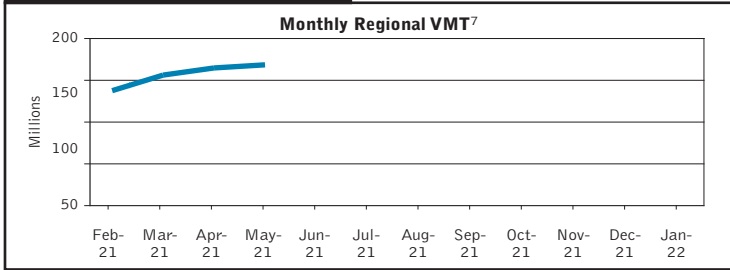
Please share widely with your constituents and networks (you can download a shareable flier [here](#)) – thank you!



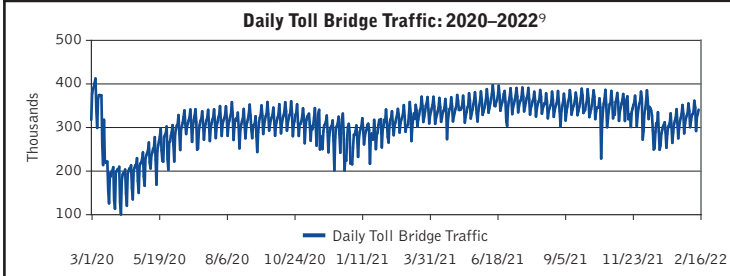
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Therese W. McMillan

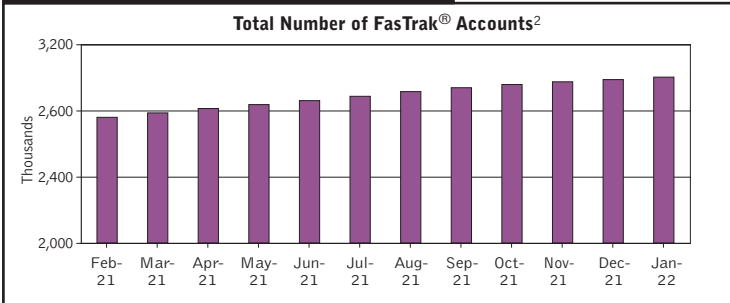
## VMT in COVID-19 Pandemic



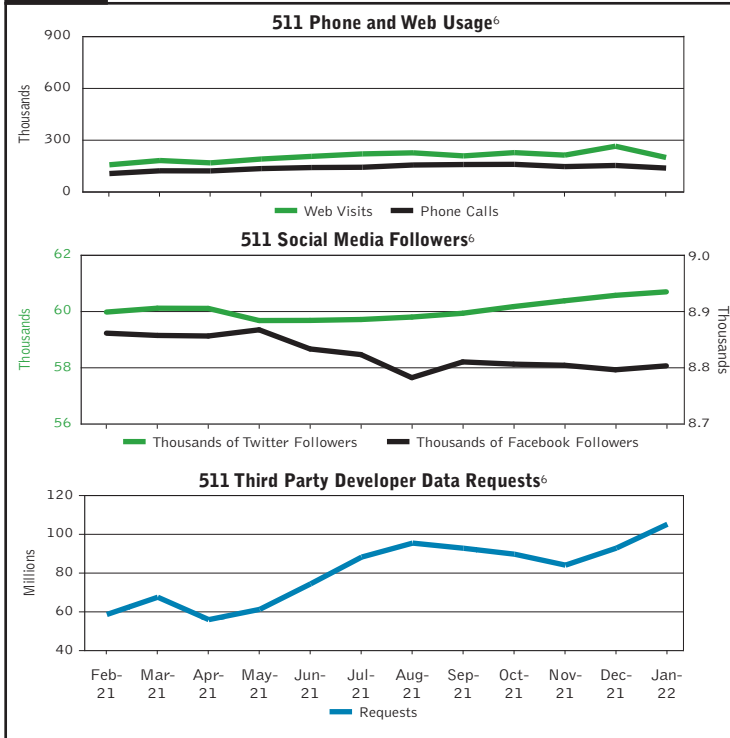
## Toll Bridge Crossings



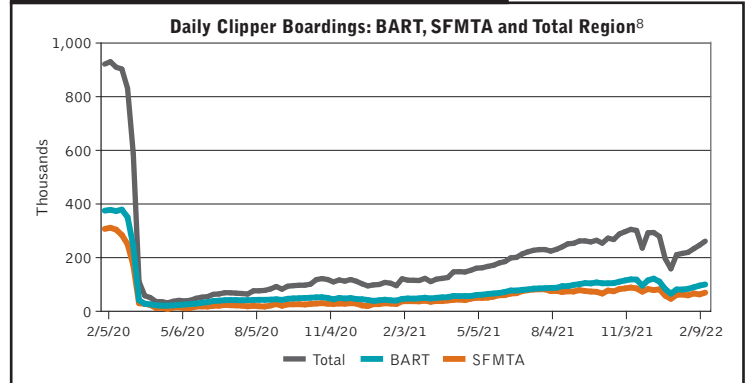
## FasTrak® Electronic Toll Collection<sup>1</sup>



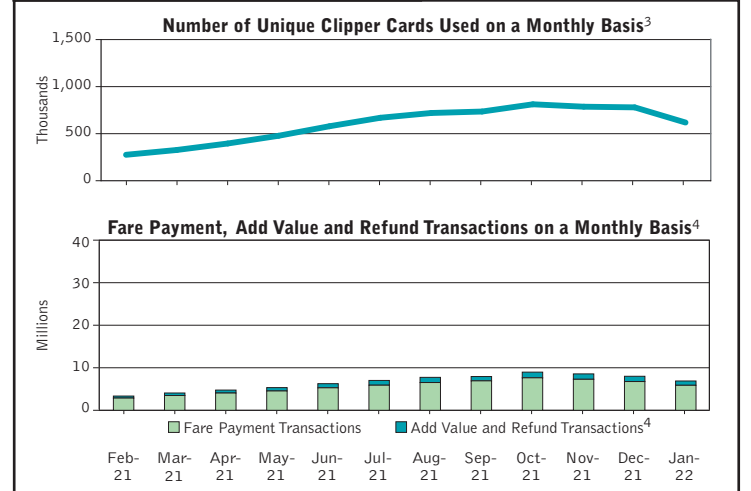
## 511



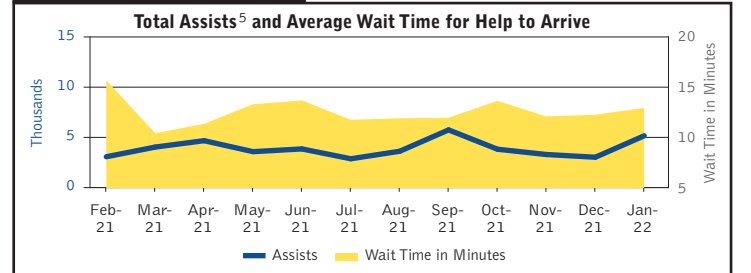
## Transit Ridership in COVID-19 Pandemic



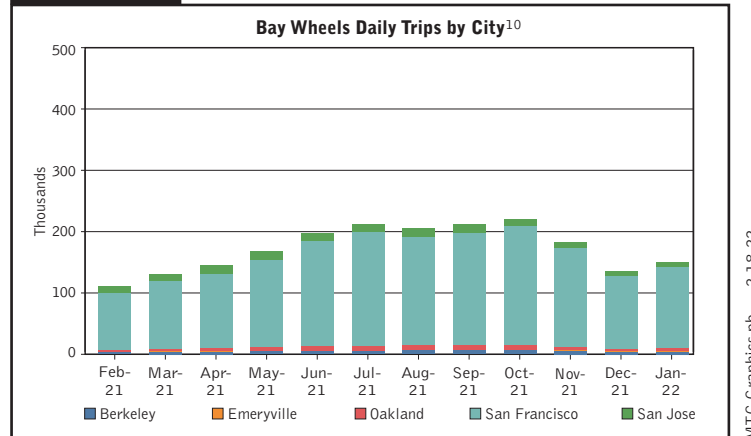
## Clipper® Fare Payment System



## 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 through May 2021 from 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.