

Date: January 28, 2026
W.I.: 1111
Referred by: Commission

ABSTRACT

MTC Resolution No. 4746

Posthumous Resolution of Appreciation and in memory of **Peter Lee** for his many years of service and dedication to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Bay Area Toll Authority.

Date: January 28, 2026
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RE: Posthumous Resolution of Appreciation for Peter Lee

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution No. 4746

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and its affiliated agencies for nearly 28 years were graced by Peter Lee's unique combination of engineering expertise, problem-solving prowess, generous good cheer and genuine kindness; and

WHEREAS, having joined the MTC staff shortly after the state Legislature's 1997 establishment of the Bay Area Toll Authority, Peter over the course of his career became most closely associated with MTC's and BATA's toll bridge partnership with Caltrans; and

WHEREAS, serving as the linchpin for the MTC-BATA joint venture with Caltrans, Peter helped execute the completion of dozens of vital projects on the state-owned toll bridges and their approaches, including construction of the new East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and the new Carquinez and Benicia-Martinez bridges; the seismic retrofit of the original Bay Bridge West Span, the 1958 eastbound Carquinez Bridge, the original 1962 Benicia-Martinez Bridge, and the Antioch, Dumbarton, Richmond-San Rafael and San Mateo-Hayward bridges; and the dismantling and demolition of the original Bay Bridge East Span and the original westbound Carquinez Bridge; and

WHEREAS, while the scale and complexity of the various toll bridge projects on which he worked inevitably presented unforeseen engineering and funding challenges, Peter invariably faced these difficulties with a calm, thorough, professional and solutions-oriented approach that capitalized on the strengths of each team member to keep the projects moving forward; and

WHEREAS, a prime example of Peter's solutions-oriented approach was his willingness to travel several times to Asia to learn first-hand about the technical challenges faced by firms in China, Japan and South Korea working under contract for the American Bridge-Fluor joint venture to fabricate steel sections for the new Bay Bridge East Span; and

WHEREAS, possessed of an engineer's eye and an administrator's heart, Peter brought to the toll bridge partnership a critical understanding of the processes and pathways necessary to turn project problems into policy solutions; and

WHEREAS due in no small part to his facility in matters both practical and procedural, Peter made countless appearances before the BATA Oversight Committee, the full BATA board, and the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee and its Project Management Team, establishing a lifetime record for bridge-related PowerPoint presentations that likely never will be broken; and

WHEREAS, Peter also guided the years-long Bridge Yard Seismic and Renovation Project — which transformed the historic Interurban Electric Railway Bridge Yard Shop near the foot of the Bay Bridge East Span into the public assembly and exhibit hall now known as the Bridge Yard — and helped orchestrate the 2017 agreement under which the Caltrans-owned building is leased to the East Bay Regional Parks District as part of the Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline; and

WHEREAS, Peter was among a comparatively small number of individuals who made the BATA-Caltrans toll bridge partnership work each day, steadily building momentum for the successful completion of both the Regional Measure 1 program of projects and the Seismic Retrofit Program and then establishment of the Toll Bridge Asset Management Program, through which the agencies work together to assure cost-effective long-term management and investment in the state-owned bridges; and

WHEREAS, through consistent collaboration with his Caltrans counterparts, Peter's work strengthened the bonds of trust needed to deliver the next generation of toll bridge improvements, including open-road tolling and the maintenance and rehabilitation projects identified in the long-range Toll Bridge Capital Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, preparation for the next generation was a recurring theme of Peter's career, throughout which he engrained in his staff the need to future-proof the Bay Area's transportation infrastructure with an emphasis on safety; recruited, hired and cultivated the talents of a dedicated and dynamic team of younger professionals to carry on the work of both BATA and the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways; spurred innovation by encouraging his crew to conceive and evaluate new solutions for mobility problems; fostered community and camaraderie through a tradition of team lunches; and consistently supported his staff's professional and personal goals; and

WHEREAS, the much-publicized March 2013 failure of steel anchor rods on the Bay Bridge East Span then under construction prompted a convergence of Peter's dual roles as family man and engineer, with Peter and his wife Ashley both selected to the team that collected and synthesized analyses from industry experts to produce the *Report on the A354 Grade BD High-Strength Steel Rods on the New East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge With Findings and Decisions*; and

WHEREAS, enormously proud of his and Ashley's children, Matthew and Olivia, Peter's joyful juggling of professional and paternal responsibilities made clear that the next generation's well-being was priority one at home as well as on the job, perhaps best evidenced by the many calls and Zoom meetings he took while behind the wheel of an automobile, chauffeuring family members to activities and appointments hither and yon; and

WHEREAS, Peter is remembered by his colleagues as much for his humor, humility, compassion, inclusiveness, booming voice, hearty laugh and ever-present cup of coffee or can of soda as for his intelligence, inquisitiveness, leadership skills, organizational acumen and problem-solving capability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the staff and commissioners of MTC honor Peter's life and legacy, express deep gratitude for his enduring work on behalf of the people of the Bay Area and all of California; and join Ashley, Matthew, Olivia and all of Peter's family in mourning his passing while also celebrating his memory.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Sue Noack, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission held in San Francisco, California, and at other remote locations, on January 28, 2026.