

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council

November 18, 2025

Agenda Item 7b

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – November 2025
- Attachment B: Email - Plan Bay Area 2050+ Final Blueprint: Follow-up from May 27, 2025 Policy Advisory Council

Staff Liaison Report – November 2025

Follow Up Items:

- Chair Lieu named the following Councilmembers to the ad hoc committee to review the Council’s work plan and make recommendations on priorities and learnings to the successor Community Advisory Council: Chair Lieu, Vice Chair Orantes, Michael Baldini, Diana Benitez, Randi Kinman, Johnny Parker Jr., and Howard Wong.
- Councilmember Eldred also raised a question about the impacts of all lanes tolling on displacement. MTC Staff member Anup Tapase will respond to her inquiry when he returns from paternity leave later in November. In addition, in June 2025 MTC Staff shared a detailed response to a similar question about tracking displaced households, using the best available data. (Attachment B)
- I wanted to share a brief update on the Commission workshop that was held in October. This year’s workshop focused on three main topics:
- The first was Plan Bay Area. With a lot of new Commissioners, we wanted to make sure Commissioners understand the connection between the Plan and the other work we do, serving as our “North Star” by laying out the strategies needed to achieve a Bay Area that is affordable, connected, diverse, healthy and vibrant for all. We walked through some of the key themes of prior plans to show how the Plans were the foundation to major transportation improvement projects and revenue measures like bridge toll increases, but also new policy emphasis areas like affordable housing – ultimately leading to the legislation that created BAHFA.
- The second topic was an update on the significant progress MTC has made in partnership with the transit operators on transit fare integration through the pilots for Clipper BayPass and Clipper START. As you’ve heard, these initiatives are making transit more accessible and affordable for thousands of Bay Area residents, with impressive increases in ridership as a result.

- The third topic was our Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) policy and its linkage to the One Bay Area Grant program (OBAG). Over two days and two separate presentations, staff explained how TOC and OBAG work and described the latest thinking about how to link the two through an incentive-based approach that aims to be responsive to concerns we have heard from Commissioners and other stakeholders. This approach rewards jurisdictions that are the highest performers with an opportunity for extra funding but still makes all jurisdictions eligible for most of the funds.

Executive Director's Report:

The following items are excerpts from the October 2025 Executive Director's Report to the Commission. To read past reports in their entirety, see this link:

<https://mtc.ca.gov/news/executive-directors-report>

Updates:

- Commissioner Mashburn last Thursday, Oct. 16, joined Vallejo Mayor Andrea Sorce for a listening session to hear residents' views about the Highway 37 Sears Point-to-Mare Island improvement project. MTC staff is listening too. Over the next few weeks, we'll be using our social media channels, our website and other communications tools to encourage Highway 37 travelers to answer a short survey about how often they use Highway 37, their most important concerns about the route, and their awareness of FasTrak and tolling programs. The survey is also posted on the MTC website.
- I was pleased to join Vice Chair Moulton-Peters and Commissioner Fleming — along with former Commissioner and current state Assemblymember Damon Connolly; former Commissioner Jake Mackenzie; Congressman Jared Huffman; state Senator Mike McGuire; and a host of current and former elected officials and transportation agency staff — at an Oct. 3 event near Novato to cut the ribbon on the final segment of the decades-long U.S. 101 Marin-Sonoma Narrows project.

- With the Narrows name now a thing of the past, our partners at Caltrans are closely monitoring the performance of the entire U.S. 101 corridor through both counties. MTC staff, along with our counterparts at Caltrans, the Transportation Authority of Marin, the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and the CHP will be scrutinizing the data as well.
- Also on Oct. 3, Chief Deputy Executive Director Alix Bockelman joined Commissioners Papan and Melgar — as well as Daly City Mayor Dr. Roderick Daus-Magbual, staff from MTC, Lyft and others — for a press event to celebrate the opening of eight new Bay Wheels bikeshare stations at strategic locations around Daly City. These eight stations have a total of 80 brand new e-bikes, and our staff expect to open several more Bay Wheels stations in Daly City over the next few months.
- Commissioner Canepa was a panelist at the Oct. 3 Move Bay Area West Bay Summit in Redwood City. MTC co-sponsored the event, one in a series bringing together community leaders, business community and labor representatives, planners and advocates to explore the connections between climate, health and transportation and help shape a regional transportation vision together. State Senator Scott Weiner gave the keynote speech.
- I'm thrilled to report that three of our key bills were signed by the Governor: First, SB 63, the measure authorizing a five-county transit ballot measure. Second, our sponsored AB 670, which will allow cities and counties to receive RHNA credit for their efforts to preserve naturally occurring affordable housing. And third, AB 697 by Bay Area Assemblymember Lori Wilson to facilitate SR 37 improvements in a cost-effective and environmentally beneficial manner. Thanks to all of you who played key roles in getting these over the finish line.
- The Regional Mapping & Wayfinding project led by MTC in partnership with Bay Area transit agencies received a Rider First award from Seamless Bay Area and San Francisco Transit Riders on Oct. 10. The Rider First Awards event was held here at the Bay Area Metro Center, with several staff members from both the Regional Network Management and Legislation & Public Affairs sections in attendance.

- Starting Oct. 27, the bicycle/pedestrian path on the upper deck of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge will start modified operations. The barrier will be moved to allow the space now occupied by the path to be used as a highway shoulder for westbound traffic from Sundays at 11 p.m. until Thursdays at 2 p.m. The path will be open to bicyclists from 2 p.m. on Thursdays through 11 p.m. on Sundays and on select weekday holidays. On days when the bicycle/pedestrian path is closed, a free shuttle will be provided from 6 a.m. through 8 p.m. The pick-up and drop-off locations are along Tewksbury Avenue in Point Richmond and the Vista Point parking lot near the intersection of East Francisco Blvd. and Main Street in San Rafael. Signs alerting bicyclists and pedestrians to the new operating hours already are in place on approaches to the bridge from both Richmond and San Rafael. MTC this week will issue a news release and launch a social media campaign to alert the public about these changes as well.
- Following more than two years of extensive public dialogue, technical analysis and interagency collaboration, MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) released Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+, together with 10 supplemental reports, the Implementation Plan, and the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), for public review and comment on Monday, Oct. 20. This updated long-range regional plan outlines a strategic framework to guide the Bay Area's growth, investment and resilience over the next 25 years.
- The public comment period, which runs through 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18, will feature multiple opportunities for public participation, including four subregional webinars — focused on the North Bay, South Bay, East Bay and West Bay — as well as three public hearings designed to solicit feedback from stakeholders and community members across the region. To access the materials and public event information visit planbayarea.org/draftplan.

- The Clipper Executive Board this week set a December 10 date for the start of an eight-to 12-week process of transitioning Clipper® card customers to the next generation of the Bay Area's electronic fare-payment system. Beginning Dec. 10, each of the nearly two dozen Bay Area transit agencies that accept Clipper for payment will accept contactless credit and debit cards in addition to plastic Clipper cards and mobile Clipper cards in Apple Wallet or Google Wallet. Other new and improved features include instant availability of added value or passes; an improved auto-reload function; free and discounted transfers; managing multiple accounts; and online application for youth and senior discount cards. Because the process of upgrading individual cards to the next generation system will take several weeks to complete, not all features will be immediately available to all customers. Folks who don't want to wait can kickstart the upgrade by logging into the Clipper website, using the Clipper mobile app or calling the Clipper customer service center to speak with an agent.

News Headlines from [The Bay Link Blog \(https://blog.bayareametro.gov/\)](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/):

- **Highway 37 Survey Goes Live: Input to Shape Congestion Relief, Environmental Strategies.** (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/highway-37-survey-goes-live-input-shape-congestion-relief-environmental-strategies>). The Resilient State Route 37 Program partnership — which includes MTC and its Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority affiliate as well as Caltrans; transportation agencies in Marin, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties; SMART; state and federal resource agencies; tribal governments and others — this month launched an online survey to learn more from travelers about why, how and how often they use Highway 37, what they know about planned improvements to the route, and their familiarity with Bay Area toll facilities and the FasTrak electronic toll payment system. Survey responses will help the Resilient 37 partners fine-tune strategies to help meet regional transportation and environmental goals.

- **Coming next week: new operating hours for Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Bike/Ped Path.** (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/coming-next-week-new-operating-hours-richmond-san-rafael-bridge-bikeped-path>) The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) today announced that beginning next week, the bicycle/pedestrian path on the upper deck of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge will be closed from Sundays at 11 p.m. until Thursdays at 2 p.m., with the barrier moved to allow the space now occupied by the path to be used as a highway shoulder for westbound traffic. The first weekday on which the shoulder will be available will be Monday, Oct. 27.
- **MTC, ABAG release draft of new long-range plan for Bay Area.** (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-abag-release-draft-new-long-range-plan-bay-area>) After more than two years of public discussion, technical analyses and refinement, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) today released Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+ and the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Environmental Impact Report for public review and comment.
- **Next generation Clipper to set sail in December.** (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/next-generation-clipper-set-sail-december>) The Clipper Executive Board today set a Dec. 10, 2025, date for the start of an eight- to 12-week process of transitioning Clipper® card customers to the next generation of the Bay Area's electronic fare-payment system.
- **Contract awarded for extension of the SMART rail line to Healdsburg** (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/contract-awarded-extension-smart-rail-line-healdsburg>) The SMART Board of Directors has awarded a construction contract for the extension of the rail line to Healdsburg. Last month the rail board approved a contract with Stacy and Witbeck/Herzog, A Joint Venture, to deliver the Healdsburg extension through a design-Build approach, which integrates design and construction to accelerate delivery.

Have a Question? Ask a Librarian

If you need assistance locating information or are having difficulty navigating the MTC-ABAG websites, please feel free to contact the MTC-ABAG head librarian. Reference assistance is available by telephone (415-778-5236), or email library@bayareametro.gov. Information can also be found on the [MTC-ABAG library webpage](https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtc-abag-library) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtc-abag-library>).

For MTC and Plan Bay Area Glossaries:

- [Glossary of Transportation Planning Acronyms & Terms](https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtcabag-library/glossary-transportation-planning-acronyms-terms) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtcabag-library/glossary-transportation-planning-acronyms-terms>)
- [Plan Bay Area Glossary](https://www.planbayarea.org/about/glossary) (<https://www.planbayarea.org/about/glossary>)