

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

September 23, 2025

Agenda Item 7c

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – September 2025

Staff Liaison Report – September 2025

Follow-Up Items:

- 18 out of 25 current Councilmembers were among the 155 total applicants to apply to serve on the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council. The selection panel has conducted second-round interviews, and an ad hoc selection committee has been established by MTC Chair Noack and ABAG Executive Board President Ramos. The final roster of the new 27-member MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council is expected to be approved by both boards in November.
- Council Member Dwayne Hankerson requested a report on projects that are only partially funded. He would like to understand the sources of remaining funding. He referenced a recent meeting discussion regarding Highway 37, where it was noted that only a quarter of the project is currently funded. He inquired whether staff could provide information to the Council on the source of the remaining funds.
- Council Member Randi Kinman requested an update on the Highway 37 Project. She also suggested that follow-up from the Accessible Futures: Sharing. Listening. Learning. Conference should flow through the Equity and Access Subcommittee. She emphasized two goals: 1. To address issues raised at the conference that are relevant to MTC and can be included in the Subcommittee's work plan. 2. To support the new advisory body by sharing what work is already underway and beginning to build a working relationship with that group. She requested that this follow-up be added to a future Equity and Access Subcommittee agenda if it is not already scheduled.
- Council Member Diana Benitez requested additional information about the CARE Program.
- Council Member Anne Olivia Eldred requested a future discussion focused on the intersection of housing and transportation in regional planning efforts, such as Plan Bay Area. She expressed interest in including displacement as part of the conversation, noting that it would strengthen the Council's advocacy efforts, particularly for those who serve on other regional boards.

Executive Director's Report:

The following items are excerpts from the July 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

- On June 27, the California Transportation Commission approved a dozen grants totaling more than \$400 million to advance key mobility projects around the Bay Area. These awards, made through a trio of competitive grant programs established by the landmark 2017 Senate Bill 1 transportation financing package, include \$73 million for the Highway 37 Sears Point-to-Mare Island Improve Project; a pair of grants totaling \$100 million to the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) for the ongoing second phase of its BART-to-Silicon Valley extension project; and two grants totaling \$87 million to help the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit District (SMART) extend service from the newly opened Windsor station north to Healdsburg.
- Chief Deputy Executive Director Alix Bockelman and I recently participated in the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Rail Conference. I gave a keynote speech at the opening session on the current state of high-speed and intercity passenger rail. Alix presented as part of the panel, “Transit as a Foundation of Economically Strong Communities.” The panelists reviewed places where rail investments have sparked housing development, commerce, vibrant local activity and transit ridership.
- MTC was proud to support the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association’s (IBTTA) global road safety campaign and Global Road Safety Week from June 23-27. The “Be Safe Together: Be the Highway Hero” campaign highlights the tolling industry’s commitment to ensuring that roads are safe for everyone. MTC’s commitment to safety includes the Bay Area Freeway Service Patrol, a fleet of roving tow trucks deployed on freeways and highways during peak travel times to detect and clear incidents, remove dangerous debris from the roadway, or help stranded drivers by providing a gallon of gas, providing a jumpstart or refilling a radiator. MTC has also adopted a Regional Safety/Vision Zero Policy, provides technical assistance to local jurisdictions to help make their roads safer for all users and hosts the Bay Area Vision Zero Working Group.

I will be moderating a panel, “Safeguarding Bridges,” at the IBTTA Maintenance, Engineering & Roadway Operations Workshop in Detroit on July 28. This panel discussion ties in directly with the Bay Area's multi-day Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment (PAWSA) exercise sponsored by MTC at the Port of Oakland this past April.

- Director of Financial Reporting and Operational Accounting Grace Martinez has been officially inducted as President-Elect of the Government Finance Officers Association at the 119th Annual GFOA Conference earlier this month. Congratulations, Grace.
- Save the Date: A Commission workshop is planned for October 22-23 at the Embassy Suites in Walnut Creek, located conveniently opposite the Pleasant Hill BART station. The workshop will follow our regularly scheduled Commission meeting at the Bay Area Metro Center.

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

- **It's a wrap: Fifth Mineta Summer Academy finishes with a flourish** (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/its-wrap-fifth-mineta-summer-academy-finishes-flourish>): This summer marked a major milestone for the Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy: its fifth year of empowering and inspiring the next generation of Bay Area leaders. With more than 250 high school students completing the program—a new record—the 2025 Academy was the largest and most dynamic yet.
- **Bay Area transit's latest Big Sync improves transfers, saving riders up to 20 minutes per trip** (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/bay-area-transits-latest-big-sync-improves-transfers-saving-riders-20-minutes-trip-0>): As part of the ongoing implementation of the Bay Area Transit Transformation Action Plan approved by MTC in 2021, Bay Area transit agencies are syncing schedules in a whole new way to make riding transit even faster.
- **MTC, Caltrans win OK to adjust Richmond-San Rafael Bridge operations** (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-caltrans-win-ok-adjust-richmond-san-rafael-bridge-operations>) The San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) yesterday approved an application submitted by MTC and Caltrans to change the hours of operation for the bicycle and pedestrian path on the Richmond-San Rafael

Bridge and to make permanent the peak-period third eastbound traffic lane on the bridge's lower deck.

- **[Golden Gate Ferry: 55 years and counting](#)**

(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/golden-gate-ferry-55-years-and-counting>): Over the weekend, Golden Gate Ferry celebrated 55 years of connecting Marin and San Francisco. On Saturday, August 15, 1970, ferry service launched between Sausalito and San Francisco with the M.V. (Motor Vessel) Golden Gate. The vessel remained in service until March 26, 2004, after carrying 21 million riders on 432,000 roundtrips.

- **[SolTrans extends Youth Ride Free Program for two more years](#)**

(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/soltrans-extends-youth-ride-free-program-two-more-years>): The Solano County Transit (SolTrans) Board of Directors approved the extension of the Youth Ride Free Pilot Program for an additional two years, allowing youth aged 18 and under to continue riding all SolTrans Local and Solano Express routes for free through June 2027.

- **[Use the “Dutch Reach” to keep fellow road users safe](#)**

(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/use-dutch-reach-keep-fellow-road-users-safe>)

Remember: If you have parked your car at a curb on the right side of the street, reach for your door handle with your right hand.

Have a Question? Ask a Librarian

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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>)