



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
October 27, 2021

### **Retirements**

**Benjamin Espinosa** – Benjamin started with MTC in November 2000 as an Assistant/Planner Analyst. His last day with MTC is October 29, 2021 as an Associate Planner/Analyst in the Regional Planning Program section.

### **New Appointments**

**Han Chen**– Han started with MTC on October 18<sup>th</sup> as Treasury Manager in the Treasury and Revenue 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>

### **Plan Bay Area 2050**

Last Thursday night, the Commission- along with the ABAG Executive Board- approved Plan Bay Area 2050, a vision for the Bay Area's future. The vote was unanimous by both bodies, reaffirming the substantial amount of technical work and public engagement that went into the Plan's development. We will now be shifting our emphasis toward implementation of the 35 strategies. Specifically regarding public transit, the Plan emphasizes a safer, more affordable and more seamless transit system, incorporating the action plan set into place by the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force. Advancing Blue Ribbon Action Plan recommendations will be the focus of the October 27-28 Commission workshop.

### **Technical Assistance Web Portal Launch**

As one example of the support tools that are critical to the PBA implementation plan and intersecting initiatives such as the Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA), the Regional Housing Technical Assistance program has released a Housing Element Site Selection tool. A webinar was held on the new Housing Element Site Selection tool, which was developed in house to assist jurisdictions with determining which sites meet state requirements for zoning. Twenty-Five (25) jurisdictions have begun working with a consultant to create a Housing Element update public engagement tool that they can host on their individual websites. This tool is currently only available to planning department staff through licensing agreements.

There are a variety of upcoming work groups, some of which are currently meeting, on housing related issues: "Making Middle Housing Work" and "Wildfires – How to Preserve and Protect Housing".

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Visit the Technical Assistance Portal for more information on upcoming activities and information [abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance](http://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance)

**FTA Releases Formal Intention to Expedite Funding for BART Phase II Project**

On October 25, 2021, the Federal Transit Administration announced a Letter of Intent (LOI) for the VTA's BART Silicon Valley Phase II Project, announcing the project was formally selected for funding through the Expedited Project Delivery (EPD) Pilot Program. The project funding plan includes 25% of the costs to be funded through the EPD Program and the remaining 75% from state and local sources.

Through this LOI, FTA intends to obligate up to \$2.287 billion or 25 percent of the final project cost, whichever is less. The LOI will be in effect for two years, and during which VTA will continue to advance design, receive actual contractor bids, identify and mitigate or eliminate perceived risks, finalize an overall cost estimate, and solidify the funding plan to ultimately achieve a Full Funding Grant Agreement.


The VTA press release can be found in the link below:

<https://www.vta.org/blog/fta-releases-formal-intention-expedite-funding-bart-phase-ii-project>

**Items to Note**

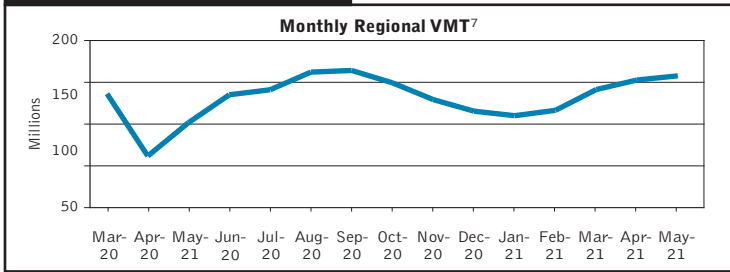
**State Discussions Resuming on General Fund Support for Transportation**

This month, the general managers of the large transit operators and I were invited to meet with Assemblymember Phil Ting and Senator Nancy Skinner, Chairs of the Assembly and Senate Budget Committees, respectively, regarding the region's transit priorities. Chairs Ting and Skinner are eager to advocate for the Bay Area's priorities when negotiations resume over funding for high-speed rail and potential General Fund support of public transit and other transportation needs. We delivered a unified message to invest in core transit needs by growing the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program and considering regional targets and some changes to eligibility to help projects such as electric vehicle charging facilities and storage facilities qualify. While the size of the General Fund surplus is still unknown, a recent Legislative Analyst's office report available at [this link](#) estimates it to be in the range of \$8 billion - \$30 billion, of which about 40 percent would be considered true "surplus." We will continue to keep the Commission apprised through the Legislation Committee on status of this fluid situation entering the next year.

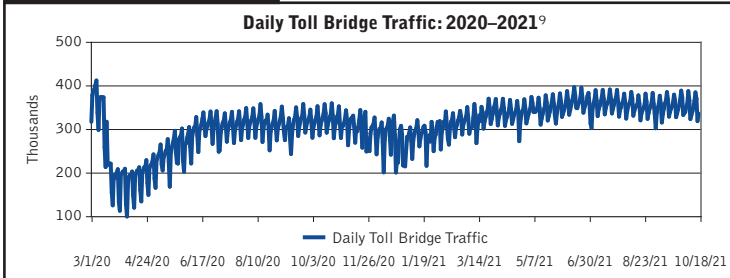


Therese W. McMillan

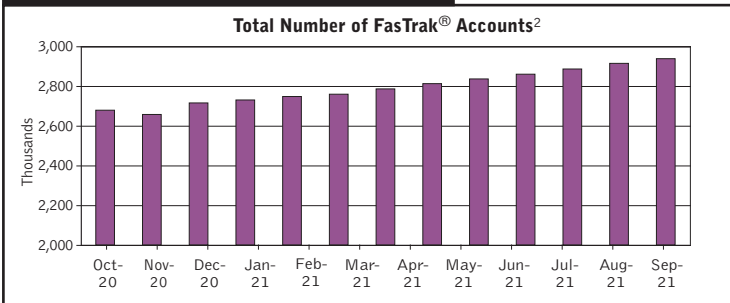
## VMT in COVID-19 Pandemic



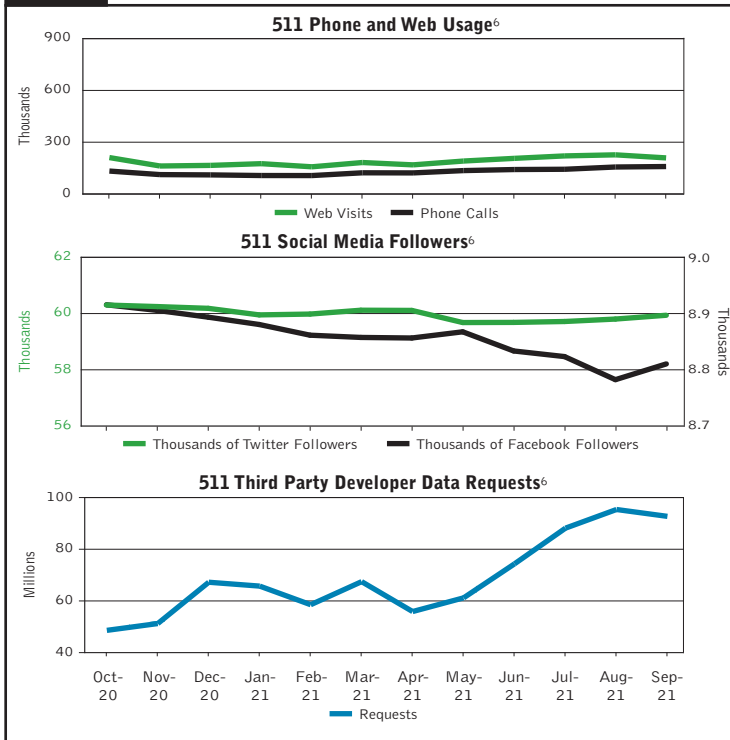
## Toll Bridge Crossings



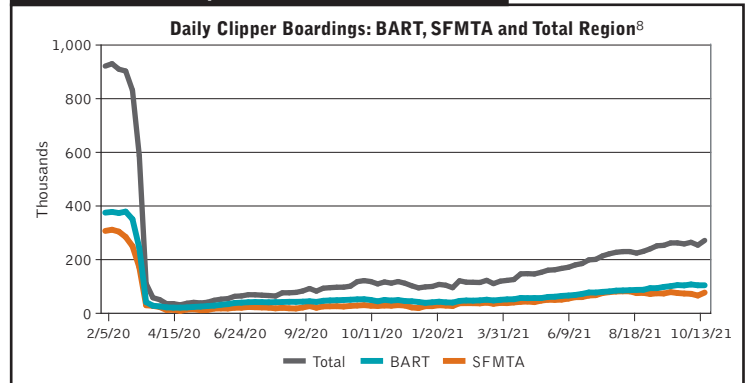
## FasTrak® Electronic Toll Collection<sup>1</sup>



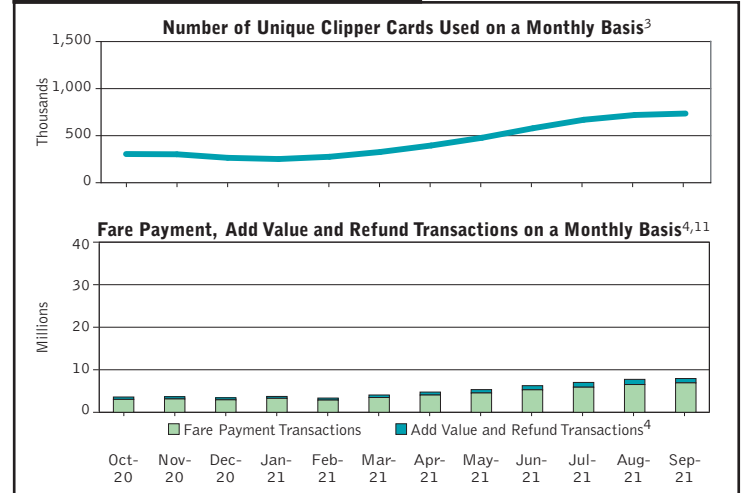
## 511



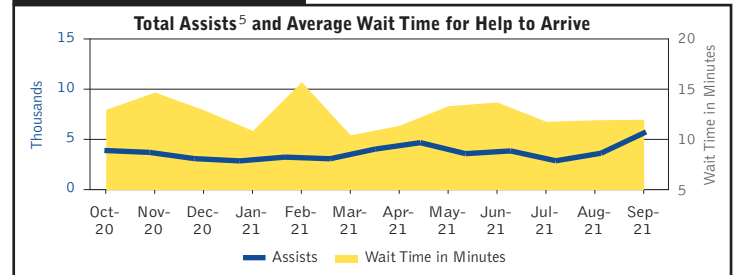
## Transit Ridership in COVID-19 Pandemic



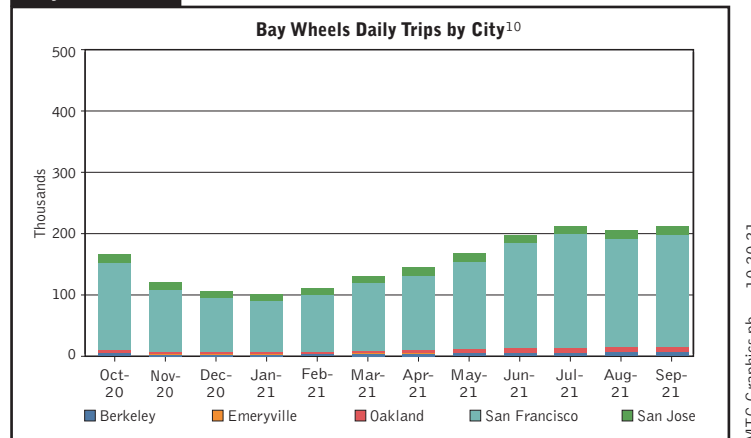
## Clipper® Fare Payment System



## 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 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.