



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ABAG Executive Board Meeting

April 23, 2020

MTC PERSONNEL CHANGES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (APRIL 1 – APRIL 30, 2020)

Retirements

N/A

Departures

N/A

Promotions & New Assignments

Brandon Crain-Brandon transitioned from his current position as an Executive Assistant II to an Executive Assistant III in the Executive Office on April 20, 2020.

Matt Maloney-Matt transitioned from his current position as an Interim Section Director to Section Director in the Regional Planning Program section on April 20, 2020.

Theresa Romell-Theresa transitioned from her current position as an Assistant Director to Section Director in the Programming & Allocations section on April 20, 2020.

New Appointments

Leslie Lara-Enríquez– Leslie started with MTC on April 20, 2020 as a Principal Public Information Officer in the Legislation & Public Affairs section.

KEY REPORTS

COVID-19 Activity Status

As the Bay Area has moved into its sixth week of shelter in place— and as we are meeting collectively in our first remote session for the ABAG Executive Board—I review below how the crisis is impacting our agency, and increasingly the policy environment that shapes our work.

Internal Focus:

From the perspective of the agency and our staff, I am proud of the talent, commitment and creativity the team has brought forward to support you and our public. Our IT personnel in particular deserves kudos for constantly adjusting and serving the needs of a remote work environment— the relatively smooth transition has been possible with the often-unseen heroic

efforts of that group. As a truly regional service network attached to the business of 375 Beale Street, Nick Roethel and his staff support not only internal staff meetings, but a range of MTC, ABAG and Air District board meetings involving our public. Enormous thanks to them.

We are mindful and vigilant regarding public health orders that impact the current shelter in place status, and eventually the transition out of it. I fully expect that transition to be a phased one, and paramount will be maintaining a safe environment for our staff, our board, and anyone doing business with us at our headquarters. We will keep you posted of those efforts should they commence in advance of the next Executive Board meeting.

The External View:

Yesterday, the MTC took up a significant effort that the staff led to distribute the critical federal CARE Act funding made available as emergency assistance to our transit operators. This represents an extraordinary consensus among our transit partners across the region on what an initial distribution of funding should entail in response to the immediate crisis. It also sets the foundation for an equally demanding, forthcoming decision to address the recovery stage under COVID-19's deep, still evolving drag on the economy and our communities. The one thing we know is that things will not be the same after this crisis. While the transportation funding portfolio is specific to the Commission's authority, the overall impact of public transportation's status and sustainability into the future has far reaching import for the region. For MTC and ABAG as regional public agencies, we are compelled to face the question of what will be the "New Normal"— and what can/should/must we do to try and shape the post-crisis future.

This is a question too global and pervasive for MTC and ABAG to address alone. But I offer four broad areas our agencies need to explore and address, in ways not yet fully understood. This is not an all-inclusive list, but ones we certainly will be building upon.

- How we travel
Our transportation system is experiencing seismic shifts in usage— transit systems, bridges, highways and roads. How will those systems rebound? Will people want to use them in the same way? How can people pay for their use? Will the experience of telecommuting on an unprecedented scale forever shift the need and desire to travel at all?
- Where we live
Housing availability and affordability were regional crises before the pandemic. How will those manifest within an economy shaken by unemployment, that increases pressure on those least able to be or remain housed? Will that same depressed economy have an upside wrangling construction costs to a manageable level allowing housing production to gain footing and accelerate?
- How we contribute
How will job sectors react in the face of national, state and local market forces— and subject to federal, state and local interventions still unfolding? Will jobs return to the same level— and critically in the same locations within the Bay Area? Will

“jobs/housing” relationships be fundamentally changed— and thus impact the transportation system that links them?

- Who we are

This public health crisis at its core attacks people— and everything redounds from that fact. And we are realizing that this crisis impacts segments of our community far more deeply than others. Simply said, those vulnerable before are even more so in the face of COVID-19. Inequities— economic, racial, societal— are at once highlighted and undeniably exacerbated under the thumb of the virus. And if people were not on equal footing before the crisis, and are dragged even further down as it unfolds, it only stands to reason efforts to recover from the crisis will be similarly disparate absent early and intentional actions to own the disparities and redress them in the climb upward.

There are many policies, programs and projects where answering these questions become crucial. Staff will be identifying these intersections, and bringing them forward in the ensuing weeks and months. Importantly, you will be addressing today important issues related to next steps for AB 1487 implementation, including further direction related to a potential housing ballot initiative in November 2020. As well, the Governance Committee advanced to the MTC Commission on (4/22/2020) and ABAG Executive Board today (4/23/2020) a proposal to consolidate committees of each agency, in order to more deeply share ownership of core regional issues. The questions above unquestionably fall under that charge.

Legislative Update

Attached to this ED report is a detailed legislative report on activities related to COVID-19 response and recovery in Washington DC and Sacramento, affecting a number of sectors MTC and ABAG directly or indirectly support. Please read and share this information, acknowledging that this landscape is changing quickly.

Other News

The Bay Area Metro Center, managed by Cushman & Wakefield and owned by the Bay Area Headquarters Authority was awarded a notable honor of being officially recognized for the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) 360 accreditation. The BOMA 360 Performance Program sets the standard worldwide for operational best practices in the commercial real estate industry. The program benchmarks building performance in six key areas: operations and management; security and safety; training and education; energy; environment and sustainability; and tenant relations. By earning the prestigious BOMA 360 label, the 375 Beale Street headquarters is now listed amongst the top performing buildings across all areas of operations and management.



Therese W. McMillan