

Date: January 26, 2022  
W.I.: 1111  
Referred by: Commission

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 4503

Resolution of Appreciation for California Transportation Commission member Bob Alvarado upon his retirement from that body after more than 15 years of service.

Date: January 26, 2022  
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RE: Resolution of Appreciation for Bob Alvarado

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
Resolution No. 4503

WHEREAS, Bob Alvarado is departing from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) after more than 15 years of dedicated service, having been appointed to that body by then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006 and subsequently reappointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger in 2010, and by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2014 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, Bob's efficient, effective and ebullient service in CTC leadership included his current position as Vice Chair as well as presiding as Commission Chair from March 2009 through February 2010 and again from March 2016 through February 2018; and

WHEREAS, Bob's commitment to public service and his understanding of the link between transportation and housing also led him to also serve as a member of the Committee to House the Bay Area (CASA), organized by the Metropolitan Transportation Committee and Association of Bay Area Governments to convene in 2017 and 2018 a series of discussions among government officials, developers, major employers, labor interests, housing policy experts, social equity advocates and nonprofit housing providers to identify a comprehensive set of solutions to ease the Bay Area's longstanding housing affordability crisis; and

WHEREAS, in a vivid illustration of his interest in resolving disputes through mutually agreeable outcomes, Bob sometimes would invite parties involved in a disagreement that had come before the CTC to step outside the meeting and work it out themselves before reporting back to the Commission later in the meeting; and

WHEREAS, in an equally vivid demonstration of his respect for social conventions, Bob once arranged for a mariachi band to entertain attendees at a CTC meeting held at the Sacramento Library; and

WHEREAS, Bob consistently has worked hard to secure new sources of revenue for California's transportation network and to seize opportunities such as the occasional state budget surplus to bolster existing CTC funding programs; and

WHEREAS, during his time on the Commission, Bob allocated funds from Proposition 1B, which established programs such as the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account, the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund and the State Local Partnership Program; and also guided the allocation of funds from the State Transportation Improvement Program, the Traffic Congestion Relief Program, and the Transportation Enhancement and Active Transportation programs, as well as from the state Cape and Trade program and the landmark 2017 Senate Bill 1 transportation funding package; and

WHEREAS, while Bob became well known for wearing colorful Hawaiian shirts to CTC meetings, he also demonstrated an abiding commitment to investment in preventive maintenance by using a buttoned napkin as a bib during mealtimes in order to keep his Aloha apparel in a state of good repair; and

WHEREAS, Bob's steady and experienced hand helped California's transportation systems navigate the upheavals caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21, just as years earlier he helped the state weather downturns in funding, signing off on several "zero" State Transportation Improvement Programs including adoption of the 2016 negative STIP, which was precipitated by a drop in gasoline prices; and

WHEREAS, the long list of major Bay Area transportation projects delivered during Bob's time on the Commission includes the new East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, the new Benicia-Martinez Bridge, the Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore, the Devil's Slide Tunnel in San Mateo County, the e-BART extension in the Highway 4 median from Pittsburg/Bay Point to Railroad Avenue and Antioch, traditional BART extensions from Fremont to Warm Springs and then on to Milpitas and Berryessa, the widening of State Route 12 through

Jameson Canyon in Napa and Solano counties, substantial completion of the U.S. 101 widening projects in the Marin-Sonoma Narrows, and a burgeoning network of Express Lanes on Bay Area freeways; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that while the staff and commissioners of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission are disappointed by the impending absence from the CTC of Bob's constructive partnership, his willingness to ask tough or uncomfortable questions, and his consistent advocacy for Bay Area transportation investments, they nonetheless congratulate Bob on his well-deserved retirement; thank him for his years of service to the CTC and to the people of the Golden State; express hope that he will continue to host the festive annual crab feeds at which CTC staff get the chance to break bread with Northern California Carpenters and other members of the Bay Area labor community; and wish many safe and satisfying travels as well as abundant other adventures for him and his family.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Alfredo Pedroza, Chair

The above resolution was approved by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission held in San Francisco, California, on January 26, 2022.