

From: Adina Levin
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 4:39 PM
To: MTC-ABAG Info <info@bayareametro.gov>
Cc: Randi Kinman
Subject: Item 8 - Policy Advisory Council Chair's Report

External Email

Honorable Commissioners,

I am sending this note at the request of Chair Kinman in support of the Policy Advisory Council Chair's report, regarding the Network Management Business Case study. I serve on the advisory body for the study and chair the Transformation Action Plan subcommittee of the Policy Advisory Council.

Network Management - Whether, not How

As has been reported to the Commission, the Network Management Business Case Study is undergoing a change in methodology to provide additional quantitative analysis.

At the most recent Network Management Business Case Advisory Group meeting, the presentation and discussion bolstered a concern that the updated methodology may not be not just a technical change - it is reopening the fundamental question about whether institutional reforms might be needed to advance a more seamless system.

This is taking a step back from the consensus of the Blue Ribbon Task Force that institutional changes are needed - the current fragmented system is cumbersome to manage and very difficult for members of the public to navigate.

It seems that the current study - rather than making a recommendation about how to change - may only make a recommendation about whether change is needed. Then, it was reported that an additional 5-6 months would be needed to assess what sort of change.

Also, it seems as if the process may be shrinking its ambition to incremental changes, rather than keeping an ambition to move forward to a much more integrated and rider-friendly system.

In addition, the process of the Network Management Business Case Study seemed to be focusing on soliciting feedback from agencies and institutional staff, and not including transit riders and institutional customers such as employers and cities.

A key function of transit governance is being accountable to customers and publics - but based on the reported process, accountability to the public seems to be de-emphasized, even though accountability to customers is a major drawback of the current system.

The status quo isn't good enough - we need to be moving toward a more rider-friendly system that is accountable to riders.

Thank you for your consideration,
- Adina
Adina Levin
Policy Advisory Council Member