



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
November 16, 2022

### New Appointments

**Sasha Harris-Lovett**– Sasha started with MTC on November 14<sup>th</sup> as the Lead Environmental Scientist in the Estuary Partnership section.

**John Myers**– John will start with MTC on November 28<sup>th</sup> as an Associate General Counsel in the Office of General Counsel.

### Key Updates

#### **Transportation and Emergency Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Assembly Hearing**

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, Director McMillan provided an overview of MTC's role in disaster preparedness and recovery of the transportation network, its supportive role in response coordination, and its transportation resilience efforts to integrate hazard mitigation and climate adaptation strategies into long-range planning. Attendees, including the Committee's Chair, Assemblywoman Lori Wilson as well as Assemblywoman Mia Bonta, provided positive feedback on the presentation and helpful responses from Director McMillan and MTC's emergency response lead, Stephen Terrin.

#### **Express Lanes Update**

Construction of the Express Lanes from Whipple Avenue in Redwood City to I-380 in South San Francisco is nearly complete, and testing of the tolling equipment has begun. In October, the lane opened to carpools with 3 or more people while testing continues. BATA is a significant funding contributor to this project, and BAIFA is installing and will operate express lanes tolling, which is projected to start in early 2023.

#### **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Update**

In October, MTC and Caltrans jointly submitted a **grant application to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Reconnecting Communities Pilot** seeking \$21M toward construction of the West Oakland Link. This project, for which BATA is currently finalizing the environmental phase, would restore access to the West Oakland community that has long been isolated by active railroad lines, the Port of Oakland and commuter truck traffic headed to nearby interstate highways by providing a safe, direct and seamless bicycle and pedestrian connection from West Oakland to the existing Bay Bridge multi-use pathway, jobs at the Port of Oakland, and eventually to San Francisco.

#### **Regional Early Action Planning Grant Update**

This month, MTC staff will request approval to apply for nearly \$103 million in formula-based state funding through **Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021 ([REAP 2.0 program](#))**. These funds will support a variety of regional programs that advance infill development, reduce VMT, and affirmatively further fair housing. The staff recommendation includes funding for Transit Transformation Action Plan Implementation (\$31.6 million), a Priority Sites Pilot (\$28

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million), a Housing Preservation Pilot (\$15 million), an extension of the Regional Housing Technical Assistance Program (\$15 million), and Community Choice Initiatives (\$8 million).

**Clipper® BayPass Program**

MTC has expanded eligibility to the program to study the impact of a single pass that will provide up to 50,000 Bay Area residents free access to nearly all bus, rail and ferry services in the nine-county region. Residents of 12 affordable housing communities managed by MidPen Housing in Alameda, San Mateo and Santa Clara counties will now be eligible for the program.

**Items to Note**

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, MTC and ABAG held a [Metro Talks: Access for All webinar](#). Participants, including MTC Commissioner Dorene Giacopini, discussed why equity requires that public agencies design for people who face the biggest barriers to access and why that work makes for a better system for everyone.

MTC-ABAG staff are currently tracking and analyzing the incoming **midterm election results** and will report out on measures of interest once the results are in. On November 15 from 2-3:30 pm, MTC-ABAG hosted a [New State Housing Laws webinar](#) with attorneys from Goldfarb & Lipman LLP to discuss the most significant changes in legislation regarding California's housing laws and what it means for jurisdictions.



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Therese W. McMillan