

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

January 11, 2023

Agenda Item 11

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – January 2023

Staff Liaison Report – January 2022

Upcoming Meetings + Items:

- Friday, January 27, 2023 Equity and Access Subcommittee
 - Clipper Mobile Card Fee (David Weir)
- Wednesday, February 8, 2023 Policy Advisory Council
 - PBA Priority Conservation Area (PCA) planning framework (Chirag Rabari)
 - Annual Work Plan Development
- Friday, February 24, 2023 Equity and Access Subcommittee
 - Equity Inventory Report (Judis Santos)

Legislative Updates:

Nothing to report this month.

Executive Director's Report:

The following items are excerpts from the December 21, 2022, Executive Director's Report to the Commission. To read this and past reports in their entirety, check the agenda from a given Commission meeting (search for past meetings on [MTCs Legistar webpage](#)).

PBA2050 Update

The **California Air Resource Board (CARB)** officially has approved Plan Bay Area 2050, 13 months after its adoption by MTC and ABAG. CARB's approval marks the final approval milestone for a plan we kicked off internally back in 2017. I just wanted to use this opportunity to acknowledge staff for their hard work in this multi-year planning effort.

BART to Silicon Valley Phase II update

Earlier this month, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) **approved VTA's request that the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Silicon Valley Phase II project** (Project) be allowed to re-enter the New Starts Project Development phase of the Capital Investment Grants (CIG) program superseding its participation in the Expedited Project Delivery (EPD) Pilot Program. Due to an extension of the project timeline, inflation, and refinement of project engineering, the total cost of the project has risen to an estimated \$9.3 billion. FTA's approval for the project to move into New Starts means that the federal Capital Investment Grant contribution toward the project can

increase from approximately \$2 billion to up to 50% of the total project cost. As one of the priority projects in MTC's Major Project Advancement Policy (MAP) that is seeking near term funding, this influx of federal funding for BART to Silicon Valley Phase 2 will help to allow this project and others in the MAP to close funding gaps and move toward completion.

Network Management Update

The latest meeting of the **Network Management Advisory Group** was held on Dec. 12. The Commission will be briefed and asked for input in the coming months on the Network Management Business Case recommendations at an MTC Executive Committee meeting on Friday, Jan. 13, and at the full Commission meeting on Jan. 25.

Vision Zero Update

In the area of safety, Funding Policy and Programs staff recently unveiled **the Bay Area Vision Zero System (BAYVIZ) tool** for local jurisdictions looking to identify traffic safety challenges, understand possible solutions, develop vision zero plans, and apply for safety funding. The tool provides local jurisdictions with customizable traffic safety data dashboards and key analytics offering insights into improving traffic safety for their communities. This tool was created in partnership with local agencies and is part of MTC's Regional Vision Zero program.

Call for Projects (PDA and PPA)

MTC has released a **Call for Projects for Priority Development Area (PDA) and Priority Production Area (PPA) Planning Grants and Technical Assistance**. Now through Feb. 23, 2023, MTC will be accepting applications for a total of \$17 million in available funding for planning and technical assistance efforts for PDAs and PPAs. Visit the [PDA Grant webpage](#) or [PPA Grant webpage](#) for more information and to start an application.

Items to Note

- Public engagement and planning staff hosted [two webinars in November on the Future of Freeways](#). Attendance was robust, with nearly 800 members of the public participating in the webinars and offering feedback.
- Congratulations to **the Bay Area Toll Authority team**, along with Caltrans and Kimley-Horn, for winning the American Council of Engineering Companies Honor Award for the Mainline Metering Light System Upgrade on the San Francisco – Oakland Bay Bridge.

- California High-Speed Rail Authority's Northern California Regional Director Boris Lipkin interviewed Therese McMillan to discuss MTC's efforts to develop a long-range vision for the Bay Area that includes high-speed rail. You can [view the interview on YouTube](#).
- The [annual Bay Bridge holiday wreath](#) has been placed over the tunnel through Yerba Buena Island.

News Headlines from [The Bay Link Blog](#):

[Disability advocate Hale Zukas passes](#): Hale Zukas, a longtime Berkeley resident, untiring advocate for disabled people, founder of the World Institute on Disabilities, co-founder of the [Center for Independent Living\(link is external\)](#), and a winner of MTC's Doris W. Kahn Accessible Transportation Award, died Nov. 30 at the age of 79.

[MTC's Freeway Service Patrol comes to the rescue of Bay Area drivers](#): Have you ever been driving on a Bay Area freeway and run out of gas before getting to a nearby station? Or maybe your vehicle broke down or you got a flat tire? More often than not, the Bay Area Freeway Service Patrol will be there to help. The Freeway Service Patrol is a fleet of roving tow trucks with drivers looking for collisions and clearing dangerous materials from the road to make Bay Area freeways safer and run more smoothly.

[Video: Conversation with MTC's Therese McMillan](#): Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Executive Director Therese McMillan discusses her career and contributions to regional transportation planning in the Bay Area with California High-Speed Rail Authority Northern California Regional Director Boris Lipkin. In September, McMillan, also Executive Director of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), announced she will retire from both positions on January 31, 2023.

[Golden Gate Bridge District gets \\$400 million to complete seismic retrofit](#): The grant — announced last week — is provided through the FHWA's Bridge Investment Program, which received \$12.5 billion in funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.

State air regulators greenlight Plan Bay Area 2050: Three years after the state's review process first began, the [California Air Resources Board](#) (CARB) this month granted final approval for [Plan Bay Area 2050](#), the long-range vision for the next 30 years for transportation, housing, the economy and the environment in the Bay Area.

Further News Updates:

The [Bay Link blog](#) offers a more in-depth look at these topics, often in the context of the work that the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and MTC are doing, along with other stories of interest to Bay Area residents and professionals. The Bay Link Blog E-Newsletter, with the top Bay Link features of the week, is distributed every Tuesday. You can find more newsletters to subscribe to at this [link](#).

Have a Question? Ask a Librarian

If you need assistance locating information or are having difficulty navigating the MTC-ABAG websites, please feel free to contact the MTC-ABAG head librarian. Reference assistance is available by telephone (415-778-5236), or email library@bayareametro.gov Information can also be found on the [MTC-ABAG library webpage](#).

For MTC and Plan Bay Area glossaries:

- [Glossary of Transportation Planning Acronyms & Terms](#)
- [Plan Bay Area Glossary](#)