



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
January 25, 2023

### Presentation of the Equity Assessment + Roadmap (EA+R) (Nalungo Conley, CoS/Director of Administration and Human Development)

In July 2022, Director McMillan created the Access(ibility), Culture, and Racial Equity Office. The goal of this new section is to assist, track, and resource the agency's equity activities across all departments. In recognizing the need to lift up and bring forward the multitude of equity focused work that staff is engaging in and looking at it through the lens of the Equity Platform, it is the objective of the EA+R project to show the areas where we can better collaborate and leverage our resources to bring about more effective and equitable outcomes within the region. **Attachment A** gives a brief overview of the Equity Platform and the four pillars, in addition to showing the quantitative analysis of where our equity activities fall with the Equity Platform as the overlay. We also show the cross-cutting themes that we've identified when reviewing and assessing the activities provided by our project managers. This overview of equity work at the agency will be used to assist staff in furthering their goals of working with an equity lens and continuing to sow the seeds of progress for a more Just, Fair, Diverse, and Equitable region.

MTC and ABAG provide more detail and resources at:  
<https://mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/what-mtc/equity-platform>  
<https://abag.ca.gov/about-abag/abag-mtc-equity-platform>

### Key Updates

- BATA in late December announced **two new bridge toll assistance programs** that will benefit customers from lower-income households as well as eligible military veterans, beginning in 2023. One program is a Low-Income COVID Waiver program that allows qualified motorists to request a waiver of outstanding bridge toll violation penalties, and the other grants eligible veterans of the U.S. armed forces free tolls on California toll bridges.
- U.S. Congress's **late December omnibus spending bill** included significant funding for Caltrain, BART and VTA Express Lanes, which are some of our first awards consistent with our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grant strategy and the Major Project Advancement Policy (MAP).
- The **Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District was awarded a \$400 million grant** from the Federal Highway Administration to complete the final phase of the span's seismic retrofit. The grant — announced in late Dec. — 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.
- **Clipper is now at 4 million "active cards,"** which refers to cards that have been used at least once in the last 12 months. In addition, the percent of trips on mobile cards in November and December was at about 20 percent.
- On January 6<sup>th</sup>, the Bay Area Metro Center hosted an **FTA roundtable listening session** led by Deputy Administrator Veronica Vanterpool in coordination with local transit leaders and

**Executive Director's Report**  
**January 25, 2023**

Bay Area Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AA & NHPI) community organizations. The session was part of the USDOT's work to advance equity and combat the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes and focused on the experiences of riders of Asian descent on transit systems.

**Items to note:**

- Congratulations to Deputy Executive Director of Operations Andy Fremier who will be serving as **International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) President** in 2023. The IBTTA is a worldwide association for the owners and operators of toll facilities and the businesses that serve them. During his one-year term, Fremier will lead the IBTTA Board of Directors.
- On January 7, 2023 at the Transportation Research Board (TRB), Therese McMillan was awarded the Council of University Transportation Center's (CUTC) Lifetime Achievement Award for Transportation Professional and Public Service. She provided taped acceptance remarks and thanks, highlighting the importance of research in transportation especially its social impacts on human advancement, or denied opportunity. Dr. Karen Philbrick, Director of the Mineta Transportation Institute accepted the award on Therese's behalf.
- Therese McMillan was a guest on **KQED's Forum** radio program on January 9, 2023, discussing the ever-relevant topic: Bay Area Transit Agencies Confront Existential Crisis.



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Therese W. McMillan