

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee**

February 10, 2023

Agenda Item 3a

2023 State Legislative Session Update

Subject:

Overview of the legislative landscape in Sacramento as it relates to the MTC/ABAG 2023 Advocacy Program and an update on key committee leadership changes.

Summary:

Transportation and Housing Legislative Landscape

The California Legislature's 2023-24 legislative session has commenced. Homelessness and housing continue to be high-priority issues for legislators across the state, with nearly three dozen bills already introduced on these topics. Many more are expected before the February 17, 2023 bill introduction deadline. To date, housing bills appear primarily focused on addressing the homelessness crisis, including through increasing housing availability for California's unhoused populations and those at risk of becoming homeless. For example, Senate Bill (SB) 37 (Caballero) aims to authorize meaningful tenancy reform to ensure aging adults can remain housed and SB 20 (Rubio) would authorize regional housing trusts to fund housing to assist the homeless population and low-income households. Notable production-focused housing bills include SB 4 (Wiener), which aims to streamline approvals for religious institutions, colleges and non-profits seeking to build affordable housing on their land, California Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 1 (Aguiar-Curry) related to local affordable housing bonds (see Agenda Item 3b) and Assembly Bill (AB) 84 (Ward) related to property tax welfare exemptions, an important tool the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) has used to deliver housing preservation deals (see Agenda Item 3c).

Transportation also continues to be a topic of interest, with climate change and equity themes appearing in many high-profile bills and legislative proposals. On January 18, 2023, Senator Wiener was joined by a dozen state legislators, including nine Bay Area members, in sending a letter to Senate and Assembly leadership urging support for transit in the 2023 state budget. Specifically, the legislators call on the state to "provide sorely needed transit operations funding as part of next fiscal year's budget," highlighting that failure to do so "would lead to fewer mobility options for Californians, increased driving, congestion, and greenhouse gas emissions, undermining our shared equity, access, mobility and climate goals." The letter also supports

maintaining in full the transit, active transportation, and climate adaptation funding commitments from the 2022 transportation package (see Attachment A). MTC also co-led a broad coalition letter to the budget committee chairs, signed by a wide array of stakeholders including Bay Area transportation agencies, local and statewide environmental and equity-focused organizations, the business associations and labor organizations (see Attachment B).

Assembly Transportation Committee Chair Laura Friedman has introduced two intent bills (AB 6 and AB 7) focused on ensuring state and local transportation spending decisions advance the state's climate goals. MTC has been working with committee staff to provide technical assistance.

Bay Area Representation on Key Committees

Committee membership for the 2023-24 legislative session was finalized this week. The Bay Area delegation continues to have strong representation on MTC/ABAG committees of interest, including those with jurisdiction over state spending, transportation, housing, and land use.

Encouragingly, Bay Area members will continue to lead on state budget negotiations, with Senator Nancy Skinner and Assemblymember Phil Ting retaining their respective positions as Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees. Regarding transportation, both Senate and Assembly Transportation Committees will retain their Southern California chairs. Though the Bay Area lost one member in both committees, Bay Area representation on each committee still meets or exceeds the region's population share, with roughly 30 percent of Senate Transportation Committee members from Bay Area districts and 20 percent of Assembly Transportation Committee members from Bay Area districts.

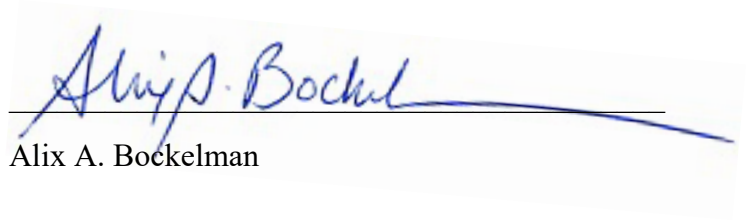
Bay Area members will continue to lead the housing policy committees, with Senator Wiener chairing the Senate Housing Committee and Assemblymember Wicks leading the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee. Similarly, Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry will retain her position as chair of the Assembly Local Government Committee. The Senate Governance and Finance Committee – formerly chaired by Senator McGuire of the Bay Area – will newly be led by Senator Anna Caballero of the Central Valley, though Bay Area legislators comprise roughly 40 percent of the committee membership. Notably, newly elected Assemblymember Damon Connolly has been appointed Vice Chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies (Senator Henry Stern of Los Angeles serves as Chair).

Recommendation:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: State Legislators Transit Operations Support Letter
- Attachment B: Transit funding coalition letter



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