

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Policy Advisory Council**

**March 8, 2023**

**Agenda Item 9**

**Staff Liaison Report**

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**Subject:**

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

**Issues:**

None identified.

**Recommendations:**

Information

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – March 2023

## Staff Liaison Report – March 2022

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### Follow up from February 8, 2023 Policy Advisory Council Meeting

- Presented Daveed Mandell recommended that Council Members listen to the following broadcast from Accessible Avenue, “[Untangling Transit.](#)”

### Executive Director’s Report:

The following items are excerpts from the February 2023, 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](#)).

### Key Updates:

- **Legal challenges to Senate Bill 595 and RM 3** filed in 2018 were dismissed by the California Supreme Court on January 25, 2023. BATA is awaiting final procedural orders from the state Court of Appeal, which should arrive shortly. We anticipate that the Authority will then be able to unlock the funds held in escrow and put them to work on long-needed projects to improve mobility and create new jobs across the Bay Area.
- The California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) in late January awarded more than \$2.5 billion in grants through the state’s **Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP)**. MTC’s endorsement for the awards focused on major transit capital projects that are leveraging federal funds and are either ongoing or nearing construction, a criterion that was incorporated into last year’s state budget largely as result of advocacy led by MTC and partner transit agencies. In sum, the Bay Area secured 85 percent of funds available for projects outside Southern California, including \$375M for BART Silicon Valley (Phase 2), \$367M for Caltrain electrification, and \$250M for BART Transbay Core Capacity.
- **HCD recently awarded over \$192 million** to Bay Area cities and counties for affordable housing development as part of their Super NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability). Developers had applied for these funds in July 2022.

- Earlier in February, MTC, BCDC and Caltrans District 4 entered into a Partnership Agreement with CalSTA, the California Natural Resources Agency, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to develop and implement both near- and long-term projects to improve the **Highway 37 corridor linking U.S. 101 in Novato with Interstate 80 in Vallejo**. This agreement puts transportation improvements and environmental health on the same page.
- This winter, MTC released four Calls for Projects to provide **grants that support implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050**'s climate, housing, transportation, and economy goals. The specific grant programs – including links to the guidelines, virtual workshops, and application portals – are:
  - Priority Development Area (PDA) Planning Grants (applications due 2/23/23)
  - Priority Production Area (PPA) Pilot Program (applications due 2/23/23)
  - Parking Management Planning Grants (applications due 3/31/23)
  - Mobility Hub Grants (capital and planning) (applications due 3/31/23)

These Calls for Projects are part of \$73 million in funding approved by MTC as part of the OBAG 3 program to implement Plan Bay Area 2050's Growth Framework and Climate Initiatives.

**Items to Note:**

- BAHFA's **Affordable Housing Pipeline report and presentation** to the Joint Housing Committees got great press: KQED, NBC Bay Area, SFGate, the SF Business Times and the Solano County Daily Republic all covered the region's existing affordable housing pipeline and the potential for a 2024 housing bond.
- Earlier this month, the Bay Area legislative caucus invited MTC Director of Legislation and Public Affairs Rebecca Long, along with senior leaders of five transit operators (AC Transit, BART, Caltrain, Muni & VTA) to present on the **financial challenges facing the region's transit agencies**. Bay Area legislators urged caution and pragmatism given the state's budget deficits; staff are taking these words of caution into consideration as we formulate our multi-year budget request.

- **Trades Orientation Program (TOP) applications opening soon.** The Santa Clara County Trades Orientation Program (TOP) is opening application sessions for its 2023 cohorts soon. Sign up here: [www.wpusa.org/top](http://www.wpusa.org/top). Please help spread the word to potential applicants to this free, intensive career exploration program for the cutting-edge Silicon Valley construction industry. (Flyer attached at bottom of Staff report, originally from Council Chair Randi Kinman)

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

**[MTC Names Andrew Fremier New Executive Director](#):** The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) today named Andrew B. Fremier as its new Executive Director. This position also serves as the top executive for the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). Mr. Fremier, who has served since 2005 as an MTC deputy executive director, succeeds Therese W. McMillan, who retired Feb. 1 after four years as Executive Director and after a nearly four-decade career in public service.

**[MTC Invites Comments on Draft Public Participation Plan](#):** The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) today released its [Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan](#) for the San Francisco Bay Area, inviting public review and comment on a fundamental document guiding the agency's public engagement for an array of projects and programs. State and federal laws require metropolitan planning organizations like MTC to develop participation plans to inform the public of the various opportunities to get involved in the regional transportation planning and funding process.

Members of the public are encouraged to review the draft document and [provide feedback online](#). Feedback also can be emailed to [info@bayareametro.gov](mailto:info@bayareametro.gov), please include "PPP 2023" in the subject line, or mailed to MTC Public Information Office, 375 Beale Street, Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94105. The 45-day comment period closes at 5 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 2023.

**[Survey: San Francisco Bay Ferry wants to hear from you](#):** San Francisco Bay Ferry is exploring how best to serve Bay Area residents in the coming years [via a 5-minute survey\(link is external\)](#).

[San Francisco Bay Ferry\(link is external\)](#) is a ferry transit service of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA). Bay Area residents now have an opportunity to help WETA finalize a Ferry Service Vision for the year 2050 by prioritizing:

- Affordability
- Service frequency and speed
- Expansion
- Environmental sustainability

The survey is available in English, Spanish and Simplified Chinese. Survey participants will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$50 Clipper Card or a San Francisco Bay Ferry water bottle at the end of the survey.

**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](mailto: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](#)

### Trades Orientation Program (TOP) Flyer:



## Find out with the free Trades Orientation Program

Apply now to join the **Santa Clara County Trades Orientation Program**: a free, one-year program that prepares you to become a working apprentice in a high-demand trades career.

[w.pusa.org/top](http://w.pusa.org/top)

#### Eligibility Requirements:

- High school diploma or GED
- Able to pass drug testing
- Age 18+ (by start date)
- Able to do physical work
- Willing to study and learn new skills
- Documentation to work in the U.S.
- Valid CA drivers license (by start date)
- Reliable transportation to work

*Priority and additional services available for U.S. military veterans and CalFRESH clients*

#### CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

30+ unique skilled construction trades options  
Average starting wage: \$23 - \$35 / hr + benefits  
Average wage after 5 years: \$45 - \$70 / hr + benefits

#### Program Highlights:

- Up to 1 year individualized job search training and placement support
- 130-hour introductory class, including OSHA 10, First Aid/CPR, and Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) certification
- Learn about the pathway to a Certified Apprenticeship
- Interview with industry employers

#### Coursework includes:

- Overview of Masonry, HVAC, Carpentry, Plumbing, Roofing, Sheet Metal & other trades
- Intro to Tools & Materials
- Intro to Blueprint Reading
- Basic Construction Math
- Teamwork & Leadership
- Jobsite Safety Training