



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
March 22, 2023

### Personnel:

- **Retirements**

- **Marti Paschal:** Marti started with ABAG in May 2016. She started with MTC as a Special Project Manager on July 1, 2017, as part of the ABAG and MTC staff consolidation. Her last day with MTC was March 3, 2023, as an Equity Officer.

- **New Appointments**

- **Arielle Blankroth:** Arielle started with MTC on March 6, 2023, as the ERP Project Coordinator in the Technology Services section.
- **Matt Hines:** Matt started with MTC on March 20, 2023, as the Salesforce System Administrator in the Technology Services section.
- **Hannah Diaz:** Hannah started with MTC on March 20, 2023, as a Regional Housing Planner in the Regional Planning Program section.

### Key Updates

- On Feb. 1, 2023, U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg unveiled \$800 million in grant awards through the inaugural round of funding for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program. **The Bay Area earned more than \$64 million in grants** for eight different projects, which represents an impressive 8% of the overall nationwide funding distributed in this cycle. Notably, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority was awarded \$29 million for its Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Improvements Implementation grant, San Francisco received nearly \$18 million for its Western Addition Community Safe Streets project, and Alameda County secured \$15 million for its San Pablo Avenue Safety Improvements initiative. The Bay Area has a competitive edge in this grant program due to the number of jurisdictions that have pro-actively adopted Vision Zero policies, and the work done in coordination with MTC's regional Vision Zero program.
- On March 3, tolling operations launched on the second phase of the **San Mateo 101 express lanes**, resulting in continuous express lanes from state Route 237 to I-380. The San Mateo 101 express lanes were delivered through a partnership of Caltrans, San Mateo C/CAG and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority with a \$95M funding contribution by BATA. BAIFA operates the tolling system on behalf of the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority. Commissioners Gina Papan and David Canepa plan to be at the opening event planned for April 15.

### Items to Note:

- An **MTC/ABAG delegation visited Sacramento** February 28 – March 1 to meet with state leaders and advocate for MTC/ABAG's joint 2023 state advocacy priorities. Commission Chair Alfredo Pedroza along with Commissioners Carol Dutra-Vernaci and Jim Spring attended. Topics of discussion included a request for state assistance to

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mitigate impending transit operations fiscal cliffs and support for Assembly Housing Committee Chair Buffy Wicks' AB 1319 BAHFA clean-up bill.

- MTC Commissioner Gina Papan, Theresa Romell and I attended a gathering at the Caltrain headquarters in San Carlos on March 15 to celebrate **the full funding of the Caltrain Electrification project**. The gathering was intended as a thank you to supporters of the project. Congressman Kevin Mullin and Congresswoman Anna Eshoo were at the event along with former Congresswoman Jackie Speier.
- BAHFA held **town hall workshops** for the Draft Funding Programs and Equity Framework for the BAHFA Business Plan the second week of March with over 100 participants in each session.
- Applications for the **2023 Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy** are now open! MTC, ABAG, the Air District, and BCDC are putting on a paid remote learning experience to encourage youth, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, to learn about regional governments and consider a career in public service. Students have until April 17, 2023, to apply: [mtc.one/BayAreaSummerAcademy2023](https://mtc.one/BayAreaSummerAcademy2023). Please share widely with your constituents and networks.

### Looking Ahead:

- An MTC/ABAG delegation will visit Washington, D.C., March 26-29 to meet with leaders and advocate for MTC/ABAG's **joint 2023 federal advocacy priorities**.

### In Memoriam:

- I have some very sad news to share. On Friday, March 17, **Jay Stagi**, one of our long-time, much beloved colleagues, passed away after suffering from a heart attack. Jay joined MTC in 2007 as an Assistant Planner for Transit Connectivity Implementation. He was passionate about transit coordination and was a key staffer on MTC's Mapping & Wayfinding Project — a cornerstone of MTC's plan to create a seamless regional transit system. Jay was a witty, warm, and insightful person, and he will be dearly missed by all who worked with him.



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Andrew B. Fremier