

International Travel Requests

Subject:

International travel requests for MTC staff participation in events in Zurich, Switzerland.

International Travel Requests:

The Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco has invited MTC staff to a delegation visit to Switzerland on the topic of public transportation from May 29 to June 3, 2023.

In early 2022, Seamless Bay Area hosted the SwissCal Conference, a virtual conference to connect senior leaders and professionals from California with Swiss experts to learn about Swiss best practices associated with transit coordination. As a follow-up to the SwissCal conference, the Swiss government is hosting a U.S. delegation of 14 experts working in the transportation industry for the delegates to experience Swiss transportation system, to meet Swiss experts in person, and to further the dialogue started at the conference. In March, the Administration Committee authorized Deputy Executive Director Alix Bockelman to attend but since that time, conflicts have arisen and Theresa Romell, Director of Funding Policy and Programs will attend instead. This exchange will be valuable for MTC staff to participate in, and Theresa has relevant expertise and experience.

The invitation includes the flight ticket to Switzerland (economy class), accommodation in Switzerland, local transportation, and meals during the program, paid for by the Swiss Government through the Consulate General of Switzerland.

During the visit, the delegation will be provided with:

1. A first-hand experience on how a seamlessly integrated public transit system works from the perspective of a rider,
2. An in-depth exchange with Swiss policymakers and experts from the Swiss transportation industry,
3. The opportunity to create a network for possible future collaborations and partnerships.

MTC will cover incidental expenses not covered by the Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Staff recommends that the Committee authorize Theresa Romell, or staff with similar expertise/experience should a conflict arise for Theresa, for international travel as described, above with no requirement to set aside funds.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Request for Committee Approval – Summary of Proposed International Travel Request

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew B. Fremier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew B. Fremier

Request for Committee Approval

Summary of Proposed International Travel Request

Work Item No.: 1150

Staff: Theresa Romell (or staff with similar experience/expertise should conflict arise)

Travel Location: Zurich, Switzerland

Travel Dates: May 28, 2023 through June 3, 2023

Purpose of Travel: Collaboration between MTC, the Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco, and other delegation members.

Travel Cost Estimate: \$0

Funding Source: Expenses covered by The Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco

Fiscal Impact: None – expenses covered by The Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco

Motion by Committee: Theresa Romell, Director, Funding Policy and Programs (or MTC staff with similar experience/expertise) is authorized for international travel as described above and in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission Summary Sheet dated April 26, 2023, with no requirement to set aside funds.

Metropolitan Transportation
Commission

Approved: Alfredo Pedroza, Chair

Approved: April 26, 2023