



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
April 26, 2023

Personnel

• New Appointments

- **Oscar Quintanilla Lopez**- Oscar started with MTC on April 3rd as the Assistant Director in the Budgets and Financial Planning and Analysis section.
- **Denise Mandap**- Denise started with MTC on April 3rd as an Associate, Budget and Grant Financial Analyst in the Budgets and Financial Planning and Analysis section.
- **Lydia Elias**- Lydia started with MTC on April 17th as a Clipper Program Associate in the Electronic Payments section.
- **Katey Hinkle**- Katey started with MTC on April 17th as a FasTrak Business Operations Analyst in the Electronic Payments section.
- **Ifenna Chikezie**- Ifenna started with MTC on April 17th as an Information Security Analyst in the Technology Services section.
- **George Alonzo**- George started with MTC on April 17th as a General Services Unit Assistant in the Facilities and Contract Services section.

Key Updates

- On April 7, the Express Lanes STARTSM Pilot Program opened for online enrollment. The pilot program intends to help more travelers from lower-income households take advantage of the Express Lanes along the Interstate 880 corridor in Alameda County. A media availability event featuring staff from MTC's Legislation & Public Affairs and Electronic Payments sections was held April 11 at the Bay Area Metro Center. The event was well attended by print and broadcast reporters from English, Spanish and Chinese language outlets.
- In requesting approval for the issuance of refunding bonds earlier this year, Derek Hansel and his team promised to come back with transaction results for the tender refunding. We had a very successful tender process, receiving tenders of approximately \$485 million of bonds. We ended up refinancing approximately \$473 million of debt, resulting in net cashflow savings of \$29 million and NPV savings of almost \$25 million (5.25% of the refunded par amount of bonds).
- The California Transportation Commission (CTC) hosted a hybrid public hearing in Vallejo on April 24 on proposed tolling for state Route 37.
- Bay Area local governments are invited to nominate Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and Priority Sites. All PDAs and Priority Sites nominated by the program deadlines will be included in Plan Bay Area 2050+ and will be eligible for future planning, infrastructure or housing funds dedicated to these programs. Download the applications and learn more about deadlines at <https://mtc.ca.gov/news/nominate-priority-sites-priority-development-areas>.
- On March 31, staff released a revised draft of the procedural guidance for implementation of MTC's TOC Policy that incorporates feedback from local jurisdictions and other

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stakeholders. The draft guidance explains in more detail what the TOC Policy requirements are and how local staff can provide the information necessary to show compliance. Staff anticipate that the process for developing the final TOC Policy guidance will be ongoing throughout 2023.

- ABAG-MTC's Regional Housing Technical Assistance (RHTA) Program has won a 2023 APA California - Northern Section Award of Excellence in the Planning Agency (public sector) division in recognition of the collaborative model of the RHTA Program, which offers a large volume of technical assistance, high-quality resources, and visionary leadership as an innovative solution to the complex set of requirements and housing policies in California.
- In the latest award announcements for the state budget augmentation of the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP), the Bay Area was awarded six distinct projects for approximately \$160 million total, about 60% of the amount available outside Southern California. This includes project development awards of \$60 million to DTX/The Portal and \$25 million to Valley Link – both projects that the Commission pushed forward as part of the Major Project Advancement Policy – and a \$47 million award to VTA for construction on the Eastridge to BART Regional Connector.

Items to Note

- On April 21 in celebration of Earth Day, I participated in “All Aboard with Transit CEOs,” a multi-modal ride-along and social event in Contra Costa County that gave the public a chance to ride with and meet regional transit leaders.
- Commissioner Jim Spering participated in a Northern California Megaregion Advocacy Day in Sacramento on April 19.
- Kate Hartley (BAHFA) and Rebecca Long (LPA) provided an informational presentation to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors on BAHFA and a general obligation housing bond on April 18. Commissioner David Rabbitt facilitated the presentation's inclusion on the Board's agenda and was in attendance. The item was well received by Board members and public participants.
- On April 18 Commissioner Hillary Ronen joined transit advocates and San Francisco Supervisor Dean Preston at the Rally for Transit Funding in San Francisco.
- On April 15 I attended the opening event for San Mateo 101 express lanes with Commissioners David Canepa and Gina Papan.
- Earlier this month Georgia Gann Dohrmann, Assistant Director of Legislation and Public Affairs, spoke at a Chicago Federal Reserve event focused on transit recovery in a post-COVID world. She was joined by business, advocacy and planning leaders from Washington, D.C., and Chicago to discuss building a financially stable, equitable and accessible mass transit system in Chicago and beyond.
- An MTC/ABAG delegation visited Washington, D.C., March 26-29 to meet with leaders and advocate for MTC/ABAG's joint 2023 federal advocacy priorities. The MTC/ABAG delegation included MTC Chair Alfredo Pedroza, ABAG President Jesse Arreguin, and Commissioners Federal Glover, David Rabbitt, Jim Spering, Cindy Chavez, Carol Dutra-Vernaci and Margaret Abe-Koga.

Looking Ahead

- MTC will be hosting the California Transportation Commission in May.
- Upcoming BAHFA informational meetings in May include a presentation to the Community Action Partnership of Solano, Joint Powers Authority, scheduled with the assistance of Commissioner Jim Spring and Solano County Supervisor Mashburn; and a meeting with Commissioner Stephanie Moulton-Peters and Marin County Supervisor Mary Sackett.
- An MTC/ABAG delegation will visit Sacramento on May 22 to meet with leaders and advocate for MTC/ABAG's joint 2023 state advocacy priorities.



Andrew B. Fremier