

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

June 14, 2023

Agenda Item 9

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – June 2023

Staff Liaison Report – June 2022

Executive Director’s Report:

The following items are excerpts from the May 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:

- The California Transportation Commission approved the application submitted earlier this spring by BAIFA for authorization to operate a toll facility on Highway 37 between Mare Island in Vallejo and the junction with State Route 121 at Sears Point in Sonoma County. The CTC's unanimous approval of the tolling proposal marks a crucial milestone in the effort by MTC, Caltrans, North Bay county transportation agencies and other partners to implement both near-term and long-term improvements to the Highway 37 corridor.
- 511 is offering a \$25 Clipper® card through the Try Transit incentive program to encourage people in Contra Costa County to switch to transit. The free, pre-loaded Clipper card is available to adults who normally drive alone to get to work or school. For full program details, visit [511ContraCosta.org](#).

Items to Note

- On May 6, Commissioner Eddie H. Ahn attended the ribbon-cutting for the Southgate Road Realignment on Yerba Buena Island and was able to represent both BATA’s contribution (\$22 million) and BCDC’s support for the project which will greatly improve bike/pedestrian access from the east span pathway to Treasure Island.
- On May 9, we hosted the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Northern California Listening Session on Public Transit, the second of two sessions held statewide. CalSTA Secretary Toks Omishakin led the meeting, and I welcomed the Secretary and his team and shared MTC’s perspective. Approximately 50 transit agency staff attended, including Bay Area transit general managers and leaders from transit agencies serving Sacramento, the Central Coast and the Central Valley. The discussion was robust, and Secretary Omishakin expressed the Newsom Administration’s commitment to public transit and his personal appreciation for the vital role it plays in the state’s climate, economy and equity goals.
- On May 11, 24 staff from our MTC Leadership Academy visited Mare Island to tour Factory_OS, a company working with Nor Cal Carpenters Union to pioneer more efficient, less expensive ways to build affordable housing in the largest machine shop (250,000 square feet) at the former Naval Shipyard.
- On May 11, Former Executive Director Therese McMillan received the 2023 Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS) International Mary Peters Inspirational Leader Award in Atlanta. Therese has also been named “Person of the Year” by the California

Transportation Foundation and will be honored at the 34th Annual CTF Transportation Awards for Achievement Gala in Sacramento on June 6.

- From May 16-18, we hosted the California Transportation Commission at the Bay Area Metro Center, including a training, a workshop, two public meetings and a reception hosted by the Bay Area's WTS Chapter.
- Bay Area Bike to Work Day returned on May 18 as part of May National Bike Month, with hundreds of energizer stations featuring snacks and swag along popular bike routes. For students, teachers and school staff, National Bike and Roll to School Day was on May 3. 2023 Bike Champion of the Year awards have also been announced, featuring one winner from each of the nine Bay Area counties. Read more about all of May's bike activities at Bayareabiketowork.com.
- An MTC delegation led by Chair Alfredo Pedroza and Vice Chair Nick Josefowitz visited Sacramento on May 22 to advocate for the inclusion of transit operations funding in the state budget, which is under negotiation. We met with Bay Area legislators, Senate and Assembly leadership, representatives from the Governor's office and CalSTA Secretary Toks Omishakin and his team. We also met with Caltrans Director Tony Taveras to discuss State Route 37.

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

[MTC money helps fuel East Bay express lanes](#): MTC is providing millions of dollars in funding toward the Southbound Interstate 680 Express Lane and Pavement Rehabilitation Project, which broke ground last week.

[Former Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf rejoins MTC](#): Former Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf last month rejoined MTC after her appointment by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia L. Fudge as HUD's representative on the Commission. The department's seat had been vacant since 2021.

[SMART's new Starlighter evening service begins](#): Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit has started evening Starlighter service, dubbing it "your date night train."

[New video highlights San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority](#): The [video](#) describes the role of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, which is responsible for allocating funds raised by voter-approved Measure AA, the 2016 San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure.

[San Mateo 101 Express Lanes offering community transportation benefits](#): The San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority is offering a [new benefits program](#) making it more affordable to use the 101 Express Lanes.

[Try transit: Contra Costa residents, workers, college students eligible for free trial](#): 511 wants commuters and college students to take transit instead of driving alone – and they are offering a \$25 Clipper® card to encourage people to make the switch.

[Governor's new budget proposal signals interest in support for transit operations](#): Friday's release of Gov. Gavin Newsom's [updated 2023-24 budget proposal](#) underscores the governor's interest in working with the Legislature to provide California transit agencies with operating support to avoid a fiscal cliff that threatens to harm service for years to come.

[State Commission approves Highway 37 toll proposal](#): The [California Transportation Commission](#) (CTC) today approved the application submitted earlier this spring by MTC's [Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority](#) (BAIFA) affiliate for authorization to operate a toll facility on the critical and frequently congested stretch of Highway 37 between Mare Island in Vallejo and the junction with State Route 121 at Sears Point in Sonoma County.

[Estuary Blueprint spotlight: tribal summit workshop on water quality and quantity](#): At a recent Tribal Water Summit, the [California Indian Environmental Alliance](#) and Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians held a workshop in collaboration with Mono Lake Kutzadika's Tribe, Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, and San Francisco Baykeeper to discuss water quality and water quantity in the San Francisco Estuary and its headwaters.

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 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 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](#)