



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

June 28, 2023

Personnel

Retirements

- Peter Beeler – Peter started with MTC in June 1983 as a Graphic Artist I. His last day with MTC will be June 30, 2023 as a Senior Graphic Artist Coordinator in the Legislation and Public Affairs section.
- Abeba Haile – Abeba started with MTC in January 2004 as a Junior Financial Analyst. Her last day with MTC will be June 30, 2023 as an Associate Financial Analyst in the Finance and Accounting section.
- Lourdes Tang – Lourdes started with MTC in March 2006 as an Assistant Financial Analyst. Her last day with MTC was June 7, 2023 as a Principal Financial Analyst in the Treasury and Revenue section.

New Appointments

- Joel Mandella – Joel started with MTC on June 12th as a Transportation/Climate Planner in the Regional Planning Program section.
- Julieth Ortiz – Julieth started with MTC on June 26th as a Major Transit Projects Planner/Analyst in the Funding Policy and Programs section.
- Allison Quach – Allison started with MTC on June 26th as a Transit Transformation Coordinator in the Funding Policy and Programs section.

Key Updates

- **State Budget Agreement Gives Bay Area Transit a Near-Term Lifeline:** SB/AB 102 were released reflecting the final agreement between the Legislature and the Administration on funding to help California transit agencies avoid a near-term fiscal cliff and deep service cuts by Muni, BART and other transit agencies. The budget includes \$1.1 billion for a new Zero-Emission Transit Capital Program to be funded over multiple years and the restoration of a \$2 billion commitment for local transit capital improvements that was included in last year's budget agreement. Both funding programs will be distributed by formula to MTC and provide the option to flex these funds towards transit operations to prevent service cuts. The Bay Area's share of the \$1.1 billion is approximately \$400 million, as is our share of the \$2 billion. At the time this report was finalized, the budget was expected to be voted on and sent to the governor on June 27 for his signature before July 1. An accompanying trailer bill, AB/SB 125 includes various reporting and accountability provisions, many of which require new reporting by MTC. Staff will provide a detailed summary of this trailer bill at your Joint MTC/ABAG Legislation Committee on July 14.
- **SB 532 (Wiener): Bridge Toll Increase for Transit Operations:** On June 22, Senator Wiener amended his bill, SB 532, to impose a bridge toll increase of \$1.50 effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028 for the purpose of funding transit operations, including activities to improve the transit rider experience. According to Senator Wiener, the goal of the bill is to supplement transit operating funding made available in the state budget agreement and reduce pressure to shift transit capital funding to transit service.
- **Bay Area Transit Operators Receive Over \$100 million in New Federal Grants from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law:** On June 26, 2023 the Federal Transit Administration announced nearly [\\$1.7 billion](#) in awards for the Low- and No-Emission and Bus and Bus Facilities programs, including about \$109 million for Bay Area transit agencies, about 6.5% of the nationwide total. Agencies receiving funds include Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, City of Santa Rosa, Marin County Transit District, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and Solano County Transit.

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- **\$43 million in Bay Area COVID-Relief transportation funds saved from rescission:** The federal debt ceiling package signed into law earlier this month included the rescission of unobligated Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) COVID-Relief balances nationwide. When the debt ceiling deal was struck, nearly \$300 million in federal transportation funds were at risk in California, including \$43 million for Bay Area projects. MTC staff sounded alarms with our state and federal partners and coordinated closely with Caltrans and CTC as they took rapid action (and worked long hours) to save these critical transportation funds. In the end, our state was successful in obligating nearly all of the \$300 million balances that had been at risk statewide, and all but about \$500,000 in the Bay Area.
- Many Bay Area projects are included in **CTC staff recommendations for SB 1 competitive grant programs.** Overall, Bay Area projects were recommended for \$363 million out \$1.73 billion available, or just shy of 21% of the available funds statewide. Bay Area projects represent less than 14% of the recommended Solutions for Congested Corridors (SCC) grants and 20% of the statewide total for Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) grants. The Solano 80 WB Truck Scales, which is also an RM 3 project, was recommended for \$129 million in the TCEP program, with other recommended awards for the Port of Oakland Green Power Microgrid project, rail safety improvements in Oakland and improvements to the I-80/San Pablo Dam Road interchange in West Contra Costa County. The CTC will consider action on these grants at its next meeting on June 28-29 in Solano County.
- Tomorrow, June 29, BAHFA will be celebrating the initial **launch of the Doorway Housing Portal** at 3 p.m. at the Bay Area Metro Center. Commissioners have all been invited.

Items to Note

- I joined House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi last week as speakers at the **San Francisco County Transportation Authority ground-breaking event for the West Side Bridges Replacement project** on Yerba Buena Island. Other speakers included SF Supervisor Rafael Mandelman; SF City Attorney David Chiu; CTC Commissioner Carl Guardino; SFCTA Executive Director Tilly Chang; Caltrans Deputy Director of Planning Jeanie Ward-Waller; TIDA Board President V. Fei Tsen; and SF Building & Construction Trades Secretary-Treasurer Rudy Gonzalez.
- This month, I **toured transit hubs and PDAs with several Commissioners.** These field trips included a tour of sites in Union City with Commissioner Dutra-Vernaci and a tour with Commissioner Chavez of sites along the BART-to-Silicon Valley corridor from Milpitas to Diridon Station in downtown San Jose, where we were joined by Chair Pedroza and Commissioners Abe-Koga and Spring.
- On June 16, ABAG successfully held its first in-person **General Assembly** since 2019. Delegates from 58 cities and towns and six counties unanimously approved ABAG's FY 2023-24 budget, followed by Brookings Institution Fellow Tracy Hadden Loh's keynote address on the power of place and urban activity centers in fueling economic recovery. Finally, four panelists from Contra Costa County, Solano County, the City of Fremont and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory described their most promising place-based economic development initiatives.
- On June 22nd, we closed a small follow-on **refinancing for BATA.** This refinancing took advantage of the work that had been done earlier in the spring with the larger tender refinancing and an additional market opportunity to refinance \$56 million of outstanding taxable debt with a combination of approximately \$40.8 million of new tax-exempt debt and Authority funds of \$3.9 million. The transaction produces total savings of \$24.6 million in debt service savings through the life of the transaction, and net present value savings of approximately \$5.5 million (9.9% of the refunded par).
- **Safe Streets For All Grant Application for Vision Zero Program:** MTC adopted a Vision Zero policy in 2020, including a goal of zero deaths by 2030, and we provide regional partners with safety and road infrastructure data and analysis through the Bay Area Vision Zero System (BAYVIZ). We're now aiming to expand the program's impact through a potential Safe Streets and Roads for All grant, part of the package of federal competitive grant programs within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. If successful in securing the grant, MTC plans to enhance the BAYVIZ system by expanding available data, developing a

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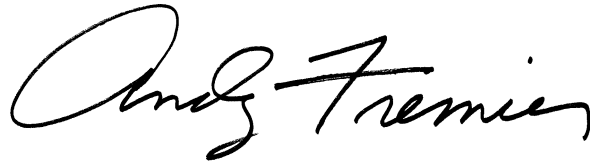
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comprehensive Vision Zero toolkit for partners, and conducting studies on safety issues in regional arterial corridors with high numbers of fatal and serious crashes. This grant opportunity presents an exciting chance for MTC to make an impact on road safety and work collaboratively with their partners towards safer streets and roads for everyone.

Looking Ahead

- Reminder that several committee changes are coming in July, with the BAHFA Oversight Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 12th at 12:30 p.m. and the inaugural Regional Network Management Committee at noon on July 14th.



Andrew B. Fremier