

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

March 22, 2024

Agenda Item 7b

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – March 2024
- Attachment B: Norman Mineta High School Summer Academy Flyer
- Attachment C: Title I, Part A Recipients - Fiscal Year 2022–23

Staff Liaison Report – March 2024

Follow-up items:

Applications for the Norman Mineta High School Summer Academy are now being accepted through mid-April. The [application form is here](#) (https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=oMSEsBm7QkG3A4LqZaXust6YX1rAv_eJFIQvNV3IN8fRUNIRUTU1WODhIRVpSUEwzTEU4MkRBVzgxNS4u), a flyer is included as an attachment to this report, as well as a list of Title 1 schools serving low-income students. We appreciate your support in encouraging widespread participation in the program. Please contact Ky-Nam Miller (kmiller@bayareametro.gov) if you would like additional resources or have questions about the program.

Executive Director's Report:

The following items are excerpts from the February 2023 Executive Director's Report to the Commission. To read past reports in their entirety, check the agenda for a given Commission meeting [search for past meetings on [MTCs Legistar webpage](#) (<https://mtc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>)]

USDOT RAISE Grant Application

In late February, MTC applied for a \$25 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation to help fund the construction of the West Oakland Link (a ~\$100 million project). The West Oakland Link is a 1.1-mile bicycle and pedestrian connection between West Oakland and the Bay Bridge East Span Path. As part of the Bay Skyway Phase 1, it will connect the East Bay with Treasure Island and downtown San Francisco via frequent electric ferry.

Bay Area Housing Element Update

January 31 marked a Housing Element milestone: jurisdictions that were late in obtaining their certification from state regulators faced a rezoning deadline. The original deadline for local governments to complete Housing Element updates was over a year ago, on January 31, 2023. Sixty-four jurisdictions currently have certified Housing Elements, and another eight are in "substantial compliance" with state law, together representing about two-thirds of the region. Twenty-three jurisdictions had to rezone by the January 31, 2024, deadline. We are working with our local partners to determine if they met that deadline. A bright spot is that San Jose, the most populous city in the region, with the largest RHNA obligation, has obtained its certification and completed rezoning. Congratulations!

Medium-High FTA Rating for Portal

The Federal Transit Administration confirmed MTC's overall Medium-High project rating for the Portal, also known as the Downtown Rail Extension (DTX) project, which extends Caltrain service from Fourth & King Street to the multimodal Salesforce Transit Center in downtown San Francisco. The project will be listed in next month's FTA's Capital Investment Grant Dashboard as only the 8th New Starts project in the nation with a positive rating, making the project eligible for a full funding grant agreement.

Federal Certification Review Feb. 26-28

Staff from the U.S. Department of Transportation are on site this week for MTC's quadrennial certification review of its role as a metropolitan planning organization. A public listening session was held Tuesday afternoon, February 27 at the Bay Area Metro Center.

North Bay League of Cities Meeting February 15

Commissioners Rabbitt and Fleming, as well as several ABAG Executive Board members, were in attendance for this meeting, at which I was joined by Brad Paul, Kate Hartley and Rebecca Long of the MTC-ABAG staff for a presentation and discussion of the proposed Bay Area affordable housing bond.

Bay Area Caucus Meeting February 7

Earlier this month, Kate Hartley, Section Director for BAHFA, along with representatives from Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California, MidPen Housing and Enterprise Community Partners, presented an update on the proposed Bay Area affordable housing bond to the Bay Area Caucus at the invitation of Bay Area Caucus Chair Senator Josh Becker.

Statewide Transportation Policy Forums

I joined state and regional leaders on February 8 at the CalCOG Regional Leadership Forum in Monterey as a member of a panel discussing roadway pricing as a means of managing congestion. The panel included representatives from SCAG, SACOG, Caltrans, and CTC, and my discussion included MTC's efforts around express lanes and our next generation freeway study. On February 13 I participated as a panelist at the California Transportation Foundation's Transportation Forum in Sacramento. My panel was titled "Roads for All Modes" and I was joined by Executive Director Tanisha Taylor of the California Transportation Commission and Deputy CEO Ray Major, of SANDAG, to discuss complete streets and active transportation investments, bus transit improvements, and highway projects across the state. Key speakers at the forum included Assemblywoman Lori Wilson, CalSTA Secretary Toks Omishakin, and Caltrans Director Tony Tavares.

Building Updates

- **First Floor Reconfiguration Project:** Modifications to the first floor meeting rooms started on February 12 and are expected to be completed in July. The project will reconfigure the multipurpose rooms, upgrade existing audio-visual applications in the Temazcal room and expand the warming kitchen. With staff now in the office at least two days per week, these rooms are being used much more frequently, and these upgrades will be most welcome.
- **Building Façade:** Building façade repairs and maintenance work have started to comply with San Francisco ordinance AB-110 and are expected to be completed later this fall. This work includes repair of concrete spalls on the building's façade, along with further inspection of corroded sheet metal flashing at the Air Handling Unit, waterproofing of windows, metal cladding appendages, and terrace upgrades.

- **Fitwel 2-Star Rating:** The Bay Area Metro Center (BAMC) has achieved a Fitwel rating score of 108 out of 144 points. This certification, valid for three years, signifies dedication to prioritizing health and well-being within the building and the community. This accomplishment reflects ongoing efforts to design and operate the building with evidence-based strategies aimed at supporting physical, mental and social wellness.
- **LEED Certification Update:** The BAMC has also attained the prestigious Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) v4.1 Operations and Management: Existing Buildings Platinum Certification. Platinum represents the pinnacle of achievement within this status. LEED certification recognizes various facets of environmental stewardship, such as energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor air quality, site management, proximity to public transportation, and sustainable material usage.

Looking Ahead

April Commission Workshop

At the request of Chair Pedroza, a Commission Workshop will follow the April Commission meeting. The workshop will begin in the afternoon of April 24 and conclude in the early afternoon on April 25. The location is not yet finalized, but we are aiming to hold it in the Peninsula or the South Bay.

News Headlines from [The Bay Link Blog](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/>): (as of March 7, 2024)

Public Participation

- [Now open: Nominations for Bike Champions of the Year](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/now-open-nominations-bike-champions-year) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/now-open-nominations-bike-champions-year>) Every year, each of the nine Bay Area counties selects their own Bike Champion of the Year as part of the [Bike to Wherever Days](https://bayareabiketowork.com/) (<https://bayareabiketowork.com/>) event in May. Now is the time to make nominations.

Transportation

- [Survey: Caltrans wants to hear from you about transit](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/survey-caltrans-wants-hear-you-about-transit)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/survey-caltrans-wants-hear-you-about-transit>)
Caltrans Bay Area (District 4) is planning how to improve transit on the State Transportation Network (STN) in the Bay Area and wants public input on what investments would help access transit services and improve experiences using transit throughout the Bay Area.
- [Videos: See how easy it is to use Clipper on BART](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/videos-see-how-easy-it-use-clipper-bart)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/videos-see-how-easy-it-use-clipper-bart>) MTC has posted new videos showing how using Clipper makes Bay Area journeys on BART easy with [iPhones](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r80wQYFvrOQ) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r80wQYFvrOQ>) and [Google Pay](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqcYQL9XCuk).(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqcYQL9XCuk>)
- [Toll bridge dollars speed Muni bus electrification](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/toll-bridge-dollars-speed-muni-bus-electrification)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/toll-bridge-dollars-speed-muni-bus-electrification>)
The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) today allocated \$7.6 million in [Regional Measure 3](https://mtc.ca.gov/funding/regional-funding/regional-measure-3) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/funding/regional-funding/regional-measure-3>) capital funds, including \$3.8 million for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Kirkland Yard Electrification Project and \$2.4 million toward new Muni electric buses.
- [California on track to align state's transportation funding with climate goals](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/california-track-align-states-transportation-funding-climate-goals)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/california-track-align-states-transportation-funding-climate-goals>) In just two years, California has nearly completed all the actions to align the state's transportation funding programs with its climate goals since adopting a new climate action strategy, according to a [report finalized earlier this month](https://calsta.ca.gov/-/media/calsta-media/documents/capti-2023-annual-report-finalreport-ally.pdf) (<https://calsta.ca.gov/-/media/calsta-media/documents/capti-2023-annual-report-finalreport-ally.pdf>) by the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA).

- [Black History Month: MTC event notes transportation, housing contributions](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/black-history-month-mtc-event-notes-transportation-housing-contributions)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/black-history-month-mtc-event-notes-transportation-housing-contributions>) MTC hosted a "Gallery of Heroes" exhibition this week highlighting transportation and housing contributions made by African Americans as part of Black History Month celebrations around the Bay Area.
- [SFO gets \\$31 million from feds for sustainability](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/sfo-gets-31-million-feds-sustainability)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/sfo-gets-31-million-feds-sustainability>) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is awarding \$970 million from President Biden's Bipartisan Investing in America agenda to 114 airports across the country, spanning 44 states and three territories.

Economy

- [Bay Area residents among hardest working, report says](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/bay-area-residents-among-hardest-working-report-says)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/bay-area-residents-among-hardest-working-report-says>) Four Bay area cities are the hardest-working in America, according to a [new study from CoworkingCafe](https://www.coworkingcafe.com/blog/hardest-working-us-cities/) (<https://www.coworkingcafe.com/blog/hardest-working-us-cities/>).

Housing

- [Study: Sunnyvale tops list of Bay Area renter "sweet spots"](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/study-sunnyvale-tops-list-of-bay-area-renter-sweet-spots)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/study-sunnyvale-tops-list-of-bay-area-renter-sweet-spots>) Renters' ability to deal with rising costs and sometimes stagnant wages is the subject of a new study by RentCafe, "[Top Renting Sweet Spots in the U.S.: Where Your Income Goes the Furthest](https://www.rentcafe.com/blog/rental-market/market-snapshots/top-renting-sweet-spots-us/)" (<https://www.rentcafe.com/blog/rental-market/market-snapshots/top-renting-sweet-spots-us/>).

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](https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtc-abag-library) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtc-abag-library>).

For MTC and Plan Bay Area Glossaries:

- [Glossary of Transportation Planning Acronyms & Terms](https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtcabag-library/glossary-transportation-planning-acronyms-terms) (https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtcabag-library/glossary-transportation-planning-acronyms-terms)
- [Plan Bay Area Glossary](https://www.planbayarea.org/about/glossary) (https://www.planbayarea.org/about/glossary)