

Annual Work Plan & Evaluation of Previous Work Plan

Subject

Based on Council feedback on the draft Annual Work Plan presented at the February 23, 2024 Policy Advisory Council meeting, Council leaders provided feedback on an updated 2024 calendar year work plan, with a request for an evaluation of the preceding work plan for 2023-2024.

Background:

According to MTC Resolution No. 3931, which governs the Policy Advisory Council, the Policy Advisory Council's role is to "advise the Commission on transportation policies in the San Francisco Bay Area, incorporating diverse perspectives relating to the environment, the economy and social equity." The Commission and Councilmembers meet annually to identify priority areas in which the Commission desires feedback and/or research from the Council. Advisors also may recommend initiatives of potential relevance to the Commission.

In advance of the Annual Work Plan discussion, MTC Chair Pedroza, Council Chair Campos, and Vice Chair Baldini met to discuss and identify Council focus areas in the coming year that align with the Commission's priorities. The main topic areas that emerged were:

- Plan Bay Area Update (PBA2050+) and Connected Network Planning (Transit 2050+)
- Transportation Revenue Measure development, including community engagement and investment priorities
- Next Generation Freeways/Pricing
- Engagement/Program Design Process to Address Equity

The Council offered feedback, emphasizing the areas listed below, which were subsequently incorporated into an updated draft Council Work Plan for the 2024 Calendar Year

- Provide evaluations from the previous year's work plan, identifying what was accomplished.
- The Council Work Plan should include updates on the Transit Transformation Action Plan (these are regularly delivered to the Equity and Access Subcommittee by MTC staff).

- Actions to better address perspectives and needs of disability community should be uplifted in the Work Plan;
- Provide both updates and resources to Council on equitable efforts to solicit input from and engage with the public;
- The Work Plan should include a regular retreat (or “advance”) to bring together Councilmembers to dive deeper into issues and provide further support for Council leadership development (Refreshers on Brown Act + Roberts Rules of Order; public speaking, meeting management, etc.)

The Councilmembers broadly supported the proposed areas of emphasis, and particularly lifted up Chair Campos’ proposal to have a summertime convening, within the constraints of the Brown Act, with the Commissioners to foster collaboration and deepen relationships with the Commissioners. The Councilmembers requested an evaluation of the preceding work plan for 2023-2024, which is included below.

2023 Work Plan Evaluation:

In February 2023, MTC Chair Pedroza, Vice Chair Josefowitz, Council Chair Kinman, and Vice Chair Esuf presented a draft work plan that identified Council focus areas for the coming year aligned with the Commission’s priorities. The work plan was presented as an information item only. The main topic areas that emerged (along with a brief evaluation of the Council’s engagement and impact in those areas) were:

- **Transportation Revenue Measure development, including stakeholder engagement and investment priorities.**

The Council received multiple presentations from MTC’s Legislative Affairs team as the Transportation Revenue Measure developed from proposal to enabling legislation over the past year. Through collaborative efforts, the Council emphasized that the measure must address critical transportation needs while deriving revenues in an equitable and achievable manner.

- **Addressing the Transit Operating Fiscal Cliff, including input to shape advocacy.**

The Council provided valuable input to MTC staff shaping advocacy efforts aimed at addressing the Transit Operating Fiscal Cliff. By leveraging its expertise and insights, the Council contributed to the formulation of effective strategies to mitigate the fiscal challenges facing transit operations, ensuring the continued viability of transit services.

- **PBA 2050+ and Transit 2050+ (Plan Update and Connected Network Planning)**

The Council actively participated in the long-range plan update and Connected Network Planning processes for Plan Bay Area 2050+ and Transit 2050+, respectively. Through its engagement, the Council contributed to the development of more comprehensive and tailored public participation activities and long-range planning priorities that align with regional transportation goals while addressing emerging challenges and opportunities.

- **Next Generation Freeways/Pricing.**

The Council played a key role in providing critical feedback on the Next Generation Freeways/Pricing study. The Council had four Member representatives (2 regulars and 2 alternates, all of whom participated) on the Next Gen Freeway Advisory Group. The Council also received updates on the study and shared feedback with MTC staff. By providing insights and recommendations, the Council raised widespread public concerns about potential inequities resulting from freeway pricing, suggesting approaches to freeway design and pricing aimed at enhancing equity, sustainability, and user experience.

- **Engagement/Program Design Process to Address Equity (beyond the Public Participation Plan)**

Across multiple programs that came before the Council, Members provided feedback to advance an inclusive engagement and program design process to address equity considerations beyond standard public participation. Through its advocacy and collaboration with community members, the Council promoted equity-focused approaches that ensure fair and equitable access to transportation resources and benefits for all communities.

- **Regional Network Management and how the Council weighs in via the Customer Advisory Body.**

The Council named half the members to the newly formed Regional Network Management Customer Advisory Group, a new Brown Act body tasked with providing diverse customer perspectives to the RNM Committee to help shape regional transit policy and implementation planning. Chaired by Councilmember Adina Levin, the group has met approximately every other month since its inception in the fall of 2023.