



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 7

Bay Area Metro Center
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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council
FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison
RE: Staff Liaison Report – April 2017

DATE: April 5, 2017
W.I. 1114

Spring Plan Bay Area Outreach Meeting Dates Set

The upcoming Plan Bay Area outreach meetings and public hearings scheduled for this spring are listed as part of Agenda Item 5 in this month's meeting packet. However, in case you missed them, I am listing them again here for your information:

County Public Open Houses

Alameda County
Thursday, May 4
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Fremont City Hall
City Council Chambers
3300 Capitol Avenue
Fremont

Contra Costa County
Wednesday, May 10
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Embassy Suites Hotel
Contra Costa Ballroom
1345 Treat Boulevard
Walnut Creek

Marin County
Saturday, May 20
Public Workshop and Open House
8:30 a.m. Open House
9 a.m. Presentation
Mill Valley Community Center
180 Camino Alto
Mill Valley

Napa County
Monday, May 15
6 – 8 p.m.
Elks Lodge
2840 Soscol Avenue
Napa

San Francisco
Wednesday, May 17
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Bay Area Metro Center
Yerba Buena Conference Room
375 Beale Street
San Francisco

San Mateo County
Thursday, May 4
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Sequoia High School
Multi-Purpose Room
1201 Brewster Avenue
Redwood City

Santa Clara County
Monday, May 22
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Marriott Hotel
San Jose Ballroom IV-VI
301 South Market Street
San Jose

Sonoma County
Monday, May 22
6 – 8 p.m.
Finley Community Center
2060 W. College Avenue
Santa Rosa

Solano County
Monday, May 15
6 – 8 p.m.
Solano County Events Center
601 Texas Street
Fairfield

Public Hearings on the Draft Plan and the Draft EIR

San Francisco
Friday, May 12
9:40 a.m. (*or immediately following the
Legislation Committee meeting, whichever
occurs later*)
Bay Area Metro Center
Board Room
375 Beale Street
San Francisco

San Jose
Tuesday, May 16
6 – 8 p.m.
Martin Luther King Jr. Library
150 E. San Fernando Street, Room 225
San Jose

Vallejo
Thursday, May 18
6 – 8 p.m.
Vallejo Naval & Historical Museum
734 Marin Street
Hall of History
Vallejo

For more information and to review Draft Plan Bay Area 2040 or the Draft EIR, go to planbayarea.org.

Teens Talk Climate Change at YES Conference

Approximately 500 junior high and high school students from around the region swarmed the Bay Area Metro Center on the last Saturday in February for the fourth Youth for the Environment and Sustainability (YES) Conference. The biggest YES gathering yet was a sell-out weeks before the event.

Sponsored by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the day-long regional conference is a free, annual event that brings together middle and high school students from the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties to discuss topics such as solutions to the climate change crisis, public health, transportation and air pollution.

The young adults' goal is to raise awareness of how our transportation choices affect our families, our communities, our air and our planet. Teen activists presented to their peers on such topics as “Proving That Climate Change Is Not a Hoax” and “Go Away, Throwaway,” exploring our throw-away culture, all with the goal of grooming participants to be environmental leaders in their schools and communities.

To view a photo gallery from the days' events, go to:

<http://mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/photo-gallery/teens-talk-climate-change-yes-conference>

To view a short video chronicling the event, go to:

<http://mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/video-gallery/yes-conference-2017>

BART Celebration Marks Completion of Long Route to Warm Springs

BART held a public celebration at its new Warm Springs/South Fremont station to christen the agency's long-awaited Warm Springs Extension, which opened for service on Saturday, March 25. The \$890 million Warm Springs Extension, which connects the new station with the 45-year-old Fremont station, came in at more than \$100 million under budget. In addition to serving a fast-growing community, the opening of the new station paves the way for BART to Silicon Valley, a 10-mile Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority project that's under construction and expected to open for service later this year.

The Warm Springs Station marks BART's first 5.4-mile step closer to Silicon Valley. With beautiful, iconic glass artwork dominating the central rotunda and sweeping views of the East Bay mountains, the station is sure to become a fixture in the community for decades to come. Bicyclists, pedestrians, buses and carpoolers have easy access to drop-off points, with fully accessible zones and features for disabled riders. Soon Warm Springs will connect to Milpitas and Berryessa stations – leaving only a small stretch to go before San Jose is fully connected to the rest of the Bay Area.

To read more about the station, including its amenities, the opening ceremonies, and the Warm Springs Extension (WSX) Art Program, go to:

<http://mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/bart-celebration-marks-completion-long-route-warm-springs>

Bay Area Metro Center Shuttle Service

Did you know that an ADA-accessible shuttle bus is available to the public on MTC committee and Commission meeting days? The shuttle stops at the white curb zone in front of the PG&E headquarters at 77 Beale Street and makes a continuous loop between PG&E and the Bay Area Metro Center. Hours of operation are between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. on meeting days. If for some reason the shuttle is not there, simply call the S.F. Minibus dispatch line at 415-777-555 and the driver will be dispatched to the pick-up spot at either end of the route.

Executive Director's Report

The following items are excerpts from the March 2017 Executive Director's Report to the Commission. Read the report in its entirety at:

<http://www.mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/executive-directors-report>.

- **Future Interstates Committee Meeting – February 23-24, San Francisco**
The Bay Area Metro Center hosted a field hearing of the Future Interstates Committee convened by the National Academy of Sciences. As a committee member, I will be attending future hearings in Detroit and Chicago later in the spring.
- **NGA Infrastructure List Submitted – February 24, Washington, DC**
You may recall that we went through a "fire drill" several weeks ago to assemble a list of high priority Bay Area transportation projects that could be included in a list being compiled by the National Governor's Association (NGA) to demonstrate the need for new federal infrastructure funding. Governor Brown has now submitted a list of California projects. There are recent press reports that the Trump Administration is now scrutinizing the 50-state list as it develops its \$1 trillion infrastructure package for congressional consideration at some future date.
- **Trump Budget Released – March 16, Washington, DC**
President Trump published his first so-called "skinny budget" for FY 2018 federal spending, and it was a complete wipe-out for metropolitan areas across the country. President Trump is seeking a \$50 billion annual increase in defense spending, and he has proposed to offset that huge hike with comparable cuts in the non-defense discretionary parts of the federal budget. In the DOT budget, the two most alarming cuts involve the elimination of the TIGER program in its entirety and the elimination of the New Starts transit capital program after projects with existing Full Funding Grant Agreements (FFGAs) are completed

The New Starts program is the single most important federal discretionary transportation program in the DOT budget. As a result of MTC's long-standing advocacy with our regional transit agency partners, the Bay Area has been awarded four FFGAs over the past three decades for the following transit extensions: BART to SFO (complete), Tasman Light Rail (complete), Muni Central Subway (under construction), and BART to Silicon Valley Phase 1 (under construction). The latter two projects are seeking their final increments of federal funding in the FY 2018 budget.

If it were enacted into law, the Trump proposal would strand four New Start candidate projects in the Bay Area that are planning to seek FFGAs over the next several years: Transbay Transit Center Phase 2, BART to Silicon Valley Phase 2, BART Core Capacity Project, and the Caltrain Electrification Program. As you know, the Caltrain project is closest to the goal line, but it may not be able to secure an FFGA due to the Trump budget proposal as well as the concerted opposition of members of California's GOP congressional delegation.

Of course, the Trump budget proposes deep cuts in almost every cabinet department not related to national security. This includes several sources of federal funding of great concern to our Bay Area Metro Center partner agencies, such as HUD's Community Development Block Grant program and various EPA grant programs. We intend to link arms with our regional partners in opposing the Trump budget proposals, and expect to find willing allies in Congress from both sides of the aisle.