



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

**Agenda Item 8**

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## *Memorandum*

TO: Policy Advisory Council  
FR: Catalina Alvarado, Acting Staff Liaison  
RE: Staff Liaison Report – February 2018

DATE: February 7, 2018  
W.I. 1114

### **Policy Advisory Council Nominations**

Reminder, nominations for chair and vice chair of the Council, for a two-year term covering 2018 and 2019, are open now through elections at the February meeting. Nominations can be submitted to [msilver@bayareametro.gov](mailto:msilver@bayareametro.gov) or during the Council meeting. Members will vote to elect the new chair and vice chair at the February 14 meeting.

The Work plan meeting with MTC Commissioners and the Policy Advisory Council will be held on Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.

### **MTC and ABAG Launch “The Bay Link,” A Joint Daily Blog, January 22, 2018**

MTC and ABAG are excited to announce the launch of [The Bay Link](#), a joint blog that will provide news, views and analysis on topics of regional interest, including housing, land use, transportation, economic development, social equity, the environment, sustainability, climate change and resilience.

Consider The Bay Link the latest in the agencies’ ongoing efforts to “Be Regionable.” Readers will find links to [the day's most interesting headlines](#); MTC and ABAG’s Executive Director's Map of the Month; [video updates on major regional projects and initiatives](#); the latest online [articles, studies and reports curated by the MTC-ABAG Library](#); tips on what’s on the agencies’ meeting agendas; and round-ups of major MTC Commission and ABAG Executive Board actions.

To read the full story, go to <https://mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/mtc-and-abag-launch-bay-link-joint-daily-blog>.

### **Other Top News Stories from MTC’s Website:**

- **Resilient By Design Selects Bay Area Challenge Sites, January 11, 2018**  
Resilient by Design | Bay Area Challenge today announced locations for the resilience design projects to be pursued by 10 international design teams over the next five months. To read the full story, go to <https://mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/special-features/resilient-design-selects-bay-area-challenge-sites>.

- **MTC Partners With Scoop to Promote Carpooling, January 10, 2018**  
The New Year is a great time to start a new habit to save time and money by carpooling. MTC's 511 Carpool Program is offering new carpoolers a free ride or a driver bonus when carpooling with Scoop, an easy-to-use carpool app. To read the full story, go to <https://mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/mtc-partners-scoop-promote-carpooling>.
- **Motivate Announces e-Bike Pilot Program to Launch in San Francisco in April 2018, January 8, 2018**  
Motivate International, the operator of the Bay Area's regional bike share system, announced today it will add e-Bikes to its fleet, beginning with 250 e-Bikes in San Francisco this April. To read the full story, go to <https://mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/motivate-announces-e-bike-pilot-program-launch-san-francisco-april-2018>.

### **Executive Director's Report**

The following items are excerpts from the January 2018 Executive Director's Report to the Commission. To read the report in its entirety go to:

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

- **FTA Warning Shot, December 29, New York**  
A recent letter from the Deputy Federal Transit Administrator to a key New York state official expresses numerous concerns about the ongoing project to construct another set of rail tunnels under the Hudson River to serve New York City. The existing tunnels are over 100 years old. This is probably the most important transit project underway in the country, and the letter appears to signal that the Trump Administration has found yet another policy area in which to reverse course from its predecessor. This is a worrisome development for major capital projects nationwide.
- **CASA Technical Committee, January 17, San Francisco**  
The CASA Technical Committee met at the Bay Area Metro Center to discuss potential elements of a "grand bargain" of policy initiatives that would make progress on the 3 P's that we have focused on throughout the CASA project: protection of current tenants, preservation of existing affordable housing, and production of more housing for residents of all walks of life. The CASA Steering Committee will take up the same conversation at its next quarterly meeting on January 24.

### **Map of the Month: State Gas Tax Increases Since 1993**

Each month Executive Director Steve Heminger presents a new map to the Commission to help explain important trends in the Bay Area, across the nation and around the world. Below is the January 2018 Map of the Month: *State Gas Tax Increases, 1992 - 2017*.

With passage of SB 1 in 2017, California has joined the ranks of 38 states – both red and blue – and the District of Columbia that have stepped up in the face of Congressional inaction and passed legislation to raise their own state gas taxes since Congress last did so in 1993. This map reaffirms that infrastructure investment can, and often does, transcend party lines, or as Norm Mineta used to say: "There is no such thing as a Democratic bridge or a Republican road." The largest transportation investment in state history, SB 1 will invest \$52 billion in California's roads, bridges and transit systems over the next decade with ongoing annual revenues of over \$5 billion per year thereafter.

Visit our Map of the Month page at <http://gis.mtc.ca.gov/home/motm.html> to review not just our current map, but those presented at previous Commission meetings as well.

