



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 6

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council
FR: Marti Paschal, Staff Liaison
RE: Staff Liaison Report – July 2018

DATE: July 5, 2018
W.I. 1114

MTC/ABAG Launch Request for Transformative Projects

On Friday, June 22, MTC and ABAG kicked off an 11-week campaign to solicit innovative ideas from individuals, companies, public agencies and nongovernmental organizations alike for improving mobility and redefining travel across the Bay Area.

The Request for Transformative Projects is part of the Horizon initiative launched earlier this year by MTC and ABAG to explore a wide range of the challenges and opportunities the Bay Area may face by 2050. A panel of engineers and transportation planners will evaluate all project submissions for feasibility, potential regional benefits, alignment with Horizon's guiding principles, creativity, and consistency with the minimum cost threshold. The panel will then select five to 10 projects for a more thorough analysis of benefit-cost ratios and other Horizon performance assessments to identify potential new transportation investments for integration into Plan Bay Area 2050, the region's next long-range transportation and land-use strategy. The Plan is slated for completion in 2021.

The Request for Transformative Projects is focused on major investments that were not previously assessed in Plan Bay Area 2040. These could include visionary transportation projects not submitted for Plan Bay Area 2040 – like a second Transbay Tube or an extension of the Central Subway – as well as new ideas to solve the challenges of today and tomorrow – such as a network of aerial trams or a new hyperloop line. Proposals can include not only projects that increase the carrying capacity of existing highways or transit systems, but also projects that improve resilience to rising sea levels, or that transform the way transportation networks are operated. The Request for Transformative Projects is open not just to single-project proposals but also to packages of smaller investments with projected total costs over \$1 billion. Proposals that meet any of the following criteria are encouraged:

- Transit projects that improve capacity, frequency or coverage; have a lifecycle cost exceeding \$1 billion; AND were not evaluated in Plan Bay Area 2040
- Roadway projects that improve capacity; have a lifecycle cost exceeding \$1 billion; AND were not evaluated in Plan Bay Area 2040
- Projects that make existing transportation infrastructure more resilient to rising sea levels or seismic hazards [no cost threshold]
- Operational strategies with transformative regional impacts, such as all-lane tolling or transit fare simplification [no cost threshold]

Proposals from private companies and individuals will be evaluated on the same criteria as those submitted by county congestion management agencies, transit operators, city agencies, professional planning firms or other organizations. All individual and private-sector contestants are eligible for prizes, including a \$100 Visa cash card. The top nonpublic-sector entrant will be awarded a \$500 Visa cash card.

Responses to the Request for Transformative Projects must be received by September 6, 2018. Submissions may be completed through an [online form](#) available on the MTC website's Horizon page at mtc.ca.gov/horizon. This page details all the rules for entry. Finalists will be selected this October, with decisions about advancing proposed projects from the Horizon process for inclusion in Plan Bay Area 2050 to be made in 2019.

MTC and ABAG launched the Horizon initiative to engage the public, planners and policymakers through mid-2019 on questions that traditionally have been outside the regional planning process. These include how to respond to the emergence of autonomous vehicles, changing economic conditions, rising sea levels, earthquakes and other natural disasters, and more. To learn more about Horizon and updates to the Transformative Projects effort, visit the project webpage or follow the conversation on Twitter through @MTCBATA, or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MTCBATA/.

Salesforce Transit Center's Bus Plaza Rolls to Life

On Saturday, June 16, the new Salesforce Transit Center's bus plaza became operational for SF Muni routes 5/5R, 7 and 38/38R. The three-block long, four-story high regional transportation hub is located south of Mission Street between Second and Beale streets. The exterior bus plaza can be accessed from Beale Street or Fremont Street, between Minna and Natoma streets.

The interior of the Transit Center is scheduled to open later this summer. It will include a two-block-long bus deck for AC Transit and WestCAT transbay buses, Amtrak Thruway and Greyhound buses, and Muni service to Treasure Island (#25). Billed as the Grand Central Station of the West, the building also will incorporate a three-platform, six-track train station underground (to be activated at a later date).

In addition to its transit components, the terminal will offer a range of features:

- A stunning Grand Hall entrance lobby with a terrazzo floor evoking California's landscape
- A five-acre rooftop public park with trees from around the world and numerous amenities, including eateries, an amphitheater, a jogging/walking track around the perimeter and a linear water feature whose fountains will mirror the movements of buses as they traverse the interior bus bays
- A gondola to whisk people from the street to the rooftop
- Multi-level building retail space, bicycle parking and administrative offices
- Ancillary projects, including a public plaza on Mission Street west of Fremont Street

The original Transbay Terminal at First and Mission streets opened in 1939 and was a regional transit hub for over 60 years. It was closed and demolished in 2010 to make way for the new world-class Transit Center. While construction of the new Salesforce Transit Center took place, the temporary Transbay Terminal served more than a half dozen transit systems for eight years.

MTC is a major funder of the Salesforce Transit Center, providing more than \$360 million for the \$2.3 billion project.

Executive Director's Report

The following items are excerpts from the June 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>.

Resilient by Design Reception, May 23, San Francisco

I kicked off the festivities with a few remarks at the closing reception for the Rockefeller Foundation-funded Resilient by Design project. The various adaptation plans were displayed in the atrium of the Bay Area Metro Center for the past month. We now face the formidable challenge of converting all the energy and good ideas from this planning process into actual projects that can protect our region for the significant rise in sea levels forecast by climate scientists.

eBART Ribbon Cutting, May 25, Antioch

I joined MTC Commissioner Glover as one of a dozen speakers – success has many fathers and mothers – at the ribbon cutting for the eBART diesel multiple unit (DMU) service that will connect the City of Antioch to the BART system in Pittsburg. Commissioner Pierce also was present and recognized for her role in getting the project over the finish line. Toll bridge funds paid for about half the cost of the \$525 million project.

Election Results, June 5

The big Bay Area news from the June statewide primary election was the passage of Regional Measure 3 by a margin of 55-45%. Semi-official voting results by county can be found [here](#).

TRB Executive Committee, June 13-14, Wood's Hole

I traveled to Cape Cod for the summer meeting of the Board of Directors for the Transportation Research Board. The major topic of our policy discussion was the future of Connected, Automated, Shared and Electric (CASE) vehicles. As we are discussing here at home in the context of our Horizon planning project, one of the key questions about CASE vehicles is whether all, none, or some number of the four words in that acronym will come to accurately describe the next generation of motor vehicles.

SB1 Repeal Qualifies, June 25, Sacramento

As expected, the misguided measure to repeal the higher gas taxes and vehicle fees contained in last year's landmark Senate Bill 1 (Beall) has qualified for the November 2018 statewide ballot. We will be presenting a staff recommendation to oppose the repeal at the July meetings of both MTC and ABAG.

Map of the Month

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. June's Map of the Month is a video highlighting emigration to the United States since 1820. Over the last century, 79 million people obtained lawful permanent resident status in the United States. This month's Map of the Month visualizes all of them based on their prior country of residence. The brightness of a country corresponds to its total migration to the U.S. at the given time. Please note: 1 dot = 10,000 people. To watch the video, please click [here](#).

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.