

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

July 10, 2019

Agenda Item 8

Staff Liaison Report – July 2019

Subject: Relevant MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Recommendation: Information

Attachments: Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – July 2019



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

**Agenda Item 8
Attachment A**
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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council
FR: Marti Paschal, Staff Liaison
RE: Staff Liaison Report – July 2019

DATE: July 10, 2019
W.I. 1114

2019 Bay Area Metro Award Winners

The first Bay Area Metro Awards were presented on June 6, 2019, at a ceremony in Oakland recognizing 13 people, projects, organizations and local governments advancing solutions to ease the Bay Area's housing crisis, improve the transportation system or make the nine-county region more resilient.

Launched jointly by MTC and ABAG in September 2018 with a call for nominations, the new awards program honors positive impacts on the Bay Area's mobility, affordability, resilience and community; and recognizes efforts that make the region a better place to live, work and play.

“We honor this year's winners to say thank you for the work they are doing and we hope that the winners' stories will inspire others to strive for excellence in their daily tasks,” said ABAG President and MTC Commissioner David Rabbitt.

Collaboration stood out as a key theme for the new awards program since many of the winners were based on effective partnerships: From a team of transit agencies' heroic efforts during the North Bay fires, to scientists working to minimize the impact of an earthquake, to volunteers picking up trash from our beaches, to our region coming together to say yes to funding for our bay and transportation infrastructure. The awards even recognized transit agency management and a labor union working together in a training program.

Winners received a specially designed Bay Area Metro Award at the recognition ceremony. A six-member jury that included members of ABAG's and MTC's governing boards, as well as staff and a community representative, met to consider some 80 nominations in early 2019.

The 2019 Bay Area Metro Award winners are:

- Grand Award: North Bay Transit Operators and Sonoma Clean Power for Response and Recovery from the 2017 North Bay Fires
- Legislative Award: State Senator Jim Beall
- HayWired Earthquake Scenario
- Pacific Beach Coalition

- Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART)
- Steven Falk
- VTA, ATU Local 265 and Mission College: Joint Workforce Investment
- 23rd Avenue Community Building and Oakland Community Land Trust
- Securing Regional Measure 3 Funds: Carl Guardino, Gabriel Metcalf and Jim Wunderman
- U.C. Berkeley's Y-PLAN Team
- San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority
- San Leandro Homeless Compact
- BART to Antioch

For more information about the 2019 Bay Area Metro Award winners, please click [here](#).

San Francisco Bay Trail Announces “Share Your 30” Contest

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the San Francisco Bay Trail, the San Francisco Bay Trail Project is launching a “Share Your 30” contest to inspire Bay Area residents and visitors to get out on the trail, discover and share Bay Trail adventures, and compete to win prizes.

To participate, first find your “30” on the Bay Trail – 30 miles, 30 minutes, 30 places or whatever else inspires you to explore the bayside trail. Be imaginative and inspired, artistic or innovative, as you capture 30 facets of this regional jewel that offers easily accessible recreational opportunities for hikers, bikers, joggers, wildlife-watchers, and other outdoors enthusiasts. Then post your Bay Trail 30 on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram for a chance to win prizes like Patagonia clothing, REI outdoor program gift certificates, Oakland A's baseball tickets, Bay Trail t-shirts and totes, and more. One Grand Prize winner will take home a sleek Norco Valence X6 road bicycle. Enter the contest in three simple steps:

1. Post a short video or photo slideshow about what your “30” is on the Bay Trail
2. Hashtag #baytrail30 and #shareyour30 in your post
3. Tag @SFBayTrail in your post

The contest opened on June 15th and runs until August 15, 2019. More information and maps – as well as rules, terms and conditions – are available at the [San Francisco Bay Trail's 30th anniversary website](#). Contest announcements will be shared on social media.

The Bay Trail plan was adopted by the Association of Bay Area Governments on June 15, 1989. Originally envisioned as a “ring around the Bay,” today some 355 miles of trail are built along the 500-mile perimeter of San Francisco Bay. Several major new segments will be inaugurated during this anniversary year, including a path along the upper deck of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and the Albany Beach Bay Trail behind Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley/Albany. Stay tuned to the Bay Trail website for announcements of future events at [baytrail.org](#).

Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Third Lane Project Recognized

The California Transportation Foundation has named the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Eastbound Third Lane Pilot Project as the Freeway/Expressway Project of the Year for 2018, for work which has brought relief to commuters. The \$53 million project was funded by the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) and developed through a partnership between BATA, Caltrans, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, and the Transportation Authority of Marin.

The third eastbound lane, which typically is operational daily from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., opened in April 2018 and delivered immediate relief for the chronic afternoon and evening congestion that previously plagued eastbound Interstate 580 between San Rafael and Richmond, as well as the eastbound Sir Francis Drake Boulevard approach to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. A series of electronic signs indicate to motorists when the third lane is open to eastbound traffic. These include both a large changeable message board on the Marin County approach to the span and 20 smaller signs installed over each traffic lane on the bridge. The smaller signs display green arrows to indicate open lanes or a red X to indicate a closed lane.

Foundation officials presented the award to project team members at a lunchtime ceremony in Sacramento. Other winners at the 30th annual awards presentation include former MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger, who was named the foundation's Person of the Year for 2018. A special award was presented to the maintenance divisions in several Caltrans districts — including District 4, which covers the nine-county Bay Area — for emergency response and roadway repair efforts following devastating wildfires across California last year.

Therese McMillan Addressed UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design Grads

Executive Director Therese McMillan addressed UC Berkeley's graduating class from the College of Environmental Design in June. McMillan graduated from the same college in 1984, and in 2011 she was awarded the UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design Distinguished Alumni award.

At the commencement ceremonies, McMillan delivered her speech “Place, People, and the Public Interest” in which she urged graduates to take care of their fellow men and women.

"Even as the capacity of architectural design races ahead with new technologies; even as we painfully claw back shards of our environment from oblivion; even as our cities and their fantastic mix of customs and cultures shift and change before our eyes — taking care of people is at the heart of what we do," she said.

"People are the public. The public interest must be about advancing the public good — why wouldn't it be? And unless we actually set out to divide and suppress, this good must be afforded to everyone, consciously and deliberately," McMillan said. [You can read her entire speech here.](#)

Executive Director's Report

The following items are excerpts from the June 2019 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>.

SCAG/USC: Impact of Census 2020: June 11, 2019

I was invited to speak on a panel addressing the role of metropolitan planning as it aligns with critical data coming from the upcoming Census 2020. It was a great reminder of how crucial that national exercise is, and the role we all play to have our constituents participate in the count. I was able to highlight our Planning team's ground breaking scenario-based Horizon initiative.

Meeting with Rating Agencies: New York-June 17-18, 2019

I joined CFO Brian Mayhew and Treasury Director Sue Woo for two days of introductory meetings with Moody's, S & P and Fitch rating agencies. We emphasized our commitment to ensure that BATA's bridge assets and attendant debt portfolio are well managed as a top priority. We also presented the refinancing BATA is pursuing this summer.

Bus Tour of San Mateo Housing and Transportation Projects

Commissioner Papan and representatives from several San Mateo County, City and business interests hosted a half day tour of TOD/housing projects, as well as key transportation planned investments. Thanks to Commissioners Josefowitz, Worth and Halsted for joining staff on the tour. The "on the ground" view was instructive, and a model we should consider in other parts of the region.

10th Annual Norman Mineta National Transportation Finance Summit- June 21, 2019

I was invited to deliver the keynote address for this event, hosted by the Mineta Transportation Institute and San Francisco Commonwealth Club. It was a true honor to participate alongside former Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta, one of the undisputed transportation leaders in this country. The theme of the Summit was "The Intersection between Transportation and Housing: Building Blocks for the Future" - indeed the challenge of our current time in the Bay Area.

MTI Annual Awards and Convocation: June 22, 2019

MTI graciously invited me to deliver the commencement address to the graduating class of 2019, for the Master's degree in Transportation Management, with its namesake Secretary Mineta in attendance. Commissioners Cortese and Liccardo were present, as was State Senator and former Commissioner Jim Beall, and former Commissioner Rod Diridon (one of the founders of MTI) among other dignitaries.

ITE Western District Annual Meeting: Monterey CA, June 24, 2019

I presented the opening keynote address for this regional gathering of engineering professionals and students. It was gratifying to see the diverse program featuring highway and pedestrian safety, complete streets, active transportation, and future planning for autonomous vehicles among many other topics.

Upcoming Events:

6th International Conference- Women's Issues in Transportation- Irvine, CA- Sept. 10-13, 2019

I am the co-chair of this international conference hosted by the Transportation Research Board, with support from the international and local Chapters of the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS). MTC is a sponsor of the conference, among several others from the private and public sector.