

Dear Partnership Board members,

It is great to be back in the Bay Area after nearly a decade and especially good to have an opportunity to continue the important work of the Partnership. I was asked by the Chair and Vice Chair to share my reflections on how that might look (coming back to the Bay as it were!) and I respectfully do so below.

For those of you that don't know, I helped to launch the Partnership Board in the 1990s as a formal advisory group to the MTC, designed to ensure dialogue, collaboration and problem-solving among top managers of public agencies responsible for moving people and goods in the Bay Area, as well as for protecting the region's environmental quality. Over the last three decades, the field of transportation has necessarily become much more inter-disciplinary – resulting in environment, equity and economy becoming integral parts of Partnership discussions. Transportation challenges and solutions have also become much more interwoven with land use and housing with the passage of SB 375 as well as the current housing crisis confronting our region. Over the years, there have been revisions to the scope and membership of the Partnership Board and a strategic review meant to keep up with the dynamic state of the industry.

What we have not been able to do in the last several years, however, is maintain the momentum and engagement of Partnership Board meetings and collaboration.

I have heard from many of you that you support reinvigorating and modernizing the Partnership Board. In particular, I have heard that you want focused and meaningful problem-solving, and to be owners of the work plan and priorities. My own view is that we have many successful venues for addressing detailed program development and procedures—instead, this is an opportunity among the *executive* leaders to take on core policy issues, challenges and opportunities.

Importantly, we can't have 15 “number one” priorities to collaborate around and expect to be effective. To that end, I have been thinking about some of the core dimensions for topics we should consider tackling together:

- regionally significant in scope or impact;
- multi-sector and/or multi-modal in reach or influence;
- responsive to multi-system customer needs;
- positioned to address an urgent need or opportunity.

I offer these as a starting point for discussion, and have attached to Agenda Item 5 an illustrative example of the type of “big picture” issue that reflects the criteria suggested above. However, I am eager to hear your perspectives on an overall direction to refresh the Partnership. I want to spend the bulk of our meeting on July 19th discussing how we can best make use of our time together and get to the work of serving the region and improving the mobility and quality of life for our Bay Area residents. As reference only, we have also included some status report items based on prior requests-- but we really hope to hear how you want to shape the work plan going forward. Together, I believe we can strategically combine our talents and resources to make strides in areas that matter to our shared constituents.

Sincerely,



Therese W. McMillan