

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

October 9, 2019

Agenda Item 7

Staff Liaison Report – October 2019

Subject: Relevant MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Recommendation: Information

Attachments: Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – October 2019
Attachment B: Plan Bay Area 2050 Pop-Up Schedule



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

**Agenda Item 7
Attachment A**
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
TEL 415.778.6700
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

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

DATE: October 9, 2019

W.I. 1114

Plan Bay Area 2050 Pop-Ups

As stated during the Plan Bay Area 2050 Public Engagement Overview presented in July, one element of the public engagement kickoff is the use of pop-up workshops at existing community events to meet people “where they are” and maximize public input. Attached is the current list of Plan Bay Area 2050 pop-up events scheduled throughout the Bay Area. Please share with your networks. As the list is updated, it will be emailed to you for your information and distribution.

U.S. EPA awards \$1.5 million to San Francisco Estuary Partnership

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded an almost \$1.5 million grant to the San Francisco Estuary Partnership for its Transforming Shorelines project. The Transforming Shorelines project works with wastewater treatment facilities to take a nature-based approach to improving water quality by limiting contaminants such as nitrogen from entering the Bay, improving habitat, mitigating the effects of sea-level rise, and replacing aging infrastructure.

Excessive nitrogen loads can lead to the overgrowth of algae and other aquatic plants, increasing the risk of harmful algal blooms and depriving the aquatic food web of much needed dissolved oxygen and sunlight. The project aims to create more than 150 acres of wildlife habitat in areas surrounding several wastewater treatment plants, creating critical linkages between wastewater treatment, resilience to sea-level rise and water around the San Francisco Bay.

The Oro Loma Sanitary District in the East Bay recently completed a project where an 8-million gallon wetland basin or “horizontal levee” was built to help absorb storm surges, while filtering treated wastewater. Over the next three to five years, a UC Berkeley research team will evaluate the effectiveness of Oro Loma’s innovative project.

The Estuary Partnership is an ABAG-MTC program working to increase the health and resiliency of the San Francisco Estuary. For more information about the San Francisco Estuary Partnership visit: sfestuary.org

Executive Director's Report

The following items are excerpts from the September 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>.

Mega-Measure (FASTER Bay Area)

The coalition advancing the “mega” transportation revenue measure, coined “FASTER Bay Area”, has been recently making public presentations on their proposal, after several months of reconnaissance discussions throughout the Bay Area transportation community. The Chair has requested that the MTC Executive Committee hold a meeting on October 11, 2019 to review the proposal's current schedule, as we understand it, in preparation for a presentation by the FASTER team to the full Commission on October 23rd.

RHNA

On September 19, 2019, the ABAG Executive Committee approved the members of the Housing Methodology Committee (HMC) for the Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) process. This first official action kicked off the 6th cycle of a state mandated process well known in the region that will assign to cities and counties the number of housing units by affordability level that each jurisdiction must accommodate in its adopted Housing Element. This is a significant and intensive planning effort, and we expect the State's target for the region to be much higher in this round than in the past. As well, the State has created for itself new legal remedies for enforcement, and provisions imposing new required factors and considerations, including fair housing.

As the COG for the San Francisco Bay Area, ABAG is statutorily responsible to distribute the Bay Area's allocation from Sacramento into a number for each city and county, a critical coordination role since – without it – each local government would be left to work directly and alone with Sacramento on its individual goals as is the case for cities in areas without a COG. It is a task that is difficult and often criticized, but crucial nonetheless.

We as staff will support ABAG by taking every available opportunity to get the RHNA message out including outreach meetings, our webpages, e-newsletters, social media and press releases.

Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule Update

California and the Trump Administration have been locked in a legal and political battle over the administration's Safer Affordable Fuel Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule – the proposal to roll back Obama-era fuel efficiency standards – since it was first proposed in 2018. On September 19th, the Trump Administration revoked the waiver that allows California to set stricter rules to address the state's unique air quality challenges, making good on its stated intent to repeal California's waiver independently from – and in advance of – the larger rulemaking. We expect that the administration will continue to make every effort to roll back fuel economy standards and that California will lead the charge to oppose the rulemaking. On September 20, 2019, 23 states led by California plus the District of Columbia and cities of Los Angeles and New York filed a complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief. This initiates what we expect to be a suite of legal and/or legislative strategies to mitigate project-level impacts, as the Administration's actions put the rule into effect.

A rollback of fuel economy standards raises a number of concerns for MTC and our counterparts throughout the state. First and foremost, revoking these mandates would hinder ongoing statewide efforts to combat climate change and improve public health. Also, more technically, but very important to MTC and other transportation agencies, rolling back national fuel economy standards and/or revoking California waiver would invalidate California's air quality emissions model – the tool metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and Caltrans use to perform routine air quality analyses mandated by the federal government. Without a valid model, MTC's adoption of our 2021 regional transportation plan (RTP) update (*Plan Bay Area 2050*) and transportation improvement plan (TIP) update are at risk. More immediately, MTC would face strict limitations on our ability to amend or add certain projects, such as highway and transit expansion projects, to the Bay Area's current TIP and RTP – we would be unable to make changes that trigger air quality conformity review. Additionally, projects undergoing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review requiring new or updated air quality conformity analysis would be unable to complete NEPA until a new emissions model is approved by the federal government, which the California Air Resources Board estimates could take up to three years.

Women's Issues in Transportation (WliT) Conference

On September 11-13, 2019, I had the privilege of co-chairing the 6th International Women's Issues in Transportation Conference, sponsored by the Transportation Research Board. Focusing on the triple themes of "Insight, Inclusion, and Impact," the conference was a great success, breaking all prior attendance records and drawing participants from 27 different countries, including those from the global south. MTC staff contributed to the conference aiding a team in the production of a video spotlighting research being done around the world to address the challenge of sexual harassment on public transportation systems, one of the many critical issues affecting women's mobility and its impact on their access and opportunities in society. We will be posting a conference highlight on the website, and will consider the proceedings in our planning work going forward.

Plan Bay Area 2050 Pop-Ups

	Event	Day of the Week	Date	Time	Address	Located in CoC?	Serving CoC?
1	Napa Farmer's Market	Saturday	5-Oct-19	9 - 11 a.m.	South Napa Century Center Parking Lot, 195 Gasser Dr., Napa	Yes	Yes
2	Alum Rock Village Farmer's Market	Sunday	6-Oct-19	9 - 11 a.m.	57 North White Road, San Jose	Yes	Yes
3	Richmond Library	Thursday	10-Oct-19	12 noon - 2 p.m.	325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond	Yes	Yes
4	Contra Costa College	Thursday	10-Oct-19	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	2600 Mission Bell Drive, San Pablo	Yes	Yes
5	Livermore Art Walk	Saturday	12-Oct-19	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	1st Street in Downtown Livermore	No	No
6	Diwali - Festival of Lights	Saturday	12-Oct-19	12 - 2 p.m.	10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino	No	No
7	Pittsburg Farmer's Market	Saturday	12-Oct-19	9 - 11 a.m.	Old Town Plaza, Railroad Ave. and 6th St., Pittsburg	No	Yes
8	SFSU Quad	Wednesday	16-Oct-19	11:30 - 1:30 p.m.	1600 Holloway Drive (The Quad), San Francisco	No	Yes
9	East Palo Alto Farmer's Market	Wednesday	16-Oct-19	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Ravenswood Family Health Center, 1885 Bay Rd, East Palo Alto	Yes	Yes
10	Santa Rosa/Luther Burbank Farmers Mkt	Wednesday	16-Oct-19	10 a.m. - 12 noon	Luther Burbank Center, 50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa	Yes	Yes
11	Orinda Casual Carpool	Thursday	17-Oct-19	6:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Corner of Bryant Way and Moraga Way, Orinda	No	No
12	Heart of the City Farmer's Market	Friday	18-Oct-19	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Civic Center, San Francisco	Yes	Yes
13	Cherryland 5k Fun Run	Saturday	19-Oct-19	9 a.m. - 12 noon	16301 E 14th St, San Leandro	Yes	Yes
14	College of San Mateo Farmer's Market	Saturday	19-Oct-19	9 - 11 a.m.	55-57 W Perimeter Rd., Hillsborough	No	No
15	Sunday Streets - Excelsior	Sunday	20-Oct-19	11 - 1 p.m.	Mission Street, between Silver and Geneva, San Francisco	Yes	Yes
16	Smiles for All - Free Dental Care	Sunday	20-Oct-19	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	2400 West Borough Blvd., Suite 205, So. San Francisco	Yes	Yes
17	Santa Clara Central Park Library	Tuesday	22-Oct-19	3:30 - 6 p.m.	2635 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara	No	Yes
18	Vacaville Chamber of Commerce Job Fair	Wednesday	23-Oct-19	4 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Ulati Community Center, 1000 Ulati Dr., Vacaville	Yes	Yes
19	Serramonte Center Farmers Market	Thursday	24-Oct-19	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	133 Serramonte Center, Daly City	Yes	Yes
20	Lake Merritt	Saturday	26-Oct-19	11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lake Merritt, Oakland	Yes	Yes
21	Vacaville Farmers Market Downtown	Saturday	26-Oct-19	10 a.m. - 12 noon	Creekwalk Plaza, Andrews Park, Vacaville	No	No
22	Vallejo Farmers Market	Saturday	26-Oct-19	10 a.m. - 12 noon	400 Georgia & Marin St., Vallejo	Yes	Yes
23	San Rafael Farmer's Market	Sunday	27-Oct-19	10 a.m. - 12 noon	3501 Civic Center Drive, San Rafael	No	No
24	The Transportation Museum	Sunday	27-Oct-19	10 a.m. - 12 noon	Brittan Acres Elementary School, 2000 Belle Ave, San Carlos	No	No
25	Petaluma East Farmers Market	Tuesday	29-Oct-19	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	320 N Mc Dowell Blvd., Petaluma	No	No
26	Soscol Gateway Transit Center	Thursday	31-Oct-19	6:30 - 8:30 a.m.	625 Burnell Street, Napa	Yes	Yes
27	Dia de los Muertos	Saturday	2-Nov-19	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	International Blvd. between 40th Ave. to Fruitvale Ave., Oakland	Yes	Yes
28	Pickleweed Library	Thursday	7-Nov-19	11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	50 Canal Street, San Rafael	Yes	Yes
29	Muni Stop TBD	TBD	TBD	AM Peak	TBD in San Francisco	Yes	Yes
30	San Jose location TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD in San Jose	Yes	Yes

CBO Pop-ups

1	Acterra	Saturday	9-Nov-19	Mid-day	East Palo Alto	Yes	Yes
2	CRIL	TBD	TBD	TBD	Hayward	Yes	Yes
3	Green Hive	Saturday	2-Nov-19	Mid-day	Vallejo	Yes	Yes
4	Lighthouse for the Blind	Saturday	16-Nov-19	Mid-day	San Francisco	Yes	Yes
5	Rose Foundation	TBD	TBD	TBD	Oakland	Yes	Yes
6	Sacred Heart Community Service	Tuesday	22-Oct-19	Morning	San Jose	Yes	Yes
7	Sound of Hope	TBD	TBD	TBD	San Francisco	Yes	Yes
8	West Oak Environ. Indicator's Project	TBD	TBD	TBD	Oakland	Yes	Yes