

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

February 20, 2020

Agenda Item 7.a.

ABAG Legislation Committee

Subject: SB 278 (Beall): Advocacy Principles

Background: At their joint meeting on February 14, 2020, the ABAG Legislation Committee and the MTC Legislation Committee received a report on proposed advocacy principles related to SB 278 (Beall). While SB 278 currently relates to county transportation plan guidelines, Senator Beall intends to amend it to incorporate authorizing legislation for a sales tax in the nine Bay Area counties, subject to voter approval, generating approximately \$100 billion over 40 years for transportation, and potentially, affordable housing. Staff developed advocacy principles (see attached summary sheet) based on feedback received by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a workshop held on January 30th.

The proposed principles were adopted by the MTC Legislation Committee, with additional direction to staff to also convey in any meetings with legislators and others a number of additional concerns that were expressed during public comment, including:

- Consideration of adding more progressive revenue sources in addition to the sales tax;
- Ensuring that transit operations is adequately funded by the measure; and
- Including climate restoration goals connected to infrastructure projects focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The ABAG Legislation Committee did not adopt the proposed principles due to lack of a quorum. Staff was directed to place SB 278 on the agenda for the Executive Board's February meeting. Particularly relevant to ABAG, the advocacy principles include the recommendation to consider adding affordable housing and funding for homelessness to the revenue measure based on recent polling conducted by the FASTER Bay Area coalition and feedback staff from Commissioners at the MTC workshop. While this is a recommended legislative strategy, staff is proceeding with the necessary steps to place an affordable housing measure on the ballot this November, pursuant to AB 1487 (Chiu) given that SB 278 (Beall) still has a long way to go in Sacramento.

Staff is not recommending a support position on SB 278 at this time and will bring the bill back for further discussion in March related to the revenue mechanism and expenditure priorities.

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Issues: None

Recommended Action: The Executive Board is requested to approve proposed advocacy principles to guide early engagement on SB 278.

Attachments: Summary Sheet, Joint MTC Legislation Committee with the ABAG Legislation Committee, dated February 14, 2020.

Reviewed:



Therese W. McMillan