

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Policy Advisory Council**

**September 9, 2020**

**Agenda Item 9**

**Staff Liaison Report – September 2020**

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**Subject:** Relevant MTC policy decisions and other activities.

**Recommendation:** Information

**Attachments:** Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – September 2020



## November TBD Fare Coordination & Integration Subcommittee

**December 9, 2020 Policy Advisory Council**  
Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint Approval into EIR  
Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force report  
**December TBD Equity & Access Subcommittee**

Additional items requested by advisors for the Council work plan will be scheduled as Council meeting availability and staff resources allow:

- Legislative updates
- Public engagement activities
- Clipper 2.0
- Clipper open payments
- Connectivity (e.g., bike – transit)
- Equity in contracting with transit agencies
- Last-mile issues
- Regional Safety/Vision Zero policy
- Autonomous vehicles
- Emergency services, e.g., during wildfire season
- Response to the oncoming increase in single-occupancy vehicles
- Impacts on transportation from new upcoming technologies

Equity & Access Subcommittee:

- MTC equity platform
- Fully accessible housing next to transit
- Reduced fares and easy schedules
- MTC/World Institute on Disability project
- TNC Access for All Act implementation
- Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan implementation
- Sustainable Communities and Climate Resilience for People with Disabilities Project
- Transportation Improvement Program Investment Analysis
- Lifeline Transportation Program/Participatory Budgeting Pilot
- Equity Overview of the Regional Bike Share and Active Transportation Programs

On a related matter, MTC Resolution 3931, Revised, which created the MTC Policy Advisory Council and set forth the roles and expectations of the advisors, states that the terms of the current advisors will end July 2021. However, staff will request an amendment of MTC Resolution 3931 to extend the current terms until the end of the Plan Bay Area 2050 process in the fall of 2021. Staff will begin the recruitment process for the subsequent term by the end of this year.

**Have a Question? Ask a Librarian**

If you need assistance locating information or are having difficulty navigating the MTC-ABAG websites, please feel free to contact the MTC-ABAG head librarian, Julie Tunnell. Reference assistance is available by telephone (415-778-5236), or email [library@bayareametro.gov](mailto:library@bayareametro.gov) Information can also be found on the MTC-ABAG library webpage: <https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtc-abag-library-information-asking>

### **Annual Bike to Work Day Pivots to “Bike to Wherever Days”**

The Bay Area’s annual Bike to Work Day has been reimagined as “Bike to Wherever Days” (BTWD), encouraging bicyclists across the nine-county region to participate in a myriad of activities to promote cycling throughout September.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the organizers of Bike to Work Day 2020 (BTWD) rescheduled the event from May 14, 2020 to September 24, 2020, in anticipation of employees returning to regular work routines. Unfortunately, life has not returned to normal.

“Now we are encouraging people to join us on two wheels on September 24 and during the whole month of September as we celebrate the importance of cycling for health, safety, and helping in the fight against Climate Change,” said Scott Haggerty, Chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, BTWD’s lead sponsor. “Bicycling is one of the safest, most efficient and enjoyable forms of transportation.”

Bike to Wherever Days encourages cyclists across the Bay Area counties – Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma – to get out on their bikes and safely pedal to wherever: through a park, to a grocery store or to visit with friends and family while social distancing. There are many possibilities. Bike to Wherever Days will be a COVID-safe celebration of activities for individuals (and virtual teams.)

Leading up to the September activities, bicycle coalitions and traffic management organizations throughout the region are holding virtual classes and events. Information about the programs can be found at the county links at [www.lovetoride.net/bayarea](http://www.lovetoride.net/bayarea). This site also provides the opportunity for riders to register to participate in Bike to Wherever Days for the month of September. By registering, bicyclists can track their rides, have a chance to win great prizes, be part of a team and individual Bay Area-wide competitions, and have fun pedaling with friends, family, remote coworkers, and more.

“Bike riding has seen a huge uptick during the pandemic as people have embraced it for exercise, mental health and as a fun way to get outside,” Haggerty said. “We want to see the whole Bay Area get out on their bikes in September. We think it will be a unifying event in these challenging times.”

Bay Area Bike to Wherever Days encourages local residents to try riding on two wheels for the first time and celebrates those who regularly bike. It is presented by MTC, 511 (the region’s traveler information system), and Alaska Airlines. Bike to Wherever Days 2020 also receives regional support from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART), as well as from many sponsors at the local level.

### **Final I-880 Express Lanes Sign Installation Has Begun**

On August 24, 2020, work crews began installing the final Express Lanes signs along Interstate 880 in Alameda County as MTC and Caltrans gear up for the late September opening of new Express Lanes between Oakland and the Santa Clara County line. The four-week project will involve installation in the median barrier of signs with carpool tolling information as well as in-lane placement of ‘EXPRS LANE’ pavement markings. The project also will include the removal of “Under Construction” panels from overhead sign structures and removal of diamond pavement markings from the existing carpool lanes. As the Express Lane signs go up, digital messaging in the corridor will indicate that the far-left lane remains a 2+ carpool lane until tolling of the lanes begins in September.

Final sign installation began in the southbound direction, with crews starting at Hegenberger Road in Oakland and making their way to Dixon Landing Road near the Fremont/Milpitas border. Northbound work will follow, beginning at Dixon Landing Road and extending to Lewelling Boulevard in San Lorenzo. All work will be done in the overnight hours from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., with work schedules running from Monday night/Tuesday mornings through Friday night/Saturday mornings. Travelers can expect delays in the corridor, as both the far-left lane (lane 1) and the adjacent lane (lane 2) will be closed for five-mile stretches to accommodate this work.

To prepare travelers for the start of tolling in the far-left lanes, the new signs indicate that FasTrak® is required to use the Express Lanes, that carpools with 3+ occupants may travel toll free, that two-person carpools receive discounted tolls, and that the Express Lane hours of operation will be weekdays from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. These rules will not take effect until tolling begins in late September. In the interim, the lanes will continue to operate as 2+ carpool lanes on weekdays from 5 a.m. to 9 a.m., and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Travelers can visit [511.org\(link is external\)](#) to learn everything they need to know to use the future Express Lanes, as well as to view a series of easy-to-watch [videos\(link is external\)](#) explaining all aspects of the I-880 Express Lanes.

### **Executive Director's Report**

The following items are excerpts from the July and August 2020 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>.

### **Plan Bay Area Draft Blueprint**

We held 26 total virtual events to collect public input on the Plan Bay Area Draft Blueprint, including 17 in 3 weeks, reaching 7,600 Bay area residents. We held 7 Focus Group meetings, 5 telephone town halls, 9 county-specific digital public workshops, and 3 digital stakeholder workshops. Plus, we conducted an online survey and took input from an online comment form, a listening line, emailed comments, office hours, and a statistically valid poll. In all, we received over 3,400 comments, as well as 3 million impressions on our digital campaign including social media.

### **BATA Recovery Ad Hoc Working Group Kick-Off**

On August 21, I attended the kick-off meeting of the BATA Recovery Ad Hoc Working Group. The group, composed of Commissioners Worth, Tavares, Connolly, Dutra Vernaci and Josefowitz, will take a deep dive into the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the BATA toll bridge program. The first meeting included a primer on traffic and toll revenue trends, and impacted areas of toll collection, traffic operations and asset management. The group will guide BATA and Caltrans in responding to the opportunities and challenges of the moment and will report back to BATA in six months.

### **Richmond-San Rafael Forward Kick-Off**

MTC is officially kicking off Richmond-San Rafael Forward with our partner agencies, which include Caltrans, TAM, CCTA, City of Richmond and Golden Gate Transit. We aim to reinstate the HOV lane on I-580 between the toll plaza and Bayview and to modernize the toll facilities from booths to open road tolling. These operational improvements help us to support the RSR Access Pilot by focusing on moving more people in fewer cars and managing congestion.

### **Clipper Website Redesign**

The Clipper program's official customer service and information website, clippercard.com, has been redesigned to create a new online experience. The website sports a fresh look, streamlined content and improved navigation that make it easier for cardholders to manage their account and all website users to find the Clipper information they need.

### **Things of Note:**

- On August 20, we participated in a coordinated, cross-agency Twitter thread to educate the public about the Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan. Since the posting, we have received lots of positive comments from the public. Check out the thread pinned to the top of the @MTCBATA Twitter page. Link provided below:  
<https://twitter.com/MTCBATA/status/1296575628053843968>
- I would like to acknowledge Nick Roethel, the Section Director of our Technology Systems and Solutions (TSS) team, in partnership with NTT who is responsible for broadcasting our Committee, Commission, and Board meetings. The team designed a way to simultaneously transmit Closed Captioning with our broadcasts so the public will no longer have to request this service in advance of the meetings. As we pivot our normal agency operations to fully adapt to a remote environment, we are pleased to provide this improved service to our hearing impaired community members. You can follow the link provided on the Broadcast page to utilize this service.
- On July 28, I moderated another MTC/ABAG sponsored MetroTalks: Equity Series titled "Advancing Community Health and Equitable Engagement in the age of COVID-19." The event included Melissa Jones, Executive Director of the Bay Area Health Inequities Initiative, Mariana Moore, the Director of the Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa, and Julio Garcia, the Senior Program Director at Nuestra Casa in East Palo Alto. As we navigate through the impacts of COVID, it is critical that we reimagine and restructure our community engagement practices to be responsive to this new environment. Engaging with our community partners is a way to advance our understanding of the challenges and successes to creating meaningful connections among all who reside in our region. Links to a recording of this talk can be found on the MTC-ABAG's YouTube and Facebook page links below.  
Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOqAvB9VJYjiOnkO-G6f8w>  
Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/MTCBATA/?epa=SEARCH\\_BOX](https://www.facebook.com/MTCBATA/?epa=SEARCH_BOX)

### **Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force**

The Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force met on July 20<sup>th</sup>, and requested that a specific update be presented to the Commission on the critical, shared task of developing and implementing a comprehensive health and safety strategy to keep the Bay Area's public transit riders' and employees' well-being front and center as the COVID 19 pandemic continues to unfold.

The Task Force received a presentation by the public transit operators- the "Riding together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan" that establishes common health & safety commitments for employees and passengers, including those that ride multiple systems. The Plan highlights the essential partnership with the region's transit customers to work together to minimize the transmission of COVID-19. Importantly, the transit operators have committed to implementing the plan individually and collectively, with an eye to continually improving and adjusting to changing circumstances and opportunities during this unprecedented crisis.

The following steps emerging from or closely related to Task Force input and recommendations are as follows:

- The “Riding together: Bay Area Healthy Transit Plan” (the Plan) will be released publicly within the next 30 days
  - This will be accompanied by a companion communications campaign led by MTC; this campaign will support the coordinated agency communication and information efforts.
- MTC requests that transit operators present to their governing boards and submit to the Commission a resolution that commits each agency to implementing the Plan
- Consistent with the Plan’s health and safety common commitments, a set of public transit baseline health conditions will be outlined in a “dashboard” for public access and information, and available to the Commission at its August meeting
  - It will be accompanied by a framework for regular reporting of progress to track the baseline conditions
  - The progress report will be submitted the Commission initially every month.

### **Clipper START**

The new Clipper Start program a means-based fare pilot, which allows lower-income adults age 19-64 to receive big fare discounts on select transit services around the region, launched on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>. Clipper START discounts are 50% off fares for Muni, Caltrain, and select Golden Gate Transit and Ferry routes, and 20% off BART fares. This is an 18-month pilot program initiated by Bay Area Transit agencies and MTC that uses the Clipper transit fare payment system to reduce the cost of transportation for adults whose household incomes are no more than twice the federal poverty level (for example, \$52,400 for a family of four). This program is coming at a time when the most vulnerable in our region are facing devastating impacts from the COVID economic climate. MTC has recently engaged 17 additional transit operators on the topic of joining the program and will be updating the Commission on that progress over the next couple of months.

Information on the Clipper START program and how to apply can be found at the following link:  
<https://www.clipperstartcard.com/>

### **Other News**

#### **Grant Award**

The region has secured \$114 million, or 41% of the statewide amount for 17 Bay Area projects, in the Infill Infrastructure Grant (IIG) program. This program supports infrastructure for affordable housing developments. MTC provided letters for all applications confirming Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) consistency and determining Transit Priority Area Consistency.

- Two projects in Napa county received \$11 million from the Small Jurisdiction set aside, or 13% of the Small Jurisdiction funds. These funds are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, and very little of the Bay Area is eligible for this set aside.
- 15 Bay Area projects were awarded from the Large Jurisdiction competitive round of funding
  - Bay Area awards total \$103 million, or 53% of the total large jurisdiction funds.
  - Awarded projects in Alameda county (7), San Francisco (4), Santa Clara county (2), Contra Costa county, and Sonoma county.
  - Bay Area awards will fund infrastructure improvements that support 2,724 units of affordable housing. Awards will fund things like sewer and utility improvements, roadway construction, and storm drains.



- Of the awarded projects in the Bay Area, seven also received Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC) awards. Of the 11 projects that applied for both AHSC and IIG funds, only two did not receive either an AHSC or IIG grant.

For more detail on the awards, see the full awards lists for [Small Jurisdictions](#) and [Large Jurisdictions](#).

### **Things of Note**

I was a panelist at the 11th Annual Mineta National Transportation Policy Summit, “Paying for Transportation in California: Does COVID-19 Change Everything?” on June 26. As a member of the Board of Trustees, I also attended the virtual Mineta Transportation Institute 28th annual convocation celebration on June 26. The Institute is geared specifically for working professionals who have not attained their master’s degrees. It was gratifying to see the diversity of the current class with a majority people of color and women, some working mothers, along with a number of station agents, maintenance supervisors, and transit security – professions that aren’t often seen as stepping stones to higher education. As we collectively try to build opportunities for those who have been left behind, it was an enlightening moment to see this graduating class in a program designed to uplift and provide a path forward to better economic outcomes.

### **Special Note**

Chair Haggerty earlier this month was recognized by the California Transportation Foundation as its Person of the Year through a nomination jointly sponsored by MTC and the Alameda County Transportation Commission, for which Scott served as Chair from 2013 to 2016. Current Alameda CTC Chair Pauline Cutter noted, “In his 24 years of service, Supervisor Haggerty has been one of our strongest and most successful transportation leaders in the Bay Area. For all of us who know him, we see the lasting effect of his work in almost every transportation system in Alameda County and the Bay Area. There could not be a more deserving person.”

In addition to honoring Chair Haggerty for his work to deliver the Alameda County Measure B Capital Program, and to pass the Measure BB sales tax extension, the CTF also noted Scott’s leadership in extending the BART system for the first time to Santa Clara County; his role in the Northern California Goods Movement Collaborative; his work to advance Express Lane projects; his support for the Safe Routes to Schools program and the Affordable Student Transit Pass; and his leadership in establishing the Valley Link partnership with northern San Joaquin Valley communities.

It is my pleasure to offer the warm congratulations and heartfelt thanks of the entire MTC-ABAG staff to Chair Haggerty for his decades of leadership and for his accomplishments in improving mobility for travelers throughout the Bay Area and beyond.