

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

November 17, 2020

Agenda Item 11

Staff Liaison Report – November 2020

Subject: Relevant MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Recommendation: Information

Attachments: Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – November 2020



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

**Agenda Item 11
Attachment A**
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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council
FR: Marti Paschal, Staff Liaison
RE: Staff Liaison Report – November 2020

DATE: November 17, 2020
W.I. 1114

Draft 2021 TIP Released for Public Review

On November 9 MTC released the [Draft 2021 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\)](#). This list of more than 700 Bay Area transportation projects reflects approximately \$10.3 billion in committed federal, state and local funding for the four-year period through 2024.

The TIP is the Bay Area's comprehensive four-year spending plan that lists all transportation projects and programs for which any action by a federal agency is expected, including major regional projects with no federal funding. The TIP is financially constrained by year, meaning that the amount of dollars committed to the projects must not exceed the amount of dollars estimated to be available. MTC must adopt a new TIP at least once every four years, and the TIP must also be approved by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

In conjunction with the release of the [Draft 2021 TIP](#), MTC also released the [Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis](#), which ensures that both the Draft 2021 TIP and the amended Plan Bay Area 2040, the Bay Area's transportation and housing blueprint, conform to federal air quality plan, known as the State Implementation Plan. Conformity means that the transportation activities will not cause new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the relevant national ambient air quality standards.

MTC encourages public comment on the TIP and the Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis. **The review and comment period will close on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.** To help facilitate this process, these documents will be presented at a [public meeting to be held virtually via Zoom](#). This presentation is scheduled to take place during [MTC's Programming & Allocations Committee meeting](#) on Wednesday, December 9, 2020, at 9:45 a.m., or immediately following MTC's Administration Committee meeting, whichever occurs later.

Additionally, written comments may be submitted to MTC's Public Information Office at 375 Beale Street, Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94105; faxed to MTC at (415) 536-9800; or sent via e-mail to info@bayareametro.gov. Written comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2020. For more information, call MTC's Public Information Office at (415) 778-6757. At its Wednesday, December 9, 2020 meeting, MTC's Programming and Allocations Committee is scheduled to consider public comments received. Approval of final documents is expected on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at the MTC Commission meeting.

Technical Assistance Programs Offer Resources for Local Jurisdictions

MTC has established a one-stop shop on its website to provide local jurisdictions an easy way to access the various Technical Assistance programs that MTC and its partners offer. The new [Technical Assistance page](#) brings together some 18 programs offered by MTC, the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Bay Area Regional Collaborative, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. The programs are organized across several categories: data, energy programs, land use, resiliency, transportation and workshops. The two types of Technical Assistance offered are Direct Assistance programs, which provide a focused intervention that provides specific services to an agency, and Capacity Building programs, which enhance an agency's technical expertise and strengthens institutional knowledge.

By compiling programs such as Complete Streets, StreetSaver® and the Technology Transfer Program into a single location, jurisdictions can more quickly and easily access resources they need, as well as learn about other programs that may be useful to them. This page will be updated as new programs become available.

BATA Leads Effort Creating New Public Park

A sparkling, new shoreline public park near the Bay Bridge in Oakland was dedicated on October 21, the project brought to fruition with help from the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA). Adjacent to the eastern touchdown of the Bay Bridge, the Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline includes a massive 600-foot long by 40-foot wide public observation deck, built atop six remaining support piers from the original Bay Bridge East Span.

BATA contributed millions of dollars for development of the park, and the decision to retain the old bridge piers was approved by the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee, which completed its work last year. Former MTC and BATA Executive Director Steve Heminger served as a member of the committee throughout its 2005-2019 existence.

In addition to the observation deck, a 24,000-square foot 1930s-era electric train maintenance building known as the Bridge Yard has been renovated to host large concerts, community events, and public concessions. Running the length of the park is a bicycle/pedestrian path that connects to the Bay Bridge Trail, linking the park with Yerba Buena Island. Bike parking is available adjacent to the observation pier, which is open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Other visitor amenities include restrooms, walking paths and interpretive panels. The park is expected to be a popular tourist destination with its sweeping views of the bay and easy access to the Bay Bridge Trail. It's been dubbed as the "Gateway to the East Bay" due to its visibility to eastbound Bay Bridge drivers.

"From the bicycle/pedestrian path to restoring the historic Bridge Yard building to preserving foundations from the original Bay Bridge East Span to establish the new access pier, BATA is proud of the investments it has made to make the new park – and the bay itself – more accessible to all the people of the Bay Area," said Orinda Vice Mayor and BATA member Amy Rein Worth, who chairs MTC's BATA Oversight Committee.

"Opening this park has been a landmark partnership between Caltrans, which provided much of the land; the Bay Area Toll Authority, which provided much of the funding; and the Park District, which manages and operates world-class regional parks," said East Bay Regional Park District General Manager Robert Doyle.

The park was named for Sutter, a civic and environmental leader, and former East Bay Park District Board Member who saw the potential for a future waterfront park in the 1960s while the area was still active as the Oakland Army Base. Sutter first proposed the park in a 1967 letter to the Association of Bay Area Governments.

The site has a long history. From 1903 to 1960, it served as the base of operations for the electric railway Key System that transported passengers around the East Bay and from 1936 to 1958 across the lower deck of the Bay Bridge to San Francisco. A substation located at the site provided electrical power to Key System trains. The Oakland Army Base served as a transportation port and distribution terminal for the Pacific from 1941 until 1999.

The park's opening is the culmination of decades of regional collaboration and the Park District's long-time efforts to reclaim shoreline for public use and habitat preservation. A nine-member multiagency working group facilitated the park. In addition to BATA, Caltrans and the East Bay Parks District, the group also includes the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)'s Bay Trail Project, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), California Transportation Commission (CTC), City of Oakland, Port of Oakland and the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD).

Going to Bat for Low-Income Voters: MTC Joined the Oakland Athletics and AC Transit

Last month MTC teamed up with the Oakland Athletics, AC Transit and social service agencies to help lower-income Alameda County residents cast general election ballots on or before Election Day. From October 29 through November 3, the A's provided 1,300 Clipper cards, each loaded with an AC Transit one-day local pass, to residents of local shelters, RV sites and homeless encampments and also made available 3,000 KN-95 face masks to help ensure vulnerable citizens could not just get out to vote but could do so safely.

MTC grooved a fastball for the Athletics' get-out-the-vote swing by waiving the \$3 fee normally required for Clipper transit-fare payment cards. Helping the Athletics distribute the cards was Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless; Bay Area Community Services; the Downtown Streets Team; the East Oakland Collective; and LavaMae, which provides mobile showers and other hygiene assistance for homeless men, women and children.

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 Information can also be found on the MTC-ABAG library webpage: <https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtc-abag-library-information-asking>

Executive Director's Report

The following items are excerpts from the October 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>.

Key Updates on COVID-Related Activities

MTC COVID Response: Bay Area Metro Center (BAMC)

The challenges around Covid-19 are ever changing and the City and County of San Francisco Health Orders and Directives are updated in response to these changing dynamics. Per the announced updated Order issued on October 20, 2020, MTC will review, respond, and comply with all updates and changes, as necessary.

To date, MTC staff that can perform their work remotely will continue to do so until COVID-19 is controlled and/or Shelter In Place (SIP) requirements allow them to do so safely and productively. This practice has been in place since the start of the SIP orders.

For MTC staff that have essential functions that require them to perform work at the MTC offices they can and will continue to do so without limitation while adhering to all health directives.

MTC staff has worked to ensure that:

- The building and staff meet all requirements of the Health Orders and Directives,
- MTC employees are kept as safe and healthy as possible,
- MTC does what it can to assist with slowing the spread of the virus, and
- MTC operations continue without interruption or negatively impacting the region we serve.

COVID-19 Related Operational Statistics

Staff have updated the Operational Statistics page, incorporating COVID-related data on regional vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and Transit Ridership metrics. Impacts of the COVID pandemic also are evident on Toll Bridge Crossings and Clipper Fare Payment System indicators. Additional metrics will be added to the COVID landing page.

COVID Related Activities (Website Landing)

The MTC website has been updated to capture the various COVID-19 related activities, updates, and statistics that are affecting the region. This landing page will make it easier to access information and reach a collective understanding of the challenges that are occurring throughout our various transit systems.

The website can be accessed at: <https://mtc.ca.gov/covid>

Riding Together: Healthy Transit Plan and Dashboard

Transit operators provided their joint report detailing monthly operator performance on key metrics related to COVID-19 health and safety measures, as reported by agencies through a publicly accessible dashboard. This month and subsequently, these updates will be included as part of the MTC Commission meeting consent calendar.

Plan Bay Area 2050

I presented an update to the joint meeting of the MTC Planning and ABAG Administration Committees at their regular meeting on October 9, 2020 to delve deeper into the details of the PBA 2050 strategy on telecommuting, which has generated much attention among local stakeholders, business interests and the media. Commissioners and staff continue outreach on this subject, and at the direction of Planning Chair Sperring a fact sheet on the subject was presented.

Also of note, on October 15, 2020 the ABAG Executive Board approved the methodology for the 6th cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), which is built on key PBA2050 growth assumptions. As housing affordability and availability are foundational issues in our regional plan, ABAG's decisions around RHNA are critical to our joint agency planning responsibilities.

East Bay Economic Development Alliance

On October 8, I gave a presentation to the East Bay Economic Development Alliance on the work we are doing regionally to help strengthen the East Bay's economy, including the proposed Plan Bay Area Blueprint strategies on Economic Development, Housing, Transportation and Priority Production Areas. An update on ABAG's work with RHNA was also briefly reviewed. I encouraged attendees to provide their input and feedback on the upcoming Plan Bay Area Implementation Plan.

Early Earthquake Warning System Installed at the Metro Center

Last month staff completed installation of an early earthquake warning system at the Bay Area Metro Center. The alert system uses data from a network of monitoring stations throughout the state. It will give an advance warning of a few seconds to tens of seconds if there is an earthquake of 4.0 or greater in San Francisco at the location of the Metro Center. It alerts those in the building (agency staff, tenants and visitors) to take cover for safety in the event of a strong earthquake. The system is similar to that used by BART and a number of other government agencies and service providers statewide.

October Metro Talks: Gender Equity in Transportation

On Thursday, October 3, due to a scheduling conflict my Chief of Staff moderated a discussion on what a safe and equitable transit system, accessible for women and girls, can look like in the Bay Area. Facing greater burdens in the current COVID crisis—and discussing what the transit sector can do to support riders and provide career pathways with elevated economic opportunities, was also a focus of the talk.

A recording of the conversation, exploring how the Bay Area transportation can be more welcoming to women and girls especially those from our communities of color, can be found on our YouTube and Facebook pages (links are below).

Public access via MTC-ABAG YouTube and Facebook:

- [YouTube Link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRZvknZUm5A&t=11s) for the MetroTalks on Gender Equity. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JRZvknZUm5A&t=11s>)
- [Facebook link](https://www.facebook.com/MTCBATA/videos/720246905367057). (<https://www.facebook.com/MTCBATA/videos/720246905367057>)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MTCBATA>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/mtcabaglibrary>