

Date: November 20, 2020  
Referred by: Commission

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 4442

Resolution of appreciation for Tony Tavares for his two years of service on the Commission.

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RE: Resolution of Appreciation for Tony Tavares

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
Resolution No. 4442

WHEREAS, Commissioner Tony Tavares is stepping down from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Bay Area Toll Authority after two years of dedicated service representing the California State Transportation Agency in his capacity as Director of District 4 of the California Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the BATA Recovery Ad Hoc Working Group, Tony began the hard work needed to help both BATA and Caltrans solve the financial and operational problems created by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to seize the transformational opportunities such challenges present; and

WHEREAS, in his dual role as Caltrans District 4 Director and a member of the Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority, Tony played a pivotal role in developing the region's Express Lane network and did not flinch from making the adjustments needed to align operating policies with contemporary regional travel patterns and lane-demand dynamics; and

WHEREAS, among the bold but necessary changes to Express Lane operations Tony embraced are the increase in occupancy requirements for toll-free travel to three persons along the Interstate 880 and State Route 237 Express Lanes as well as along the future U.S. 101 Express Lane corridor, and the introduction of discounted tolls for two-person carpools and clean-air vehicles; and

WHEREAS, as head of District 4, Tony managed half-billion-dollar annual budgets and some 3,000 staff members, and oversaw the day-to-day operation of more than 6,000 lane-miles of state highways and freeways; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining District 4, Tony served for eight years as Caltrans Chief of the Division of Maintenance where he was responsible for the upkeep of 50,000 miles of California's highways, an operating budget of two billion dollars and 7,000 employees; and

WHEREAS, Tony spearheaded Caltrans' collaboration with MTC on the \$40 million Bay Bridge Forward initiative to advance a suite of improvements in the San Francisco-Oakland Bay

Bridge corridor, including extending HOV lanes, providing improved access for transit buses and expanding bicycle and carpool options in the corridor; and

WHEREAS, Tony's personal roots in the Contra Costa County city of Martinez may have proved useful in catalyzing the partnership he established between Caltrans and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority to accelerate work on an 11-mile carpool lane along southbound Interstate 680 from Martinez to Walnut Creek, a partnership through which the August 2020 delivery of the project came a full year ahead of the original schedule, with the carpool lane now set to be incorporated into the Bay Area Express Lanes network in 2021; and

WHEREAS, Tony was instrumental in coordinating the 2019 teamwork between Caltrans and BATA to complete the replacement of 32 joints on the upper deck of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, improving safety for motorists and avoiding closures of the bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Area's loss will be Southern California's gain, as Tony is leaving Caltrans District 4 to bring his considerable skills to Caltrans District 7 to help Los Angeles and the surrounding communities prepare for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and to meet the continuing mobility challenges for which Southern California is famous; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Commission and staff of MTC wish to thank Tony for his many contributions to the Bay Area's transportation network and to express confidence that he will have similar success in building effective partnerships and using innovative approaches to improve mobility for the people of Los Angeles, all the while continuing to enjoy his active transportation hobbies of riding bikes and motorcycles.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Scott Haggerty, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a duly called and noticed meeting held in San Francisco, California and at other remote locations, on November 20, 2020.