

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

January 13, 2021

Agenda Item 10

Staff Liaison Report – January 2021

Subject: Relevant MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Recommendation: Information

Attachments: Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – January 2021



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

**Agenda Item 10
Attachment A**
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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council
FR: Marti Paschal, Staff Liaison
RE: Staff Liaison Report – January 2021
DATE: January 13, 2021
W.I. 1114

Survey: What Are Your Top Priorities for a Better Bay Area?

MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) invite members of the public to take part in a survey about the Implementation Plan phase of Plan Bay Area 2050. The 13-question survey will be open through February 1, 2021, and is available in [English\(link is external\)](#), [Spanish\(link is external\)](#) and [Chinese\(link is external\)](#).

The survey asks participants to rank their priorities for issues identified in the Plan Bay Area 2050 Blueprint. [Plan Bay Area 2050\(link is external\)](#) is a long-range plan charting the course for the future of transportation, housing, the environment and the economy of the Bay Area over the next 30 years.

In order to reach the plan's ambitious goals, and because resources are finite, MTC and ABAG need public input to help decide which policy strategies to accelerate in the next one to five years. This [Implementation Plan\(link is external\)](#) will define specific near-term actions to advance each of the 35 strategies adopted in the [Final Blueprint\(link is external\)](#). Together, these strategies are designed to realize the plan's vision of a more affordable, connected, diverse, healthy and vibrant Bay Area for all.

Visit [planbayarea.org\(link is external\)](http://planbayarea.org(link is external)) to join the mailing list and receive updates about Plan Bay Area 2050, and to learn about opportunities to participate in the process.

New Year Brings New Toll Collection System to Bay Area Bridges

The Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) announced that the start of 2021 also will herald the launch of a new all-electronic toll collection system at the Antioch, Benicia-Martinez, Carquinez, Dumbarton, Richmond-San Rafael, San Francisco-Oakland Bay and San Mateo-Hayward bridges. While bridge customers who pay their tolls with a FasTrak toll tag or a License Plate Account will see no difference in their statements, patrons who are not enrolled in one of these programs will receive a monthly invoice for all toll bridge crossings made after midnight on New Year's Eve. Following the suspension of cash toll collection in March 2020, these customers have received individual toll notices for each crossing.

The all-electronic toll collection system being introduced at the Bay Area's seven state-owned toll bridges is similar to the system used at the Golden Gate Bridge, which adopted all-electronic tolling in 2013. Automated, high-speed cameras will capture images of customers' license plates, and the FasTrak customer service center will process the images and then mail an invoice each month to the address at which the vehicle is registered with the DMV.

FasTrak customers account for nearly three-quarters of all crossings at the Bay Area's state-owned toll bridges. BATA encourages customers who do not already have FasTrak to open accounts online at www.bayareafastrak.org(link is external) or by phone at 1-877-229-8655 (BAY-TOLL). Customers also may obtain FasTrak tags at select Costco and Walgreens stores. A map of retail locations at which FasTrak toll tags are available may be found at www.bayareafastrak.org/en/howitworks/retailmap.html(link is external). FasTrak tags purchased at Costco or Walgreens must be registered online. A \$20 deposit per tag will apply if the account is not funded with a credit card. Drivers who would rather replenish their FasTrak accounts with cash can do so at more than 100 Cash Payment Network locations. A map of these locations may be found at www.bayareafastrak.org/en/tolls/cashLocationsMap.html(link is external).

Drivers also may open a License Plate Account, which links a license plate to a credit card and charges that card whenever the vehicle crosses a toll bridge; or make a one-time payment, which allows the customer to pay a toll online up to 30 days in advance of a bridge crossing or within 48 hours afterwards. There are no fees for either of these services. More information about License Plate Accounts and one-time payments is available at www.bayareafastrak.org(link is external).

The debut of all-electronic tolling and monthly invoicing at the seven state-owned toll bridges will mark the return of toll payment rules that were temporarily suspended when the COVID-19 pandemic prompted BATA and Caltrans to eliminate cash toll collection on March 21, 2020.

Customers who do not have FasTrak or a License Plate Account — and who do not use the online one-time payment option — will be required to return invoices with payment within 30 days. Customers who neglect to return payment within 30 days will receive a “Notice of Toll Evasion” with a \$25 penalty for each toll crossing. Customers who do not return invoices with payment after 60 days will receive a “Second Notice of Delinquent Toll Evasion” with a violation penalty of \$70 per crossing. Customers who do not return payment after a second notice may have a hold put on their vehicle registration by the DMV and/or have the amount owed referred to a collection agency.

BATA administers all toll revenues from the region's seven state-owned toll bridges.

Plan Bay Area 2050: Final Blueprint Analysis Released

MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) are pleased to announce the release of the [Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint Outcomes](#)(link is external)—a major milestone in the development of Plan Bay Area 2050, the Bay Area's long-range plan to guide the growth of our nine-county region for the next generation. The [Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint](#)(link is external), which is made up of the strategies, growth geographies, and regional growth forecast was approved by MTC and ABAG in September 2020.

Building on analyses of the [Draft Blueprint](#)(link is external), the Final Blueprint includes a set of 35 revised and expanded strategies to tackle the Bay Area's transportation, housing, economic and environmental challenges while creating a more resilient and equitable future for the Bay Area. These strategies are either public policies or sets of investments that can be implemented in the Bay Area over the next 30 years.

Over the last several months, MTC and ABAG staff analyzed these strategies to determine how much more progress the Bay Area makes toward reaching [Plan Bay Area 2050's vision\(link is external\)](#) of ensuring by 2050 that the region is affordable, connected, diverse, healthy and vibrant for all. This analysis shows that continued progress has been made due to the new and expanded strategies featured in the Final Blueprint. The 35 strategies featured in the plan demonstrate how the region can:

- Achieve the Bay Area's 19% greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, as set by the California Air Resources Board;
- Reduce overall housing and transportation costs for residents, especially for households with lower incomes;
- Increase the production and preservation of affordable housing;
- Create a more accessible and reliable transit network;
- Reduce the risk of displacement for people with lower incomes;
- Invest in parks and open spaces, particularly in historically disinvested communities;
- Increase resilience against wildfires and sea level rise; and
- Support a thriving economy with a more balanced regional pattern of jobs and housing.

Read more about the Final Blueprint strategies and their outcomes on [planbayarea.org\(link is external\)](#). Staff will seek adoption of the Final Blueprint as the Preferred Alternative for [environmental analysis\(link is external\)](#) purposes by the Commission and ABAG Executive Board in January 2021.

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 December 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

A reminder that all Covid-19 related reporting items can be found on our MTC webpage. We provide monthly updates on all related activities, and statistics that are affecting the region. The website address is below:

<https://www.mtc.ca.gov/covid>

CTC Awards

The California Transportation Commission approved on December 2, 2020 \$407 million in SB 1 transportation dollars for 11 projects in the Bay Area, consistent with the CTC staff recommendations we reported in November.

Draft 2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The draft TIP was released on November 9. This list of more than 700 Bay Area transportation projects reflects approximately \$10.3 billion in committed federal, state and local funding through 2024. The review and comment period on the draft is open through December 15th.

Items to note

- The traditional holiday wreath was installed over the tunnel on Yerba Buena Island in early December. MTC video correspondent Mark Jones made a festive video marking the occasion which is available to watch on MTC's website and YouTube pages:
<https://youtu.be/8lVvj9pSHus>
- The Bay Area's Annual road quality report came out last month and the region received a score of 67 out of 100 "pavement condition index" points for the 4th year in a row, showing that our roads continue to be in "fair" condition.