

Date: February 24, 2021
W.I.: 1111
Referred by: Commission

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 4449

Resolution of Appreciation for Jake Mackenzie upon his departure from the Metropolitan
Transportation Commission.

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RE: Resolution of Appreciation for Jake Mackenzie

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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WHEREAS, Commissioner Jake Mackenzie is stepping down from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission after 12 years of outstanding service representing Sonoma County and its nine cities; and

WHEREAS, his fellow Commissioners in 2015 elected Jake to serve as Vice Chair, a position he held with distinction until 2017, at which time his peers reaffirmed their support by selecting him to serve as Chair of the Commission from 2017 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, during his term as Chair, Jake in 2017 advanced the cause of regional government efficiency by overseeing the consolidation of the MTC and ABAG staff as well as the adoption of Plan Bay Area 2040; and

WHEREAS, Jake also served as Chair of the seven-member Executive Director Selection Committee that guided the seamless transition in 2018 and 2019 of MTC's and ABAG's executive leadership from Steve Heminger, who retired after having served as MTC Executive Director since 2001 and as ABAG Executive Director since 2017 to Therese W. McMillan, who returned to the agency's executive suite after a 10-year absence during which she served first as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration and then as the FTA's Acting Administrator before taking a position as the chief planning officer for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority; and

WHEREAS, during his term as Commission Chair Jake survived a sentence of hard labor as a member of the CASA Steering Committee, which in December 2018 finalized a 10-point set of policy recommendations known as the CASA Compact to increase housing production at all levels of affordability, to preserve existing affordable housing, and to protect vulnerable residents from housing instability and displacement; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his Commission duties Jake served for many years as a member of Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit's Board of Directors, and helped guide SMART to

its successful 2017 launch of service between San Rafael and northern Santa Rosa, and to the 2019 opening of its extension to Larkspur; and

WHEREAS, Jake is a founding member of the State Route 37 Policy Committee, on which he organized efforts by MTC Commissioners and staff as well as by the staff and leadership of the county transportation agencies in Sonoma, Marin, Napa and Solano counties to develop a memorandum-of-understanding for the Resilient SR 37 Program, designed to deliver a connection between U.S. 101 and Interstate 80 that is higher, wider, greener and built to last; and

WHEREAS, Jake's leadership was instrumental in prioritizing North Bay recovery efforts for multiple MTC funding decisions in the aftermath of the 2017 wildfires that devastated large portions of Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties; and

WHEREAS, Jake during his term at the top of the MTC clan chart not only had a grand time executing such extracurricular duties as participating in groundbreakings for the Golden Gate Bridge suicide-deterrent system and the Caltrain electrification project, and ribbon-cuttings for SMART and the Salesforce Transbay Transit Center, but also encouraged and indeed often insisted that other participants have a grand time as well; and

WHEREAS, Jake employed his Caledonian burr to advocate effectively for such critical transportation funding measures as Senate Bill 1 and Regional Measure 3; and

WHEREAS, Jake is a steadfast champion of multi-modal travel and an enthusiastic participant in early morning Bike to Work Day festivities, and also was present at the birth of the Ford Go Bike system before its rechristening by Lyft as Bay Wheels; and

WHEREAS, even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and the advent of remote public meetings conducted via Zoom, Jake raised the bar for comfortable clothing among the members of the Commission to unprecedented heights; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the commissioners and staff of MTC thank Jake for his years of service to the Commission and to the people of the Bay Area, express their appreciation for his energetic boosterism of all things related to Rohnert Park and Sonoma County, extend their best wishes to him and his wife Barbara and their family for many a fine adventure in the years

ahead, and look forward to following the Mackenzies' exploits on Jake's busy social media accounts.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Scott Haggerty, Chair

The above resolution was approved by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission held in San Francisco, CA and at other remote locations, on February 24, 2021.