

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

May 12, 2021

Agenda Item 10

Staff Liaison Report – May 2021

Subject: Relevant MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Recommendation: Information

Attachments: Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – May 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 – May 2021

DATE: May 12, 2021

W.I. 1114

Clipper® Launches on iPhone and Apple Watch, Debuts New Mobile App

On April 15, MTC launched the Clipper regional transit-fare payment card on iPhone and Apple Watch, and released a mobile app for easier management of Clipper cards.

Clipper on iPhone and Apple Watch gives riders on 24 Bay Area transit systems a new, contactless way to pay fares on buses, trains and ferries. Adding a Clipper card to iPhone or Apple Watch is easy. Customers can add the card directly through Apple Wallet and load cash value with Apple Pay anytime, anywhere. Riders also can transfer the value from a plastic Clipper card to their iPhone. Clipper will be coming to Google Pay in May.

The launch makes paying for and riding public transit easier and safer because Clipper on iPhone and Apple Watch works with Express Mode, which allows riders to quickly tag and pay for rides without having to use Face ID, Touch ID, wake or unlock their device, or open an app. Riders can simply hold their iPhone or their Apple Watch near the Clipper reader and then board the bus, train or ferry. They no longer need to touch a ticket vending machine or reload a Clipper card at a retailer.

The new Clipper mobile app, available on iPhone, allows riders to easily manage their Clipper cards and their Clipper account, and to plan transit trips around the Bay Area. Riders must use the Clipper app to buy transit agency passes for use on iPhone or Apple Watch.

“This new fare payment method works on all 24 Bay Area transit services that accept Clipper,” said MTC Executive Director Therese McMillan. “Riders can easily add cash value from Apple Pay and just tag and ride. It couldn’t be more user-friendly, not to mention timely. We’re looking forward to offering the same convenience soon with Google Pay.”

Transit riders who are enrolled in the Clipper START program and those who use cash to load their Clipper cards also can use the Clipper app, but cash payers will need to use a BART, Golden Gate Ferry, or SMART ticket machine or select Caltrain ticket machines to add value to iPhone or Apple Watch.

MTC has been working with Apple and Cubic Transportation Systems, the Bay Area’s fare payment solutions partner, to introduce these convenient new payment and account management features. For more information, visit www.clippercard.com or <https://transit.applepay.apple/san-francisco> .

Highway 37 between US Highway 101 to Interstate 80 Questionnaire

This short survey is one method of gathering information about issues and interest in how Highway 37 can be planned to serve current and future needs. Please visit www.resilient37.org/SR37Map to view an interactive map to familiarize yourself with the highway and adjacent uses. All questions are optional, and any input you provide is valuable to the Project team and will help to inform future plans for Highway 37. The survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/resilient37questionnaire>

Bay Area Bike to Wherever Days Are Coming in May

Bicycling has never been more popular across the region and May brings the return of Bike Month and the Bay Area's "Bike to Wherever Days" (BTWD) as an alternative to the annual Bay Area Bike to Work Day event.

During the pandemic, bicycling for personal wellness, exercise and recreation has seen a pronounced rise in popularity. Social distancing protocols and safer streets have resulted in many people riding for the first time and veteran riders getting back on their bicycles. This year's Bay Area BTWDs will reflect the renewed enthusiasm for bicycling around the region.

In an effort to further encourage people to pedal, the entire month of May has been designated as Bay Area "Bike to Wherever Days" with May 21 being National Bike to Wherever Day.

Each of the nine Bay Area county bike coalitions will offer classes, activities, education and more to help cyclists pedal safely, while building communities, finding new routes and using bicycles as a means of transportation. The counties' traditional Bay Area Bike Commuter of the Year (BCOY) Award has been retooled to recognize each county's Bike Champion of the Year. This year's award winners can be found here: <https://mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/2021-bike-champion-year-winners-announced>

Bay Area counties have creatively pivoted their programming to accommodate the surge in interest in riding with many of these programs being accessible online. Those wishing to make the pledge to ride during bike month can do so through their respective county coalitions. Details on each county's local BTWD activities can be found at Bayareabiketowork.com. Follow us on Facebook at @biketoworkday, Twitter @BikeToWorkSFBay, and Instagram @biketoworkday_bayarea.

Bay Area Bike to Wherever Days is presented by MTC and 511, the region's traveler information system. BTWD 2021 also receives regional support from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and Bay Area Rapid Transit, as well as from many sponsors at the local level. Prizes for the Bike Champion of the Year winners were donated by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Better World Club and Mike's Bikes.

MTC Mourns Loss of Dr. Martin Wachs, Transportation Giant

Dr. Martin Wachs — a giant in the field of transportation, who authored several books, wrote hundreds of articles and taught thousands on the subject — died April 11, 2021. He was 79.

Dr. Wachs was a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Civil & Environmental Engineering and of City & Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley, where he directed the Institute of Transportation Studies. Earlier, he spent 25 years at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he was Chairman of the Department of Urban Planning for 11 of those years. After leaving the university in 1996, Dr. Wachs became the Director of the Transportation, Space, and Technology Program at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica. In semi-retirement, Dr. Wachs taught courses and conducted research at UCLA in transportation policy, worked on transportation policy projects at RAND and served as a policy expert.

MTC Executive Director Therese McMillan was a longtime friend and called Dr. Wachs a mentor.

"With the passing of Dr. Martin Wachs, the transportation community — and the human community — lost both a giant, and a kind and caring heart," McMillan said. "I got to know 'Marty' as a young professional, during his time at UC Berkeley heading up the Institute of Transportation Studies, and teaching at the College of Environmental Design, my alma mater. And while I didn't have the privilege of sitting in his classroom, I had the joy of being his student nonetheless — with his commitment to advancing young talent, and especially women at a time we were still trying to shoulder our way to equitable standing in the field."

McMillan said Dr. Wachs' legacy is immense.

"Marty's accomplishments are too numerous to articulate, but his greatest was his ability to communicate, listen and share — even in difficult moments," she said. "His stamp on countless individuals as mentor and friend will stand equally strong — I like to think more so — alongside his prodigious research contributions. He will be missed, but forever remembered with deepest gratitude."

Before landing at UCLA in 1971, Dr. Wachs received a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering (Urban and Regional Planning) from Northwestern University in 1967, an M.S. in Civil Engineering (Urban and Regional Planning) from Northwestern University in 1965 and a B.C.E. in Civil Engineering from City University of New York in 1963. Dr. Wachs also wrote four books and 180 articles on subjects related to relationships between transportation, land use, and air quality; transportation systems; and the use of performance measurement in transportation planning. His research addressed issues of equity in transportation policy, problems of crime in public transit systems, and the response of transportation systems to natural disasters, including earthquakes. His other areas of interest included professional ethics, transportation and aging, transportation and land use, transportation and the environment, transportation finance, and urban transportation planning.

Dr. Wachs was a recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, two Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowships, a UCLA Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching Award, the Pyke Johnson Award for the best paper presented at an annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), and the Carey Award for service to the TRB. Recently, he was a member of the Advisory Committee on Research and Development for the California Department of Transportation and completed his term as the first Chair of the Advisory Panel for the Travel Model Improvement Program of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Transportation, Housing News Right to Your Inbox

MTC offers a convenient Daily News Headlines (<https://mtc.ca.gov/whats-happening/news/news-headlines>) subscription, delivering a curated list of stories about transportation, housing, development, the environment and more directly to your email inbox. The headlines are sent each weekday, arriving just in time to enjoy with your morning coffee.

The Bay Link blog (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/>) offers a more in-depth look at these topics, often in the context of the work that the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and MTC are doing, along with other stories of interest to Bay Area residents and professionals. The Bay Link Blog E-Newsletter, with the top Bay Link features of the week, is distributed every Tuesday.

Sign up for each of these newsletters (<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/CAMTC/subscriber/new>) , along with others from the MTC-ABAG family, including the Plan Bay Area 2050 E-Newsletter and updates about MTC Express Lanes.

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 April 2021 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

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>

Clipper® Launches on iPhone and Apple Watch, Debuts New Mobile App

On April 15, Clipper launched on iPhone and Apple Watch, along with a mobile app for easier management of Clipper cards. Riders on 24 Bay Area transit systems now have a new, contactless way to pay fares on buses, trains and ferries. Customers can add their cards to iPhone or Apple Watch directly through Apple Wallet and load cash value with Apple Pay anytime, anywhere. Riders also can transfer the value from a plastic Clipper card to their iPhone. Clipper will be coming to Google Pay in May.

Regional Housing Technical Assistance Program Training Series

The ABAG Regional Housing Technical Assistance Program has launched a 10-part training series for local planning and housing staff focused on Housing Element updates. Sessions will be held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., beginning on Tuesday, February 23 and running through August, 2021. See the ABAG Regional Housing Technical Assistance Program Training Series for dates and more information: <https://abag.ca.gov/our-work/housing/housing-technical-assistance-program/abag-regional-housing-technical-assistance>

Items of Note:

CTF Awards: The California Transportation Foundation this month named BATA as its Organization of the Year for 2020. The award will be presented at a virtual CTF Transportation Awards ceremony on Thursday, May 27 from 12 to 1:30 p.m. The CTF chose BATA for this prestigious award because of its effective partnership with Caltrans and with FasTrak contractor Conduent Inc. to transition the region's seven state-owned toll bridges to all-electronic tolling in March 2020. What originally was planned to be a gradual, years-long transition was forced by COVID-19 to take place on just about 48 hours' notice. BATA first adapted its existing toll violation system to begin issuing no-penalty toll notices to customers who did not already have FasTrak accounts, while also beginning an all-out sprint to design, install, test and implement a genuine all-electronic tolling system.

Equity Panel: San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Board of Directors Meeting On Friday, April 23, 2021, I was invited to participate with other equity leaders in a discussion before the Board of SANDAG. While I have often been invited to speak on this topic and the work that we are doing here in the San Francisco Bay Area, this opportunity is worthy of note as it was timed with SANDAG's efforts to finalize their long range plan, with a focus on equity. The conversation was insightful in many respects, including questions from the Board. In short, our collective regional commitments to equity are needed and challenging. The link below is to the presentation to the Board, and the equity panel begins an hour into the meeting, should you wish to check it out. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiQy8Ictnhk>