

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

June 9, 2021

Agenda Item 11

Staff Liaison Report – June 2021

Subject: Relevant MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Recommendation: Information

Attachments: Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – June 2021



To address the issue, the Transportation Resilience, Accessibility & Climate Sustainability (TRACS) Project was created by a partnership between the World Institute on Disability (WID) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission as a 2.5-year research and community engagement project. <https://mtc.ca.gov/our-work/plans-projects/equity-accessibility/transportation-resilience-accessibility-climate>

The TRACS project tasks included demographic and data collection, community engagement, needs assessments, and the development of training webinars for disabled transportation consumers and transportation agencies. The project's slogan was "Ensuring Access Is Everyone's Responsibility." The TRACS project has now presented recommendations relevant to transit agencies, county transportation agencies, MTC, people with disabilities and their advocates to establish a new model of collaboration in which the communities and transit planners establish long-term partnerships. Project findings, as well as resources and tools, can be found on the WID website. <https://wid.org/transportation-accessibility/>

In 2018, Caltrans awarded a Senate Bill 1 Planning Grant to MTC and WID for the project. While MTC provided fiscal oversight and project support, WID led the project.

Clipper® Launches on Google Pay, Debuts New Mobile App for Android™ Phones

On May 19, MTC launched the Clipper regional transit-fare payment card on Google Pay, and also released a mobile app for easier management of Clipper cards on Android phones. The agency introduced Clipper on Apple Pay in April.

Clipper on Google Pay gives Android users who ride 24 Bay Area transit systems a contactless way to pay fares on buses, trains and ferries. Adding a Clipper card to Google Pay is easy. Customers can add the card directly through Google Pay and load cash value anytime, anywhere. Customers can even set up Autoload in Google Pay to automatically reload when their balance falls low. Riders also can transfer a plastic Clipper card to their Android phone using the Clipper mobile app. Once transferred, the plastic Clipper card can no longer be used to pay for transit.

To pay a fare with Google Pay, riders simply wake their phone, hold it near the Clipper reader and then board the bus, train or ferry. They no longer need to touch a ticket machine or reload a Clipper card at a retailer. To transfer a plastic card to or create a new card in Google Pay, customers will need to have an Android phone running Android 5 or later.

In addition to transferring plastic Clipper cards to Google Pay, the new Clipper mobile app 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 Google Pay. Transit riders who use cash to load their Clipper cards will need to use a BART, Golden Gate Ferry, Muni or VTA ticket machine; select Caltrain ticket machines; a Clipper Customer Service Center; or a Clipper retailer to add value to Google Pay.

MTC has been working with Google, NXP® Semiconductors and Cubic Transportation Systems, the Bay Area's fare payment solutions partner, to introduce these convenient new payment and account management features using NXP's MIFARE 2GO cloud service. For more information, visit clippercard.com: <https://www.clippercard.com/ClipperWeb/>

Bay Area's 511 system adds new data features to improve transit transfers

MTC's 511 SF Bay – the free regional traveler information system available on the Web at 511.org and by phone at 511 — has expanded its menu of public transit information by adding a new data feature known as Pathways that delivers detailed directions for navigating rail stations and other transit hubs to all travelers, including those who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices.

Pathways is designed to help all riders receive more precise calculations about travel/transfer times in their travel itineraries. For example, a passenger in a wheelchair transferring from BART to MUNI light rail at the Embarcadero station can now get directions to the elevator on the BART platform up to the mezzanine level and then directions to the elevator down to the MUNI light rail platform. Similarly, a rider who transfers from Caltrain to BART or vice-versa at the Millbrae station can now benefit from Pathways data for better calculation of the time needed to move from one platform to the other.

511 SF Bay also has added more detailed fare data, including transfer discounts as well as variations based on the use of cash, Clipper, passes, etc. If used by the traveler's preferred trip planner, this data will give riders more precise fare calculations for trips across multiple services. A passenger transferring from BART to Dumbarton Express at the Union City BART station, for instance, will learn about the 25-cent discount available for this transfer.

511 SF Bay is the first 511 system in the nation to produce detailed fares data across multiple transit services in a consolidated regional data feed using the Fares 2.0 data specification. Detailed fare information is now available for all major Bay Area transit agencies, with data for the region's smaller transit operators to be added in the months ahead.

The addition of the Pathways and Fares 2.0 information reflects the growing use of 511 SF Bay's Open Data Program, which delivers information free of charge to third-party data consumers. Requests by external customers for transit schedules, real-time departures, and other data available through the portal has more than doubled over the past year.

Interested data consumers can learn more about the consolidated regional transit data feed and other data services provided by MTC's 511 SF Bay program from the open data portal <https://511.org/open-data>. The portal provides information on how to submit a request for data access and technical details on all data services. Additional technical information is available in this blog: <https://www.interline.io/blog/mtc-regional-gtfs-feed-additions/>.

New Round of Grants Helps Big Employers SHIFT Return to the Workplace

With traffic on Bay Area freeways rising as the COVID-19 pandemic eases its grip on the region, last month MTC launched the second round of its MTC SHIFT partnership program to help major employers manage their employees' return to the workplace and improve peak-period traffic flows. The Commission will fund up to \$900,000 in grants to help equip employers with software from platform vendors Luum, RideAmigos or RideShark to manage commute-benefit incentives, parking-management strategies, carpool and vanpool programs, and other congestion-relief tools.

MTC SHIFT aims to attract employers with 2,000 or more workers to test strategies for spurring the formation of carpools or other commute modes to reduce solo vehicle trips on Bay Area toll bridges and other key freeway corridors. This aligns with the goals of the Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program, which encourages alternatives to solo driving to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decrease traffic congestion.

Targeted employers include those whose workers commute to work via the San Francisco-Oakland Bay; San Mateo-Hayward; Dumbarton and Richmond-San Rafael bridges, or along Interstate 80 in Alameda and Contra Costa counties; Interstate 880 in Alameda and Santa Clara counties; U.S. 101 and Interstate 280 in San Francisco; U.S. 101 in San Mateo County; and State Route 237 in Santa Clara County.

Employers who participate in MTC SHIFT can qualify for funding to cover up to 75 percent of the setup and three-year subscription costs for commute-management platforms offered by Luum, RideAmigos or RideShark and covering as many as 3,000 employees each. These platforms offer various features to administer parking-management strategies, integrate with third-party systems to manage commute benefits and incentives, and provide performance data to measure changes in workers' drive-alone rates.

More information about the MTC SHIFT program and basic requirements for employers can be found on MTC's Procurement Portal <https://mtc.bonfirehub.com/opportunities/30193>. The deadline to apply for MTC SHIFT funding is July 15. Large employers interested in learning more are invited to contact Edward Phillips, Contracts Specialist, of the MTC staff at ephillips@bayareametro.gov.

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>

For MTC and Plan Bay Area glossaries:

<https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtc-abag-library/glossary-transportation-planning-acronyms-and-terms>

<https://www.planbayarea.org/about/glossary>

Executive Director's Report

The following items are excerpts from the May 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>

Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 Released for Public Comment; Draft EIR Slated for Release Next Week

Draft Plan Bay Area 2050, the long-range regional vision for transportation, housing, the economy, and the environment, was released for public comment earlier today after more than three years of analysis and public engagement with tens of thousands of Bay Area residents. The draft plan document, supplemental reports, and near-term implementation plan are available on planbayarea.org, with comments due by July 20th; the draft environmental impact report is slated for release by the end of next week. Staff will provide a briefing on Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 and its EIR at next month's committee meetings, kicking off the final round of public engagement in June with virtual workshops, hearings, and more. Plan Bay Area 2050 remains on track to be considered for adoption by MTC and ABAG this fall.

American Planning Association Award for PDA program

MTC and ABAG's Priority Development Area Program has received an "Award of Excellence" from the Northern California chapter of the American Planning Association for work on the City of Oakland Innovative Construction Methods. The project looks at cost- and time-saving construction methods (e.g., 3-D printing, tiny homes on wheels, factory-built housing, and methods that are not even under development yet) as a way to address housing affordability.

Clipper

On May 19, Clipper launched on Google Pay and released a mobile app for easier management of Clipper cards on Android phones, following last month's introduction of Clipper on Apple Pay.

Housing Element Webinars

The Housing Technical Assistance program is providing Housing Element webinars. To date, eight webinars have reached more than 900 attendees, averaging around 100 local staff per webinar. Additional webinars are planned and more information is on the Housing Technical Assistance page on the ABAG website: <https://abag.ca.gov/our-work/housing/housing-technical-assistance-program>

The Fare Coordination/Integration Study

The Fare Coordination/Integration group is hosting a webinar to engage policymakers on the work that will inform the study's fare policy recommendations. All board members of each Bay Area transit agency as well as MTC Commissioners are invited to attend the webinar, which will have time dedicated to board member questions. Your participation is encouraged. The webinar is a publicly noticed Brown Act event and is open to the public. The webinar is being held on May 26th at 3:30pm. Link to register is below:

https://bayareametro.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sgLm4h6aRu2EQCu0tk7G5g

SWCB Award

The State Wildlife Conservation Board will approve a \$640K grant to MTC on May 20 to prepare a Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) for the North Bay as part of our effort to address transportation, ecology and sea level rise within the Resilient SR 37 Program.

This RCIS is a collaboration between MTC's Design and Project Delivery section and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership and partner agencies. We're really excited about this project!

Items of Note:

BAHFA Showcase

On Monday, May 24 I welcomed the audience to the webinar "Advancing the 3 P's through the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority," which Nonprofit Housing of Northern California put on as part of [Affordable Housing Month](#). The panelists included MTC Commissioner Libby Schaaf and ABAG Executive Board President Jesse Arreguin, along with MTC's Daniel Saver, who shared new innovative initiatives BAHFA is poised to lead in rising to the challenges of our region's housing crisis.

TransForm Event May 19

I spoke at a TransForm panel on May 19 with Assemblymember David Chiu and speakers from TransForm, the San Francisco Foundation and Urban Habitat. The subject was the deep collaboration necessary to improve transportation in the region, including lessons learned from the CASA process.

Summer Academy

We had 43 students apply for the Bay Area Summer Academy, which is slated to run in July.

There are applicants from all nine Bay Area counties, Sonoma being the exception.

The [application form](#) is still live, and while we are not actively promoting further applications, we had hoped to have at least one student from each county.