

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

November 19, 2024

Agenda Item 6e

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – November 2024

Staff Liaison Report – November 2024

Opportunity to join statewide Interagency Equity Advisory Committee at the California Transportation Commission (deadline 12/1/24): The [Interagency Equity Advisory Committee](https://catc.ca.gov/programs/interagency-equity-advisory-committee) (<https://catc.ca.gov/programs/interagency-equity-advisory-committee>) established in 2023 aims to amplify diverse and historically marginalized voices in transportation equity. Comprising up to 15 members serving two-year terms, the EAC advises Caltrans, the California State Transportation Agency, and the California Transportation Commission on achieving equitable outcomes in transportation planning and funding. Applicants must reside in California and demonstrate a history of equity-centered experience or leadership or be actively engaged in related fields. The committee meets six times annually, with members reviewing and advising on transportation-related plans and policies during public meetings. Please share [the application](https://forms.office.com/g/6YSMNy9VfM) (<https://forms.office.com/g/6YSMNy9VfM>) widely!

Executive Director's Report:

The following items are excerpts from the October 2024 Executive Director's Report to the Commission. To read past reports in their entirety, check the agenda for a given Commission meeting. Search for past meetings on [MTCs Legistar webpage](https://mtc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx) (<https://mtc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>)

Updates

Bay Bridge West Span Main Cable inspection: Caltrans is starting the Main Cable Wrap Investigations project to ensure the longevity of the Bay Bridge. It includes unwrapping and testing several locations along the main suspension cables and testing a few suspender ropes, and it will be the first time such an in-depth investigation has been conducted on the West Span's cables. The inspection is expected to last nine months and will be followed by a detailed report on the cable's condition and recommendations for maintaining the cable in a state of good repair.

Joint Venture Silicon Valley Poll Briefing: MTC staff attended the Joint Venture Silicon Valley briefing in San Jose on October 8th where the [2024 Silicon Valley Poll](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fjointventure.org%2Fimages%2Fstories%2Fpdf%2Fsv-poll-2024-report-jvsv.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Cjteglavic%40bayareametro.gov%7C641ccda442e047ee581d08dcec32a18%7Cb084c4a0bb194142b70382ea65a5eeb2%7C0%7C0%7C638647769209925202%7C) (<https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fjointventure.org%2Fimages%2Fstories%2Fpdf%2Fsv-poll-2024-report-jvsv.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Cjteglavic%40bayareametro.gov%7C641ccda442e047ee581d08dcec32a18%7Cb084c4a0bb194142b70382ea65a5eeb2%7C0%7C0%7C638647769209925202%7C>)

Unknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Mhm9%2FphYo1DDeIUvxJOpX0LNe8mWOUv2H%2F11NI%2BF%2F18%3D&reserved=0) was introduced and summarized for partners and the public. As MTC seeks to advance both a transportation revenue measure and an affordable housing measure, our work is informed not only by our own polling data but also by important regional polls conducted by JVSU's Institute for Regional Studies and the Bay Area Council. Some key takeaways include:

- 7 out of 10 Bay Area residents think their quality of life is declining, with 47% considering moving from the region due to high cost of housing or tax rates.
- Top issues for people were housing, homelessness, cost of living, and for the first time, the income gap. What's fallen out of the top? Transportation!
- What do people think we should do? Build more housing!

West Oakland Link is a Caltrans Federal Grant Priority: In September, Caltrans partnered with MTC to submit a \$32.5 million grant request for the West Oakland Link from the Federal Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. The West Oakland Link is a proposed elevated pedestrian and bicycle pathway connecting West Oakland with the existing East Span Bay Bridge path and the Judge John Sutter Regional Shoreline. This project is part of the Bay Skyway vision, a partnership between MTC, SFCTA, and Caltrans to provide a nonmotorized connection between the East Bay, Treasure Island, and downtown San Francisco.

Statewide Motorist Aid Committee: The Statewide Motorist Aid Committee, comprised of 16 Freeway Service Patrol and 22 Call Box programs throughout California, held their annual meeting on September 30th and October 1st in Folsom, CA, hosted by MTC's Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways. MTC's Incident Management Task Force also held an inaugural statewide Traffic Incident Management Seminar on Day 2 of the event. Over the two-day period, nearly 50 representatives from Caltrans, metropolitan planning organizations, the California Highway Patrol and more discussed ways to improve incident-management on the state highway system.

AC Transit Zero-Emission Bus University and Workforce Development Partnership

Launch: On October 3, MTC’s Alix Bockelman, Craig Bosman and Margaret Doyle visited AC Transit’s Training and Education Center in Hayward to celebrate the launch of the Zero-Emission Bus University, a workforce development partnership between AC Transit, Chabot-Las Positas Community College District and the Amalgamated Transit Union. The new partnership allows AC Transit maintenance trainers to become instructors of record and enables participants of their apprenticeship program to earn half of the college credits they require to achieve an Associate of Science degree.

Earthquake Preparedness: October 17 marked not only the annual Great California Shakeout but also the 35th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake, an event that reshaped many of our communities and profoundly reordered the Bay Area’s transportation priorities. The lessons learned in 1989 about the value of bridge maintenance and rehabilitation, and about the importance of robust and reliable transit service, are worth heeding today as we tackle new funding challenges to ensure the long-term preservation of our seven state-owned bridges and the continuation of vital transit service across the region.

Bay Lights 360 New Installation: Installation of a new Bay Lights 360 system on the Bay Bridge will begin this November, scheduled to be illuminated in March 2025. The Bay Lights is an art display sponsored by the non-profit organization Illuminate, installed in 2013 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Bay Bridge but turned off in 2023 due to battering from the marine environment. The new system will contain 48,000 new energy-efficient LEDs and, like the previous display, will appear to be moving in a wave-like pattern programmed by artist Leo Villareal.

Looking Ahead

THRIVE with Bay Area Transportation: On October 30th, MTC and the Mineta Transportation Institute are co-sponsoring an in-person summit in San Jose to discuss Bay Area transportation with industry leaders, elected officials, students, disability & environmental justice advocates, and more. Speakers include Commissioners Matt Mahan, Cindy Chavez and Margaret Abe-Koga. See details and register at <https://movebayarea.org>.

News Headlines from [The Bay Link Blog](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/>):

- [Take public transit, Bay Wheels to vote](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/take-public-transit-bay-wheels-vote): (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/take-public-transit-bay-wheels-vote>) Several public transit agencies are offering free rides and discounts on Election Day.
- [Bay Bridge work focuses on suspension cables](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/bay-bridge-work-focuses-suspension-cables): (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/bay-bridge-work-focuses-suspension-cables>) Beneath the western approach to the Bay Bridge on San Francisco's Rincon Hill, workers atop scaffolding in a makeshift, white-tarped tent are pounding wedges into the span's main suspension cables to determine if corrosion has damaged the thousands of steel wires that comprise each cable.
- [Study: Use technology to assist senior, disabled and low-income riders](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/study-use-technology-assist-senior-disabled-and-low-income-riders): (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/study-use-technology-assist-senior-disabled-and-low-income-riders>) A new report — which MTC contributed to — concludes data sharing through standardized software is an important step in making transportation networks more efficient, reliable, and user-friendly for senior, disabled and low-income riders.
- [Oakland Celebrates Groundbreaking For New Affordable Housing for Seniors](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/oakland-celebrates-groundbreaking-new-affordable-housing-seniors): (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/oakland-celebrates-groundbreaking-new-affordable-housing-seniors>) Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) leaders today joined the East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC) and community partners to break ground on EBALDC's 97-unit Chinatown Senior Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) apartments adjacent to the Lake Merritt BART station in Oakland. BAHFA is jointly managed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments.
- [2026 Transportation Ballot Measure Moves One Step Closer](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/2026-transportation-ballot-measure-moves-one-step-closer): (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/2026-transportation-ballot-measure-moves-one-step-closer>) MTC's Transportation Revenue Measure Select Committee this week held its fifth and final meeting about a potential 2026 Bay Area transportation ballot measure that aims to improve the transit rider experience and avert looming transit service cuts if new funding isn't secured by November 2026 or earlier.

- **[Toll Authority to Hold Public Hearing, Host Webinar on Proposed 2026 Toll Hike, Carpool Policy Changes](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/toll-authority-hold-public-hearing-host-webinar-proposed-2026-toll-hike-carpool-policy)**: (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/toll-authority-hold-public-hearing-host-webinar-proposed-2026-toll-hike-carpool-policy>) The Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) — which is required by state law to fund projects to preserve and protect the Bay Area’s seven state-owned toll bridges — today heard a proposal for a toll increase that would be used only to pay for the maintenance, rehabilitation and operation of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge and the Antioch, Benicia-Martinez, Carquinez, Dumbarton, Richmond-San Rafael and San Mateo-Hayward bridges. If approved by BATA later this year, the toll increase would be phased in over five years, beginning Jan. 1, 2026.
- **[ABAG Recruits for SF Bay Restoration Authority Governing Board](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/abag-recruits-sf-bay-restoration-authority-governing-board)**: (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/abag-recruits-sf-bay-restoration-authority-governing-board>) The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) is recruiting elected officials of regional park districts or open space districts that touch the Bay to serve on the Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority (SFBRA).
- **[State announces more than \\$1.3 billion for public transportation project](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/state-announces-more-13-billion-public-transportation-projects)**: (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/state-announces-more-13-billion-public-transportation-projects>). Gov. Gavin Newsom last week announced an award of more than \$1.3 billion to 27 new public transportation projects intended to fund transformative rail and transit improvements throughout the state.
- **[Pelosi announces nearly \\$25 million for San Francisco Downtown rail extension](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/pelosi-announces-nearly-25-million-san-francisco-downtown-rail-extension)**: (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/pelosi-announces-nearly-25-million-san-francisco-downtown-rail-extension>) Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi announced this week that San Francisco is set to receive nearly \$25 million in federal grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation to help connect California High-Speed rail and Caltrain commuter service to the Salesforce Transit Center, also known as The Portal.

- **[2024 Clipper® survey shows strong customer satisfaction:](#)**

(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/2024-clipperr-survey-shows-strong-customer-satisfaction>) The results of the 2024 Clipper® customer and non-customer research survey results are out, and satisfaction among users of the Bay Area’s all-in-one transit card stands high at 94% across riders on all agencies and across different demographic categories.

- **[City streets, county roads stuck in neutral as middling pavement quality prevails across Bay Area:](#)**

(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/city-streets-county-roads-stuck-neutral-middling-pavement-quality-prevails-across-bay-area>). Overall pavement conditions on the Bay Area’s 44,000 lane-miles of local streets and roads landed once again in fair territory last year, with the typical stretch of roadway showing serious wear and likely to require rehabilitation soon.

- **[VTA receives \\$900,000 for affordable housing near public transit:](#)**

(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/vta-receives-900000-affordable-housing-near-public-transit>). The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) this week announced nearly \$10.5 million in grants to support the development and preservation of affordable housing near public transit in communities across the country.

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. 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) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtc-abag-library>).

For MTC and Plan Bay Area Glossaries:

- [Glossary of Transportation Planning Acronyms & Terms](https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtcabag-library/glossary-transportation-planning-acronyms-terms) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtcabag-library/glossary-transportation-planning-acronyms-terms>)
- [Plan Bay Area Glossary](https://www.planbayarea.org/about/glossary) (<https://www.planbayarea.org/about/glossary>)