

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

October 22, 2024

Agenda Item 7c

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – October 2024

Staff Liaison Report – October 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 September 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

MTC Engages the Public for Plan Bay Area 2050+ Input

- Through August, MTC and ABAG staff conducted public engagement to seek feedback on the [Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint](https://planbayarea.org/plan-bay-area-2050-plus-blueprint) (<https://planbayarea.org/plan-bay-area-2050-plus-blueprint>) and [Transit 2050+ Draft Network](https://planbayarea.org/2050/transit-2050/draft-transit-2050-network) (<https://planbayarea.org/2050/transit-2050/draft-transit-2050-network>). Staff visited more than 40 locations across all nine Bay Area counties, including transit centers, farmer's markets and community-based organizations. Following an analysis of public input, the Commission and the ABAG Executive Board are anticipated to consider approval of the Final Blueprint in late 2024. That milestone is followed by an Environmental Impact Report process, as required under the California Environmental Quality Act. Commission and ABAG Executive Board approval of the final Plan Bay Area 2050+ and final EIR is slated for October 2025.

MTC Receives \$500 Million in Transit Funds Secured in Last Year's State Budget

- MTC received \$535 million as a first installment of \$1.1 billion in Senate Bill 125 funding coming to the Bay Area to avert the transit fiscal cliff and shore up funding for two capital project priorities that are leveraging billions of dollars in federal matching funds – BART to Silicon Valley Phase II and BART Core Capacity. Approximately \$400 million of the \$1.1 billion, in combination with a regional contribution of \$300 million, will be used to sustain transit operations through FY 2026.

Fourth Meeting of Transportation Revenue Measure Select Committee

- Chaired by Commissioner Spering, the Transportation Revenue Measure Select Committee held its fourth meeting on September 23rd. The members of the committee are working to build regional consensus for state legislation that would authorize Bay Area voters to consider a 2026 revenue measure to preserve and enhance public transit in the region.

Big 4 MPO Meeting and SB 375 Discussion

- On August 19, I had a chance to spend a day meeting with my colleagues from the so-called “Big 4” regional agencies from Los Angeles, San Diego and Sacramento. We met with the leaders of several state agencies, including Tomiquia Moss, Secretary of the CA Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency; and senior staff from the Air Resources Board, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research.

Priority Sites Loan Helps Complete Funding for Affordable Housing Project for Seniors

- BAHFA closed its first Priority Sites Pilot loan in August to East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation to help fund the construction of 97 affordable senior housing units at Lake Merritt BART Station, including 44 apartments for chronically homeless seniors. This development is part of a master-planned redesign of the BART plaza that will eventually include over 460 units of new housing. BAHFA and RPP are working on multiple additional new construction Priority Sites loans and technical assistance projects, as well as the preservation of affordable housing with REAP 2.0 funds in San

Jose, Marin County and San Francisco. BAHFA expects to close more loans over the next several months.

Napa Valley Vine Trail Ribbon Cutting

- It was my privilege to participate in an August 16 ribbon cutting for the 8-mile Calistoga-to-St. Helena section of the Napa Valley Vine Trail. Other speakers included Congressman Mike Thompson, former MTC Chair and current state senator Bill Dodd, and Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry. The event was emceed by NVTA Executive Director and former MTC staff member Kate Miller.

New Electrified Caltrain Ride-Along

- Commissioner Canepa, Commissioner Chavez, Commissioner Dutra-Vernaci and Commissioner Papan were among the VIPs riding the first electrified Caltrain on August 10. Others involved in the celebration included Governor Newsom, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and San Francisco Mayor London Breed, as well as MTC's Alix Bockelman and Rebecca Long.

Celebrate Transit Month this September

- [September is Transit Month](https://sftransitriders.org/transitmonth/) (https://sftransitriders.org/transitmonth/) in the Bay Area, and MTC is the presenting sponsor of the month-long event. Residents and visitors alike have been enjoying a regionwide ride contest and prizes, and a [calendar full of transit-themed activities](https://lu.ma/transitmonth2024) (https://lu.ma/transitmonth2024). Riders are invited to participate in a Ride Contest by logging their trips to earn badges and for a chance to win prizes. Riders logged almost 17,000 transit trips during the contest in 2023.

Green Complete Streets Technical Workshop in Campbell

- On September 12, MTC and ABAG hosted Embrace the Future: Green Complete Streets Technical Deep Dive in Campbell. Over 130 people attended, including Commissioner Abe-Koga and public agency staff from Santa Clara County up to the North Bay. The workshop focused on holistic design approaches and practical implementation tools to help public agencies build people-centric, climate-resilient infrastructure consistent with state design guidelines.

2024 Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy Achieves Record Numbers

- The fourth annual [Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy](https://mtc.ca.gov/news/2024-mineta-bay-area-summer-academy-achieves-record-numbers) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/news/2024-mineta-bay-area-summer-academy-achieves-record-numbers>), a paid work experience sponsored by MTC, ABAG, BCDC and the Air District, wrapped up last month. 200 participants from high schools across all nine Bay Area counties were introduced to the public sector and learned how regional agencies work across jurisdictions on challenging issues like environmental justice, housing and transportation equity, community health, and social justice.

Bay Area Metro Center Building Update

- The 1st Floor Reconfiguration Project has been completed on time and within budget. The project involved the reconfiguration and expansion of the Yerba Buena and Ohlone conference rooms to increase capacity and enhance technology, the expansion of the warming kitchen, and the conversion of the PG&E vault room into additional storage space for equipment and supplies.
- Per San Francisco Ordinance AB-110, BAHA contractors have inspected the exterior of the building and identified several areas needing repair due to the building's age and extended exposure to environmental conditions. The Capital Projects team has developed a multi-year construction plan that offers the most comprehensive, safe and cost-effective solutions to extend the building's lifespan. Construction is expected to be completed in the fall of 2026.

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

- [Fleet Week is here, jump on public transit to get around:](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/fleet-week-here-jump-public-transit-get-around) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/fleet-week-here-jump-public-transit-get-around>): Public transit is a great way to to get around San Francisco as [Fleet Week 2024](https://fleetweeksf.org/) (<https://fleetweeksf.org/>) gets underway featuring the parade of ships, air show, live music, and ship tours.

- [Video: Caltrain launches electrified service](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/video-caltrain-launches-electrified-service) (https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/video-caltrain-launches-electrified-service): Caltrain launched its new electrified service over the weekend, drawing thousands from around the region to take part in celebratory events. [MTC has been a major funding partner of the Caltrain Modernization program](https://mtc.ca.gov/funding/investment-strategies-commitments/transit-future/caltrain-modernization) (https://mtc.ca.gov/funding/investment-strategies-commitments/transit-future/caltrain-modernization) to electrify and upgrade the commuter rail service.
- [AC Transit secures \\$144 million for hydrogen infrastructure and zero emission bus fleet](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/ac-transit-secures-144-million-hydrogen-infrastructure-and-zero-emission-bus-fleet) (https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/ac-transit-secures-144-million-hydrogen-infrastructure-and-zero-emission-bus-fleet): The Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems (ARCHES) has awarded AC Transit \$144 million to further revamp the transit agency's hydrogen fueling infrastructure, introducing all-new zero emission buses, and implementing a comprehensive workforce development plan by 2035.
- [Napa's Soscol Junction project underway](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/napas-soscol-junction-project-underway) (https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/napas-soscol-junction-project-underway): Caltrans and the Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVRTA) hosted a ribbon cutting for the State Route 29/221 Soscol Junction Interchange Project in southern Napa County last week.
- [First look: Bay Area's new transit maps and signs to be unveiled next week](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/first-look-bay-areas-new-transit-maps-and-signs-be-unveiled-next-week) (https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/first-look-bay-areas-new-transit-maps-and-signs-be-unveiled-next-week): Transit agency and MTC staff next week will unveil new transit maps and signs designed to help make transit journeys easier to understand for both existing and new riders by delivering information that is clear, predictable and familiar across service areas and county lines.
- [How regenerative landscaping is transforming Petaluma with help from San Francisco Estuary Partnership grant](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/how-regenerative-landscaping-transforming-petaluma-help-san-francisco-estuary-partnership) (https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/how-regenerative-landscaping-transforming-petaluma-help-san-francisco-estuary-partnership): Funding from the [San Francisco Estuary Partnership](https://www.sfestuary.org/) (https://www.sfestuary.org/) (SFEP) through a state grant is bringing a focus on water conservation in the North Bay.

- [International Walk, Bike & Roll to School week](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/international-walk-bike-roll-school-week)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/international-walk-bike-roll-school-week>):
International [Walk, Bike & Roll to School Day](https://www.walkbiketoschool.org/) (<https://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>)
will be celebrated this year on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, and there are events
happening in Bay Area communities all week long.
- [MTC announces \\$60 million in planning and capital grants](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-announces-60-million-planning-and-capital-grants)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-announces-60-million-planning-and-capital-grants>): MTC this week announced the release of [MTC this week announced the release of \\$60 million in planning and capital grants](https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/2024-coordinated-toc-and-climate-grants) to (<https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/2024-coordinated-toc-and-climate-grants>) to support local implementation of MTC's [Transit-Oriented Communities \(TOC\) Policy](https://mtc.ca.gov/planning/land-use/transit-oriented-communities-toc-policy) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/planning/land-use/transit-oriented-communities-toc-policy>) and [Climate Initiatives Program](https://mtc.ca.gov/funding/investment-strategies-commitments/climate-protection/climate-initiatives-program) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/funding/investment-strategies-commitments/climate-protection/climate-initiatives-program>).
- [Regional agencies mark milestone in the mandatory Bay Area commuter benefits program](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/regional-agencies-mark-milestone-mandatory-bay-area-commuter-benefits-program)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/regional-agencies-mark-milestone-mandatory-bay-area-commuter-benefits-program>): The Bay Area Air Quality
Management District and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission today marked the
10-year anniversary of the [Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program](https://511.org/employers/commuter-benefits-program),
(<https://511.org/employers/commuter-benefits-program>) which requires employers with
50 or more full-time employees in the region to enroll in the program, select the
commuter benefit option they will provide, and identify how they will promote that
benefit to employees.
- [Muni's L-Taraval streetcar returns after 5-year hiatus](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/munis-l-taraval-streetcar-returns-after-5-year-hiatus)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/munis-l-taraval-streetcar-returns-after-5-year-hiatus>): [L-Taraval trains resumed service](https://www.sfmta.com/travel-updates/muni-service-changes-effective-saturday-september-28-2024) (<https://www.sfmta.com/travel-updates/muni-service-changes-effective-saturday-september-28-2024>) between the
Embarcadero Station and San Francisco Zoo over the weekend after a reconstruction of
the streetcar's corridor that focused on safety.

- [Celebrate California Clean Air Day on Oct. 2, 2024](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/celebrate-california-clean-air-day-oct-2-2024)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/celebrate-california-clean-air-day-oct-2-2024>):
Communities across California are celebrating [California Clean Air Day](https://www.cleanairday.org/) (<https://www.cleanairday.org/>) on Wednesday, Oct. 2 2024.
- [Cocinando con Chef Kimberly](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/cocinando-con-chef-kimberly) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/cocinando-con-chef-kimberly>): [Join BayREN](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cocinando-con-chef-kimberly-tickets-1014127401357?aff=oddtcreator) (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cocinando-con-chef-kimberly-tickets-1014127401357?aff=oddtcreator>) Tuesday, Oct. 1 from 7 to 8 p.m. in Brentwood for a live, in-person cooking demonstration — which will be primarily conducted in Spanish — with local chef Kimberly Ayala, featuring induction technology.
- [San Francisco Estuary Partnership celebrates Estuaries Week](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/san-francisco-estuary-partnership-celebrates-estuaries-week)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/san-francisco-estuary-partnership-celebrates-estuaries-week>): This is [National Estuaries Week](https://coast.noaa.gov/nerrs/about/national-estuaries-week.html),
(<https://coast.noaa.gov/nerrs/about/national-estuaries-week.html>), which aims to draw attention to the vital bodies of water locally and around the nation. It originated in 1988 as National Estuaries Day, an annual event founded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to engage the public in America’s estuaries through outreach and events.

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>)