



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

Date: December 17, 2025
To: Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
From: Carina Lieu, Policy Advisory Council Chair
Regarding: November and December 2025 Council Report to Commission

Summary:

Due to the condensed holiday season scheduling, this report combines the October and November Policy Advisory Council updates.

At its October 28, 2025 meeting, the Policy Advisory Council received an update on the 2025 Legislative Scorecard, as well as a preview of the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+ and Draft Implementation Plan.

At its November 19, 2025 meeting, the Policy Advisory Council received an update on the Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Program, as well as an overview of the Draft 2026 MTC and ABAG Joint Advocacy Program.

Legislative Updates

Below is a summary of the feedback provided by MTC Policy Advisory Council members regarding the State Legislative Update presented by Rebecca Long, focusing on the 2025 Legislative Scorecard and related transit and housing issues:

- **SB 63 Funding and Oversight:** Councilmembers expressed concern about the delayed implementation of SB 63 funding, which is not set to begin until 2027. A \$750 million shortfall is anticipated next fiscal year, prompting agencies to seek loans. Members emphasized the need for stronger oversight and more certainty in securing regional transportation revenue.
- **Brown Act Modernization and Community Access:** SB 707 was praised for enabling remote participation for both public officials and community members, especially those with disabilities. Members emphasized the importance of ensuring equitable access for low-income individuals. The need for plain language in legislative documents was also highlighted to ensure accessibility for all.

- **Cap-and-Trade Allocation and High-Speed Rail:** Members raised concerns about recent changes to Cap-and-Trade funding, shifting from percentage-based allocations to fixed priority tiers. High-Speed Rail now receives the first \$1 billion annually, regardless of total fund size—raising equity concerns. According to one member’s research only three of the past ten years have Cap-and-Trade revenues exceeded \$4 billion in total funding, making the new structure less favorable for other programs that are lower on the priority list. One member questioned the viability of High-Speed Rail altogether, suggesting funds should be redirected to more pressing regional and local needs.

Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+ and Draft Implementation Plan Preview

Councilmembers raised a wide range of questions and concerns about the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+ and its Implementation Plan, emphasizing the need for greater clarity, equity, and responsiveness. Key themes included calls for a displacement study, stronger tenant protections, and regional coordination in light of looming federal benefit cuts (e.g., SNAP, HUD). Members highlighted the urgency of streamlining outdated and burdensome regulations that delay housing and infrastructure projects and questioned the overreliance on ADUs for RHNA compliance. They stressed the importance of integrating economic development with housing and transportation, ensuring living-wage job creation, and improving coordination among transit agencies. Environmental resilience, particularly in the face of sea level rise and goods movement vulnerabilities, was also a priority. Members advocated for a more inspirational and inclusive vision that could serve as a model beyond the Bay Area, while also calling for better stakeholder engagement, especially with labor and community-based organizations. Finally, they praised innovative tools like the Doorway housing portal and encouraged continued investment in digital access, open space preservation, and behavioral strategies like effective Transportation Demand Management.

Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Program Update

Below is a summary of the feedback provided by MTC Policy Advisory Council members regarding the Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Program presented by Judis Santos and Janica Mendillo, focusing on the implementation of the CARE program:

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- **Oversight and Funding:** Advisory members emphasized the importance of delivering projects efficiently while ensuring transparency and accountability. There were calls for clearer breakdowns between administrative and construction costs, stronger oversight of outreach efforts, and verifiable standards for community engagement. Concerns about

funding gaps and long project delays were noted.

- **Community Engagement:** There was strong support for meaningful public participation, with several members urging MTC and CTAs to ensure that community voices are not only heard but visibly reflected in outcomes. Members stressed the need for minimum outreach criteria, integration of Safe Routes to Schools in CBTPs, and alignment with existing community events and planning efforts. The launch of the Power Building and Engagement Action Lab in 2026 was welcomed as a step toward deeper grassroots involvement.
- **Program Design:** Feedback underscored the need for better coordination across agencies and programs to maximize impact and avoid duplication. Members encouraged collaboration with housing authorities and other entities to support unfunded projects and ensure that investments lead to lasting change. Equity remained a central focus, with calls to prioritize underserved communities, support smaller community-based organizations, and prepare for potential political shifts that could affect program stability

Draft 2026 MTC and ABAG Joint Advocacy Program

Below is a summary of the feedback provided by MTC Policy Advisory Council members regarding the 2026 Draft MTC and ABAG Joint Advocacy Program presented by Georgia Gahn-Dohrmann.

- **BayPass, Transit Access, and Workforce Development:** BayPass continues to receive strong support, especially for youth, community college students, and low-income workers. Stakeholders emphasized its success in boosting ridership and educational retention, and called for broader inclusion of schools and housing communities. Concerns were raised about fragmented transit service, lack of school bus integration, and the need for coordinated workforce training programs to build the next generation of transit workers.
- **Housing Affordability:** Housing affordability was a major concern, with calls to address supply constraints, streamline development approvals, and balance community benefits with developer feasibility. Council members discussed the need for better coordination with housing partners and quasi-governmental organizations, especially in light of looming Section 8 voucher losses. Additionally, RHNA methodology and planning support were highlighted as priorities for future state funding.
- **Active Transportation and Funding Strategies:** There was strong consensus on the importance of bipartisan federal advocacy, especially amid threats to transit funding and active transportation programs. Council members urged a unified, inclusive message to appeal across political lines and protect formula-based funding streams. Staff emphasized the need to root advocacy in sound policy and maintain balance across competing public priorities like healthcare, housing, and mobility, while safeguarding critical funding like Section 8 and transportation programs funded by the Highway Trust Fund.