

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

March 25, 2025

Agenda Item 6b

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – March 2025
- Attachment B: Scope of Work for Third Party Independent Review, January 3, 2025
- Attachment C: Flyers North Bay Summit and Electrified Train Summit
- Attachment D: Flyer Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy

Staff Liaison Report – March 2025

Follow Up Items:

- The Council requested a review of the scope of work for a third-party independent financial review of projected budget deficits for certain Bay Area Transit Operators. The scope is attached as Attachment B to this report.
- Councilmembers Kallins and Levin shared flyers for upcoming events (a North Bay Summit and the Electrified Train Summit). Both flyers were shared with the Council and are attached as Attachment C to this report.
- The Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy began accepting applications in March through April 27, 2025. Please [share this link](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oMSEsBm7QkG3A4LqZaXust6YX1rAveJFIQvNV3IN8fRUNlo5UEVHWIFBRFE4WEpEWFISNEJaRU01Ti4u&origin=Invitation&channel=0) (https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oMSEsBm7QkG3A4LqZaXust6YX1rAveJFIQvNV3IN8fRUNlo5UEVHWIFBRFE4WEpEWFISNEJaRU01Ti4u&origin=Invitation&channel=0) with your networks to encourage Bay Area high-school aged youth to apply. A flyer for the summer academy is included as Attachment D to this report.

Executive Director's Report:

The following items are excerpts from the February 2025 Executive Director's Report to the Commission. To read past reports in their entirety, see this link:

<https://mtc.ca.gov/news/executive-directors-report>

Updates

- The Executive Office has assembled a team to monitor Executive Orders, policy directives, funding cuts and federal layoffs to assess risk to projects and programs we administer and provide a forum for developing any strategies in response. The response team is analyzing our budgets and our federally funded contracts. We also are working to keep our partners informed as we obtain new information from our federal partner agencies. We will continue to keep the Commission and staff apprised of the latest developments at the federal level.

- A January poll of Bay Area voters conducted by Oakland-based EMC Research on behalf of MTC found that a majority (54%) of voters in the four counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco and San Mateo would vote yes on a half-cent sales tax to avoid major transit cuts to BART, Caltrain, Muni and AC Transit. It also found majority support (55%) in these four counties for a variable tax option that included a half-cent sales tax in Alameda, Contra Costa and San Mateo and a higher (0.875 cent) sales tax in San Francisco. State senators Wiener and Arreguín last month introduced Senate Bill 63 to authorize placement of such a measure on the November 2026 ballot.
- MTC staff partnered with the Water Emergency Transportation Agency to provide a tour of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge by ferry for east bay Assemblymember Buffy Wicks on Feb. 7. The purpose of the tour was to provide a close-up view of the 88-year old span and its maintenance needs in the context of the December toll increase approved to provide additional funding to support bridge rehabilitation through the Toll Bridge Capital Improvement Plan. Commissioners Moulton-Peters and El-Tawansy joined the tour, along with reporters from the San Francisco Chronicle and KQED in an effort joined the tour as part of MTC's effort to help educate the public about how tolls are used and the fact that the maintenance and rehabilitation of the Bay Area's seven state-owned toll bridges depends on bridge toll dollars.
- I joined Commissioners Fleming, Noack and Moulton-Peters on Feb. 20 at an event at the Santa Rosa Downtown Transit Mall, celebrating the launch of the [Regional Mapping & Wayfinding Project](https://mtc.ca.gov/MappingWayfinding) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/MappingWayfinding>) at the Transit Mall and Santa Rosa SMART station, where new transit maps and signs will be tested as part of the project. Members of the public who are unable to visit one of the test locations in Santa Rosa or El Cerrito are invited to take an online survey to provide feedback on the new maps and signs available at the link above.

- Summer 2024 marked the fourth year of the Ann Fitzgerald Flemer College Mentorship Program and the Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy, two youth programs that align with MTC-ABAG's Equity Platform. Both programs were suspended in the summer of 2020 due to Covid and a variety of budgetary constraints. The Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy provides a multi-week, mostly remote-learning curriculum for Bay Area high school students. The Ann Fitzgerald Flemer College Mentorship Program provides students with a paid, full-time opportunity to gain professional work experience in transportation planning, finance and operational projects.
- The number of high school participants doubled for the third year in a row, from 113 to 231 participants, while the college program supported more than a dozen students. We also saw a record number of college mentees have their time extended for several months to continue working with staff on vital projects that serve the region. For this upcoming cohort, we anticipate having similar numbers of high school students and have confirmed 19 slots for college mentees. Please help us get the word out about these programs and if you are interested in having one of our staff conduct outreach in your area, please contact Ky-Nam Miller at kmiller@bayareametro.gov for more information.
- On February 14, the California State Senate honored former MTC Commissioner Jim Spring for his 30 years of service and regional leadership on MTC. The Senate resolution was presented by State Sen. Dave Cortese, who noted that "Jim was a peacemaker, some might call him a dealmaker. We deeply appreciate his work to make transportation more accessible, as well as the space he has made for community voices in the region." Following Sen. Cortese's remarks, former ABAG President now State Sen. Jesse Arreguin, former MTC Commissioner now Sen. Scott Wiener, Sen. Christopher Cabaldon and Sen. Tim Grayson each shared their own appreciation of former Commissioner Spring. A brief story and link to a video of the proceedings can be found on the BayLink blog: <https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/video-mr-transportation-jim-spring-recognized-state-senate-resolution>

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

- [BART’s customer satisfaction rate has hit its highest mark in 10 years:](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/barts-customer-satisfaction-rate-has-hit-its-highest-mark-10-years)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/barts-customer-satisfaction-rate-has-hit-its-highest-mark-10-years>) BART’s customer satisfaction rate has hit its highest mark in 10 years and surged six percentage points in two years according to the latest comprehensive biannual survey of BART riders. The 2024 BART Customer Satisfaction Survey found that 73% of respondents are “very or somewhat satisfied with BART” compared to 67% of those questioned in 2022, the last time BART conducted the survey.
- [Open now: Bike Champion of the Year nominations:](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/open-now-bike-champion-year-nominations)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/open-now-bike-champion-year-nominations>) Every year, the nine Bay Area counties honor their own Bike Champion of the Year — individuals who go above and beyond to promote bicycling as a primary mode of transportation and inspire others in their communities.
- [Bay Trail SFO Gap Study Final Plan released:](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/bay-trail-sfo-gap-study-final-plan-released)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/bay-trail-sfo-gap-study-final-plan-released>) The vision for the San Francisco Bay Trail is a continuous, 500-mile trail around San Francisco and San Pablo Bays that passes through 47 cities and all nine Bay Area counties.
- [Commission eyes 2026 tax measure to preserve and improve Bay Area transit:](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/commission-eyes-2026-tax-measure-preserve-and-improve-bay-area-transit)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/commission-eyes-2026-tax-measure-preserve-and-improve-bay-area-transit>) The Metropolitan Transportation Commission this week adopted a set of principles to guide its pursuit this year of state legislation that would enable Bay Area voters in 2026 to consider a transportation tax measure designed to improve the customer experience for transit riders and avert deep service cuts by BART, San Francisco Muni, AC Transit, Caltrain and other transit agencies.

- [Contra Costa County Representative Sue Noack Elected MTC Chair:](#) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/contra-costa-county-representative-sue-noack-elected-mtc-chair>). Pleasant Hill Mayor Sue Noack, who has served for the past two years as the Contra Costa County cities' representative on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission today assumed the helm of the regional board, with her Commission colleagues unanimously electing her to serve as Chair for the two-year term running through February 2027.
- [Save the date: 2025 State of the Estuary Conference:](#) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/save-date-2025-state-estuary-conference>) The State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference showcases the latest information about the region's work to sustain and improve the Estuary's habitats, living resources, water quality, climate resilience, and environmental stewardship.
- [Friends of the San Francisco Estuary seeks new board members:](#) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/friends-san-francisco-estuary-seeks-new-board-members>) Friends of the San Francisco Estuary, the nonprofit partner of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, is looking for new board members. Ideal applicants are passionate individuals who are ready to devote time and energy toward strategy, fundraising, and network-building.

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>)