

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

December 16, 2025

Agenda Item 6c

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – December 2025
- Attachment B: List of completed and ongoing Community Based Transportation Plans (CBTPs)

Staff Liaison Report – December 2025

Follow-Up Items:

- Councilmember Kinman requested the most up to date information on the Community Based Transportation Plans (CBTPs). The latest CBTP information is available on MTC's [website](https://mtc.ca.gov/planning/transportation/access-equity-mobility/community-based-transportation-plans-cbtps), (<https://mtc.ca.gov/planning/transportation/access-equity-mobility/community-based-transportation-plans-cbtps>) including the [current program guidelines](https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-05/CBTP_Guidelines_2022_2026_Cycle.pdf?cb=3e80c7ce) (https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-05/CBTP_Guidelines_2022_2026_Cycle.pdf?cb=3e80c7ce) and the [2022 program evaluation](https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-05/CBTP_Program_Evaluation_April_2022.pdf?cb=aa158be7) (https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022-05/CBTP_Program_Evaluation_April_2022.pdf?cb=aa158be7). Attached to this report is a comprehensive list of completed plans and CBTPs in progress. Looking ahead, staff anticipates conducting a program evaluation early next year. As part of that effort, staff plans to publish an updated inventory and map of CBTP recommendations on MTC's website.
- Councilmember Hankerson requested information on the cost of fees impacting housing affordability. The Turner Center for Housing and Innovation has published a [series](https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/blog/residential-impact-fees/) (<https://turnercenter.berkeley.edu/blog/residential-impact-fees/>) exploring the impacts of residential impact fees on housing costs that sheds light on these concerns.

New State Transit Transformation Task Force Report Released

On December 9, the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) announced the release of the SB 125 Transit Transformation Task Force Final Report, which can be found at this link:

https://calsta.ca.gov/-/media/calsta-media/documents/ttff_final_report-all.pdf

SB 125 (a budget trailer bill enacted in 2023) established the Task Force, comprised of 25 members representing transit agencies, regional and local governments (MTC Chief Deputy Director Alix Bockelman was a task force member), advocacy groups, labor and other key organizations. According to a CalSTA press release: "The report introduces five guiding principles for transforming California's transit system:

1. Transit must be operationally and financially sustainable.
2. Safety is fundamental to all aspects of transit.

3. Transit should be fast, reliable, connected and convenient.
4. Transit must be accessible and easy to use for all Californians.
5. Transit should support complete, thriving communities through high-quality systems.

These principles provide a long-term roadmap for the Legislature and transit partners to advance policies that strengthen California’s transit network—ensuring it remains a cornerstone of the state’s economy, environment and quality of life.” The report contains 39 detailed recommendations, but no specific recommendations related to new statewide funding for transit. Staff are analyzing the report and can provide a verbal update at your meeting.

Executive Director's Report:

The following items are excerpts from the November 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:

- This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Mpace Transit + Community Conference (formerly known as “Railvolution”), which convened Oct. 26-29 in Portland, Oregon. Commissioners Ahn, Burt and Papan attended, along with Chief Deputy Executive Director Alix Bockelman. MTC-ABAG staff presented on Transit 2050+, Transit-Oriented Communities Policy implementation and Regional Network Management collaboration. MTC-ABAG is on Mpace’s National Steering Committee, joining more than 60 professionals from across the United States and Canada to provide direction for the conference.
- Chair Noack, Commissioners John-Baptiste, Ramos, Schaaf, Alix, Deputy Executive Director (Housing & Energy) Daniel Saver and I attended the California Regional Housing Finance Authorities (RHFAs) Exchange in Long Beach on Oct. 27-29. The Exchange brought together officials and stakeholders from the three RHFAs in California – Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA), Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency and San Diego Regional Housing Finance Authority – to strengthen relationships and explore opportunities for collaborating on state advocacy.

- Commissioner Abe-Koga and Deputy Executive Director (Mobility) Lisa Klein participated in the 2025 American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Study Mission to Asia from Nov. 5-14. The trip provided an opportunity to engage with government leaders in Singapore, Seoul and Tokyo on the latest advances in public transportation and rail with a focus on innovations in project and service delivery models, technological advances and practices that have led to improved service, safety and cost efficiencies. Other Bay Area participants included AC Transit Director Joel Young and VTA General Manager Carolyn Gonot.
- On Nov. 7, the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) Board held a meeting in Palm Desert. CALCOG brings together regional agencies from across the state to coordinate policy, share resources and engage in legislative advocacy. The goal of this session was to have a deep discussion about how CALCOG can remain relevant and of service to its members in the year ahead. MTC Commissioner and ABAG President Ramos attended as ABAG's representative on the CALCOG Board. Matt Maloney, Deputy Executive Director, Metro Planning and Policy, was also in attendance. The CALCOG Board discussed upcoming priorities, including leadership on SB 375 reform, securing additional Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) funding for regions and exploring CALCOG's potential role in helping to shape the next federal transportation authorization. With so much happening in both Sacramento and Washington, D.C., it will be critical that we remain engaged in these conversations to ensure that our regions' voices are heard and that CALCOG continues to provide strong leadership and support for its members.
- Earlier this year, the Bay Trail Project nonprofit voted to dissolve and selected Save the Bay to carry on the mission of advocating for the Bay Trail. MTC-ABAG has been facilitating the transition between the two organizations. On Oct. 30, I attended a Bay Trail Project Board reunion celebrating 35 years of accomplishments that have resulted in 350 miles of completed trail. Save the Bay Executive Director David Lewis and I addressed the group, and I outlined a collaborative approach to completing the remaining 150 miles of Bay Trail. Save the Bay is now working to

- integrate Bay Trail work with their current advocacy, restoration, education and constituency growth efforts. To support the transition, Save the Bay has engaged former ABAG Bay Trail Planner Maureen Gaffney to advise on strategies and partnerships to strengthen trail advocacy efforts moving forward.
- The Priority Conservation Areas (PCA) grant program is accepting applications for projects to acquire, enhance or improve designated PCAs. The PCA Grant Program – funded through MTC-ABAG’s One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) program – will distribute \$8 million in grants to local jurisdictions, tribes and community-based organizations, among other eligible applicants. The application window closes Dec. 19, 2025. Please help us spread the word about this funding opportunity. Visit the MTC website for more information.
 - On Oct. 28 and 29, over 700 people gathered at the Scottish Rite for the 17th biennial State of the Estuary Conference, hosted by the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. The conference returned this year with a dynamic event focused on bridging the gap between science and policy by showcasing the latest information about the Bay Area’s work to sustain and improve the San Francisco Estuary. Attendees connected over their shared goals to preserve habitats, support thriving species, manage resources effectively and promote community health and engagement. To learn more, visit: The 2025 State of the Estuary Conference connected art, science, and innovation.
 - Seventy-nine participants from 43 jurisdictions attended the October webinar, “What’s New in Wildfires & Housing,” sharing the latest research, case studies and policy developments at the intersection of wildfire and housing. Speakers from the State’s Community Wildfire Mitigation Program, the Marin County Wildfire Protection Agency, CAL FIRE and the City of Berkeley discussed Fire Hazard Severity Zone map updates, state building code changes and innovative local policies and programs. The webinar recording, slide decks and a forthcoming resource guide are available on the ABAG Technical Assistance website.

- Thank you to all who attended the Commission Workshop on Oct. 22 and 23. The Commission had a robust discussion on Plan Bay Area, regional network management and the MTC-ABAG Transit-Oriented Communities Policy implementation. Staff look forward to continuing the conversation in the coming months.
- Big thanks to Commissioner Miley and Commissioner Ambuehl for braving the rain Monday morning to represent the Commission at the ribbon-cutting for the newly completed I-680/Highway 84 interchange in Sunol. Regional Measure 3 toll money and other funding provided by MTC made the multi-year project possible, a point noted by our partners at Caltrans and the Alameda County Transportation Commission.
- Thanks also to Commissioner Jean-Baptiste for joining me Monday to celebrate the launch of the newest San Francisco Bay Ferry, the M.V. Zalophus. Regional Measure 3 also is a big source of operating funding for WETA — which is now one of our neighbors here in the Bay Area Metro Center.t.

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

- [Caltrain popularity among riders at all time high:](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/caltrain-popularity-among-riders-all-time-high)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/caltrain-popularity-among-riders-all-time-high>). Caltrain released the results of its 2025 customer satisfaction survey, with the rail agency receiving a record high satisfaction rating of 4.41 out of 5, up from 4.02 in 2024.
- [New community of practice highlights digital housing tools:](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/new-community-practice-highlights-digital-housing-tools)
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/new-community-practice-highlights-digital-housing-tools>). Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) staff, in partnership with the Beeck Center for Social Impact and Innovation at Georgetown University, launched a new virtual community last month to support government and nonprofit agency staff using digital innovations to improve affordable housing placement.

- [Work begins on Richmond-San Rafael Bridge open road tolling project:](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/work-begins-richmond-san-rafael-bridge-open-road-tolling-project) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/work-begins-richmond-san-rafael-bridge-open-road-tolling-project>). Changes are coming soon to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge toll plaza, the first of the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA)-managed bridges to be transformed as part of a multi-year conversion to Open Road Tolling (ORT).
- [Regional Measure 3 delivers \\$35 million toward three transit projects, latest in dispersal of toll dollars:](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/regional-measure-3-delivers-35-million-toward-three-transit-projects-latest-dispersal-toll) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/regional-measure-3-delivers-35-million-toward-three-transit-projects-latest-dispersal-toll>). An MTC committee last week approved \$35 million in Regional Measure 3 toll dollars for a Yerba Buena Island Multiuse Pathway, a Highway 101 bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing in Santa Rosa and an all battery electric ferry project.
- [New ferry "Zalophus" on the bay, MTC helps fund effort:](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/new-ferry-zalophus-bay-mtc-helps-fund-effort) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/new-ferry-zalophus-bay-mtc-helps-fund-effort>): San Francisco Bay Ferry this week celebrated the commissioning of MV Zalophus, the agency's newest high-speed passenger ferry and the 19th vessel in its fleet.
- [MTC transit advisory group undergoes revamp in 2026; application now open for student/youth seat:](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-transit-advisory-group-undergoes-revamp-2026-application-now-open-studentyouth-seat) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-transit-advisory-group-undergoes-revamp-2026-application-now-open-studentyouth-seat>). Beginning in January 2026, the Regional Network Management Customer Advisory Group (RNM CAG) will see a new structure enabling a stronger connection and understanding between regional and local transit agencies' advisory bodies.
- [Poll shows majority support for potential 2026 transit measure:](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/poll-shows-majority-support-potential-2026-transit-measure) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/poll-shows-majority-support-potential-2026-transit-measure>). Results of an October poll of voters in five Bay Area counties gauging sentiment about a potential November 2026 transportation sales tax measure will be presented next week to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)'s and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)'s Joint Legislation Committee.