

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Policy Advisory Council

December 16, 2025

Agenda Item 6a

Update on Changes to the Brown Act due to Senate Bill (SB) 707

Subject:

Update on amendments made to the Brown Act by SB 707, beginning January 1, 2026.

Background:

The Brown Act (Gov. Code Section 54950, *et seq.*) is California’s “open meetings” law, generally requiring all meetings of public bodies to be open and accessible to all members of the public. Originally passed in 1953, the Brown Act focused on ensuring in-person access to meetings. However, since the COVID-19 pandemic, many local agencies have found a need to continue meet virtually through teleconferencing, which provides the benefits of allowing more body members and members of the public to participate even if they are unable to attend the meeting in person. SB 707, signed into law by the Governor on October 3, 2025, and going into effect on January 1, 2026, is the latest in a series of Brown Act reforms implemented over the past few years and updates the pandemic-era teleconferencing rules to allow greater remote participation, especially with regard to advisory bodies like the Policy Advisory Council and its successor body.

The attached Legal Analysis and Quick Reference documents provide an overview of how SB 707’s amendments to the Brown Act affect the Policy Advisory Council, its successor body, and any other advisory bodies of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) or the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

Of most interest to advisory bodies are new rules regarding remote participation by members of “subsidiary” bodies. These new rules will allow members of advisory bodies that qualify as “subsidiary” bodies to participate in meetings remotely from any location without requiring that location to be noticed and open to the public, so long as the body still provides a central location – such as the meeting room at 375 Beale – for members of the public to join in person. The goals of these new rules are to assist advisory body members who otherwise would have difficulty attending meetings in person or under previous, more stringent requirements; assist with obtaining and keeping a quorum so that advisory bodies can ensure that they can attend to

important business without interruption; and preserve the public's ability to attend both remotely and in person.

Next Steps:

The Office of General Counsel and other staff will work to ensure that SB 707's amendments are implemented.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: SB 707 Legal Analysis
- Attachment B: SB 707 Remote Participation Quick Reference