

Date: April 22, 2026
W.I.: 1111
Referred by: Commission

ABSTRACT

MTC Resolution No. 4766

Resolution of Appreciation for **Kenneth Folan** on the occasion of his retirement from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission after more than 24 years of outstanding service.

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RE: Resolution of Appreciation for **Kenneth Folan**

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution No. 4766

WHEREAS, Kenneth Folan next month will retire from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission after more than 24 years of outstanding service to the agency, during which he rose through a series of increasingly responsible positions devoted to the wise and timely investment of public dollars to operate, maintain, modernize and expand the Bay Area's transportation systems; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth brought to what is now known as the agency's Funding Policy and Programs section the same steady demeanor and relentless drive he demonstrated on the pitch as a versatile midfielder who helped lead the University of San Francisco Dons to the quarterfinals of the 1993 NCAA Division I men's soccer tournament before taking his talents to the professional level with his hometown San Francisco Bay Seals; and

WHEREAS, among Kenneth's early duties for the Commission included programming the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program and implementing the Traffic Congestion Relief Program established by the state Traffic Congestion Relief Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth spearheaded the 2010-12 Transit Sustainability Project and the subsequent Transit Performance Initiative to make the Bay Area's public transit network more efficient and cost-effective; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth also played a critical role in the refinement of the Transit Capital Priorities process that helps maintain Bay Area's transit agencies' vehicles, stations, guideways and other physical assets in a state of good repair; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth shepherded a pioneering \$2.5 billion MTC financing program secured in part by Federal Transit Administration formula funds that enabled BART to replace its entire inventory of aging railcars with a new set of more comfortable and more reliable cars known as the Fleet of the Future; and

WHEREAS, having gained a deep understanding of both project funding and project delivery — and the interplay between the two — Kenneth shaped the strategy for using toll bridge money to deliver the capital projects identified in the Regional Traffic Relief Plan approved by voters through Regional Measure 2 in 2004 and later helped guide the investment of additional toll dollars into the Regional Measure 3 capital program approved by voters in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth managed development of the Major Project Advancement Policy adopted by the Commission in 2022 to replace its 17-year-old Resolution 3434 rail extension program and augment it to include the sequenced delivery of generational mega projects such as the second phase of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's BART-to-Silicon Valley extension; the Portal initiative to extend the newly electrified Caltrain corridor and future High Speed Rail service to downtown San Francisco; and the initial phase of the planned Valley Link project to connect BART with rail service through the Altamont Pass to San Joaquin County; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth was instrumental in establishing a framework for investing state cap-and-trade program funds in Bay Area projects and for using this money to advance priorities such as transit vehicle replacement and other state-of-good-repair initiatives, core capacity improvements, and rail expansion projects receiving grants through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program as well as upgrades to key transit corridors, fare policy programs and support for smaller Bay Area transit agencies; and

WHEREAS, even while deriving genuine personal satisfaction from contributing to projects that meaningfully improve service for bus riders, Kenneth resists the temptation to champion change merely for novelty's sake; heeding instead the adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," and urging colleagues to focus their attention elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth over the years has been an effective mentor and a great coach for his staff, demonstrating an uncommon gift for cutting straight to the heart of a seemingly complex problem or policy issue and then offering an honest, unvarnished opinion; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth's coaching skills are equally evident outside the office, with his leadership of youth soccer teams carrying him and the next generation of Folans to consistent success against ever-higher levels of competition around the city, around the bay, around the state and around the globe; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the staff and commissioners of MTC metaphorically swap jerseys with Kenneth in tribute to his distinguished career; honor the consummate professionalism with which he carried out his work; applaud his paramount commitment to family; and extend to Kenneth and his wife Adrienne, their daughter Shea and their twin sons Ryan and Sean the warmest of wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and for the unbridled enjoyment of upcoming travel across Europe and beyond.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Sue Noack, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission held in San Francisco, California, and at other remote locations, on April 22, 2026.