



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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Memorandum

Date: December 18, 2024
To: Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
From: MTC Policy Advisory Council Chair, Pamela Campos
Regarding: December 2024 Council Report to Commission

Summary:

This memo provides a summary of the activity of the Policy Advisory Council (Council) over the previous month.

November 19, 2024 Meeting the Council received four items from Staff:

1) PBA 2050+ Engagement Findings

The Council discussed the findings from the PBA 2050+ engagement efforts. Concerns were raised about the lack of demographic data on transit users, which affects the value of the information collected. Additionally, non-transit users were not reached, and those who worked weekdays from 8 AM to 5 PM were also not engaged. The importance of statistically valid polling to inform transit measures was emphasized.

2) Transportation Revenue Measure Select Committee Update

The Council debated the duration of potential transportation revenue measures, with a preference for longer measures to ensure stability. The Council—with 22 Members present, 19 ayes, and 3 no's—passed the following motion:

“Upon the motion by Council Member Glaser and second by Vice Chair Baldini, the Council brought forward the following recommendations to the Commission on Policy Advisory Council priorities for a transportation revenue measure as follows:

- Having a transit measure that covers the 27 transit agencies in the 9 counties.

- Focus on rider experience and not agency experience, including maintaining and improving service with well-coordinated fares, schedules, wayfinding, and other aspects of user experience.
- Have a regional measure that is transformational and has benefits for current and future generations.””

Support was expressed by the Council on August 27

3) NextGen Freeway Study

The Council reviewed challenges related to replacing the gas tax with a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) charge. Equity concerns and potential impacts on low-income communities were highlighted. The importance of addressing internal displacement and gentrification in the study was emphasized, with a focus on ensuring that low-income and transit-dependent people are not adversely affected. Several Council members suggested using a different formula to define low-income qualifications that meet the realities of living in high-cost neighborhoods across the S.F. Bay Area.

4) MTC and ABAG Advisory Council Strategy

Staff presented a proposal to integrate the ABAG Regional Planning Committee and MTC’s Policy Advisory Council to enhance public participation and equity. Feedback from council members included support for a collaborative approach to developing the new advisory system. With the goal of more efficient and holistic discussions addressing interconnected issues of transportation, housing, local economies, and climate issues, council members expressed the need to ensure a broad and diverse representation, such as geographical diversity, labor and business leaders, seniors and individuals with disabilities, and transit advocates, among other perspectives.

Concerns were raised about the potential challenges of integrating these two bodies, including the need for effective management of expanded responsibilities and maintaining focus on key issues. Some council members worried about excessively long meetings and the feasibility of

covering extensive information, suggesting the need for subcommittees and task forces to manage the workload. Additionally, there was a preference for only non-elected community members to promote free and open discussion on policy. Overall, the feedback underscored the importance of careful planning, diverse representation, and maintaining the advisory role of the body to plan for a better Bay Area for all.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible opportunities I have had while serving on the Policy Advisory Council, particularly in my role as Chair. I am deeply thankful to my predecessor, Randi Kinman, for her invaluable guidance and support, which have been instrumental in my journey. I also extend my sincere appreciation to Chair Pedroza for his exemplary leadership qualities that have greatly inspired me. Lastly, I am immensely grateful to the MTC Staff for their unwavering dedication and hard work, which have been crucial to our collective success. It has been an honor to serve alongside such a committed and passionate group of individuals.

Sincerely,
Pamela Campos
Policy Advisory Council Chair