

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Policy Advisory Council**

**May 24, 2024**

**Agenda Item 6c**

**Staff Liaison Report**

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**Subject:**

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

**Issues:**

None identified.

**Recommendations:**

Information

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – May 2024

## Staff Liaison Report – May 2024

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### Executive Director's Report:

The following items are excerpts from the April 2023 Executive Director's Report to the Commission. To read past reports in their entirety, check the agenda for a given Commission meeting [search for past meetings on [MTCs Legistar webpage](https://mtc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx) (<https://mtc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>)

### **ABAG Exec Board Takes First Step to Put Regional Housing Bond on November Ballot**

The ABAG Executive Board last Thursday evening took the first step toward allowing Bay Area voters this fall to consider a first-of-its-kind regional housing finance measure by unanimously approving adoption of a resolution that approves BAHFA's placement of a measure that would raise up to \$20 billion through the issuance of general obligation bonds to produce new affordable housing units and to protect existing affordable housing properties throughout the region.

### **State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference Re-scheduled**

The State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference has been re-scheduled for May 28-29 at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center. The event was cancelled in March because the previous venue was not ready. More information: <https://www.sfestuary.org/>.

### **Bay Wheels East Bay Expansion**

Alix and I were joined by ABAG Vice-President and Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin, Emeryville Councilmember Courtney Welsh and BART Director Rebecca Saltzman at an event earlier this month where MTC and Lyft announced the addition of 24 new docking stations and 565 next-generation docked e-bikes to the [Bay Wheels regional bikeshare system](https://mtc.ca.gov/operations/traveler-services/bay-wheels-bike-share-program) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/operations/traveler-services/bay-wheels-bike-share-program>) in Oakland and Emeryville. The East Bay expansion marks the second phase of a two-step Bay Wheels growth strategy that began last fall with the introduction of more than 1,500 new e-bikes and 30 new docking stations in San Francisco and San Jose.

### **Federal Highway Administration Approves \$20 Million Grant for Highway 37**

MTC received a \$20 million grant from the Federal Highway Administration to help the [Resilient State Route 37](https://mtc.ca.gov/planning/resilience/state-route-37) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/planning/resilience/state-route-37>) partners implement improvements to reduce the risk of roadway flooding and inundation along the 10-mile stretch between Sears Point in Sonoma County and Mare Island in Vallejo.

### **Disadvantaged & Small Business Enterprise Programs**

At [this month's Administration Committee meeting](https://mtc.ca.gov/meetings-events/administration-committee-2024-04-10t164000) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/meetings-events/administration-committee-2024-04-10t164000>), staff gave an update to commissioners about MTC's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Small Business Enterprise (SBE) programs. It is worth noting that from April 2020 - November 2023, MTC committed over \$45 million through procurements that included the DBE and SBE Programs and made payments to DBE and SBE firms totaling over \$21 million during the same reporting period. MTC also does outreach for these programs, including mentoring, DBE certification assistance, and procurement technical assistance.

### **Bay Area Summer Academy Now Accepting Applications**

Applications for the Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy are now being accepted through April 28. Please help the participating regional agencies—ABAG, MTC, BCDC and the Air District—spread the word by encouraging high schoolers in your communities to participate in this paid summer opportunity. We are encouraging students from Napa (no applications received from Napa), students with disabilities, and students from Equity Priority Communities to apply.

### **Sea Level Rise Project List Update**

MTC-ABAG and BCDC are updating a regional sea level rise project inventory in support of Plan Bay Area 2050+. Updated data will be used in Plan Bay Area 2050+ to create the Sea Level Rise Resilience Project List and also will be integrated into other regional efforts, such as BCDC's [Shoreline Adaptation Project Map](https://www.adaptingtorisingtides.org/project/shoreline-adaptation-project-mapping-program/) (<https://www.adaptingtorisingtides.org/project/shoreline-adaptation-project-mapping-program/>) program and BCDC's [Bay Adapt Joint Platform](https://www.bayadapt.org/jointplatform/) (<https://www.bayadapt.org/jointplatform/>).

## Regional Mapping and Wayfinding

The Regional Mapping and Wayfinding (RMWP) project team is seeking people with disabilities who use transit to join our new RMWP Accessibility Working Group. The purpose is to provide a space for transit customers with disabilities to share their lived experiences with the project team and help evaluate prototype and pilot wayfinding signage/materials through an accessibility lens. The application is due May 3 and any questions can be directed to Ky-Nam Miller ([kmiller@bayareametro.gov](mailto:kmiller@bayareametro.gov)).

News Headlines from [The Bay Link Blog](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/>): (as of May 7, 2024)

- [Caltrain celebrates energization and testing of full 51-mile corridor](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/caltrain-celebrates-energization-and-testing-full-51-mile-corridor) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/caltrain-celebrates-energization-and-testing-full-51-mile-corridor>): Caltrain, with its partners Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Balfour Beatty, [has successfully energized and tested the full 51-mile Caltrain-owned corridor between San Francisco and San Jose](https://www.caltrain.com/news/caltrain-balfour-beatty-and-pge-celebrate-major-milestone-electrification-project-successful) (<https://www.caltrain.com/news/caltrain-balfour-beatty-and-pge-celebrate-major-milestone-electrification-project-successful>).
- [Dive in: monthly Bay Area transportation stats](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/dive-monthly-bay-area-transportation-stats) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/dive-monthly-bay-area-transportation-stats>): MTC's [Monthly Transportation Statistics](https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/data-tools/monthly-transportation-statistics) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/data-tools/monthly-transportation-statistics>) show a comprehensive picture of transit and transportation in the Bay Area.
- [What is active transportation?](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/what-active-transportation-0) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/what-active-transportation-0>): When people walk, bike, scoot and skate — using what's known as active transportation, or micromobility — they can travel short distances without relying on cars. MTC's [Active Transportation Working Group](https://mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/committees/interagency-committees/active-transportation-working-group) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/committees/interagency-committees/active-transportation-working-group>) is working to get more people moving by foot, bike, skateboard, scooter, wheelchair and other forms of "active transportation."

- **[California recognizes more communities for pro-housing policies](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/california-recognizes-more-communities-pro-housing-policies)**  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/california-recognizes-more-communities-pro-housing-policies>): The cities of Berkeley, Fairfield, Pinole and Richmond are among the communities having earned the state's [Department of Housing and Community Development's "Prohousing" designation](https://www.hcd.ca.gov/about-hcd/newsroom/california-recognizes-10-communities-prohousing-policies) (<https://www.hcd.ca.gov/about-hcd/newsroom/california-recognizes-10-communities-prohousing-policies>) for efforts to encourage development of housing at all income levels.
- **[MTC, CARB, TransForm unveil new mobility hub at San Jose apartment complex](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-carb-transform-unveil-new-mobility-hub-san-jose-apartment-complex)**  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-carb-transform-unveil-new-mobility-hub-san-jose-apartment-complex>): Residents of the Betty Ann Gardens Apartments in San Jose's Berryessa district today celebrated the opening of a new mobility hub developed through a partnership between the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Oakland-based nonprofit TransForm to expand mobility options and lower transportation costs for lower-income renters, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage walking, bicycling and transit use.
- **[Bay Wheels Bikeshare makes San Mateo County debut](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/bay-wheels-bikeshare-makes-san-mateo-county-debut)**  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/bay-wheels-bikeshare-makes-san-mateo-county-debut>): The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Lyft today kicked off National Bike Month by joining with partners from BART, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and Daly City to cut the ribbon on a new Bay Wheels bikeshare station at the Daly City BART station.
- **[2024 Bike Champion of the Year Winners announced](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/2024-bike-champion-year-winners-announced)**  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/2024-bike-champion-year-winners-announced>): Organizers of Bay Area Bike to Wherever Days (BTWD) today announced the winners of the 2024 Bike Champion of the Year awards. These awards recognize individuals nominated by the public for inspiring bicycling in their communities, honoring riders in each of the nine Bay Area counties for their commitment to cycling as a primary mode of transport.

- **[Coming up: National Walk, Bike & Roll to School Day](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/coming-national-walk-bike-roll-school-day)**  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/coming-national-walk-bike-roll-school-day>):  
**[National Walk, Bike & Roll to School Day](https://www.walkbiketoschool.org/)** is (<https://www.walkbiketoschool.org/>) is coming to a school near you. Part of the Bay Area’s **[Bike to Wherever Days](https://bayareabiketowork.com/)** (<https://bayareabiketowork.com/>) celebration of National Bike Month, Bike & Roll to School Day activities focus on group rides to school for students and families, celebrating school spirit and the joys of active transportation.
- **[Study: Bay Area good spot for those with graduate degrees](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/study-bay-area-good-spot-those-graduate-degrees)**  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/study-bay-area-good-spot-those-graduate-degrees>): San Jose and San Francisco stand out as the best metros for MBA students and graduates due to its highly educated workforce, large number of MBA-related careers and impressive median earnings, according to **[a new CoworkingCafe study](https://www.coworkingcafe.com/blog/the-best-us-metros-for-mba-graduates/)** (<https://www.coworkingcafe.com/blog/the-best-us-metros-for-mba-graduates/>).
- **[Key committees greenlight transportation revenue and reform bill](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/key-committees-greenlight-transportation-revenue-and-reform-bill)**  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/key-committees-greenlight-transportation-revenue-and-reform-bill>): The state Senate's Transportation Committee and Revenue and Taxation Committee this week voted to advance Senate Bill 1031, introduced earlier this year by Sen. Scott Wiener of San Francisco and Sen. Aisha Wahab of Hayward.
- **[Regional Network Management Council recommends funding eight transit projects](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/regional-network-management-council-recommends-funding-eight-transit-projects)**  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/regional-network-management-council-recommends-funding-eight-transit-projects>): Today **[the Regional Network Management Council](https://mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/committees/interagency-committees/regional-network-management-council)** (<https://mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/committees/interagency-committees/regional-network-management-council>), made up of MTC’s Executive Director and general manager-level representatives of Bay Area transit agencies, unanimously approved recommending approximately \$18 million in funding for eight near-term transit priority projects as part of the \$30 million Bus Accelerated Infrastructure Delivery (BusAID) program.

- **[BayREN Annual Report 2023: Building Blocks for a Brighter Future](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/bayren-annual-report-2023-building-blocks-brighter-future)**:  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/bayren-annual-report-2023-building-blocks-brighter-future>): The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) has released its 2023 Annual Report, [Building Blocks for a Brighter Future](https://www.bayren.org/sites/default/files/documents/2024/BayREN%20Annual%20Report%20Narrative%202023.pdf), (<https://www.bayren.org/sites/default/files/documents/2024/BayREN%20Annual%20Report%20Narrative%202023.pdf>), which encapsulates the significant efforts and milestones achieved throughout the year in advancing energy efficiency and sustainability across the Bay Area.
- **[Report: "Happy" Fremont has seen its homes double in value](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/report-happy-fremont-has-seen-its-homes-double-value)**:  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/report-happy-fremont-has-seen-its-homes-double-value>): Because of its proximity to Silicon Valley, home prices in Fremont have doubled in less than a decade, [according to a new report by Point2](https://www.point2homes.com/news/us-real-estate-news/us-cities-where-home-prices-doubled-in-record-time.html) (<https://www.point2homes.com/news/us-real-estate-news/us-cities-where-home-prices-doubled-in-record-time.html>). Suddenly high-end, homes in Fremont went from \$740,000 in late 2015 to \$1.5 million as of February this year. And the reality is that overall desirability and high-paying jobs in the area will only continue to drive up demand and prices, according to the report.

### **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](mailto: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>)