



ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Memorandum

To: ABAG Executive Board; Metropolitan Transportation Commission

From: Community Advisory Council Chair Carina Lieu

Date: April 2026

Regarding: April 2026 Council Chair's Report

On April 3, 2026, the MTC-ABAG Community Advisory Council elected new officers. Carina Lieu was elected Chair, and Diana Benitez was elected Vice Chair.

The Council approved a measure authorizing remote participation in meetings consistent with SB 707, reinforcing the importance of accessibility and enabling more consistent participation.

The Council provided feedback on MTC's Vital Signs website, expressing strong support for the goal of making regional data more accessible to the public. Members also raised concerns about how the data is framed and understood, including the need for clearer explanations, improved accessibility for people with disabilities, expanded language access, and greater usability for non-technical audiences.

Councilmembers raised specific concerns about reliance on federal data definitions that do not reflect the cost realities of the Bay Area. Members emphasized the need to incorporate more localized data to better represent community need. Councilmembers raised concerns about how displacement is defined and interpreted, noting that current indicators can imply that households are choosing to move rather than being displaced, and emphasizing the need for the data to better reflect lived realities. In addition, members emphasized the importance of connecting data to decision-making, including how tools like Vital Signs can be used to inform and track outcomes across regional programs.

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The Council provided feedback on the CARE Program, with a focus on accountability in community engagement. Members emphasized the need for clear expectations, representative participation, and transparency in how community input informs decisions. Councilmembers highlighted the importance of follow-through, including tracking outcomes, demonstrating impact, and ensuring investments reach historically underserved communities. Members underscored the importance of representation in advisory bodies, including participation from people with disabilities, older adults, and other priority populations.

Overall, the discussion reflected a consistent focus on aligning data, engagement, and implementation in ways that are accessible, credible, and grounded in the realities communities are experiencing.