

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Policy Advisory Council**

**December 17, 2024**

**Agenda Item 6d**

**Staff Liaison Report**

---

**Subject:**

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

**Issues:**

None identified.

**Recommendations:**

Information

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – December 2024

## Staff Liaison Report – December 2024

---

### Executive Director's Report:

The following items are excerpts from the November 2024 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.ca.gov/legistar) (<https://mtc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>)

### Updates

#### **Election Update**

- [Voters approve MTC/ABAG-backed Proposition 4 and reject Proposition 5.](https://mtc.ca.gov/news/voters-approve-mtc-backed-proposition-reject-another) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/news/voters-approve-mtc-backed-proposition-reject-another>) Voters approved Proposition 4, authorizing California's largest-ever climate bond, and rejected Proposition 5, which would have amended the state constitution to establish a 55 percent voter-approval threshold for local and regional bond measures to support public infrastructure or affordable housing. Staff will be digging into the program details related to the climate bond to see how we might assist Bay Area jurisdictions seeking to compete for funding from the different programs.
- **BART Secures Loan from USDOT For New Cars.** The U.S. Department of Transportation has announced a \$545 million loan to BART to finance 775 new passenger-rail cars, part of a \$2.2 billion overhaul of the system. The new rail cars have advanced safety and accessibility features, including LED screens, digital cameras for enhanced security, and a third door to streamline entry and exit.
- [Bay Bridge Steel Gets Second Life.](https://www.sfgate.com/local/article/how-steel-bay-bridge-ended-up-across-california-19872352.php) (<https://www.sfgate.com/local/article/how-steel-bay-bridge-ended-up-across-california-19872352.php>) You can now see parts of the old Bay Bridge in art projects around the state. Plans to take down the old structure spread among the Bay Area artist community. A group rallied together to gather signatures and create a proposal to our Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee requesting 600 tons of cleaned and salvaged steel for distribution among artists for the creation of public art. The Committee approved the proposal, requiring

- that the projects pay tribute to the history of the bridge and the works be publicly displayed within California.
- **Toll Increase Outreach.** Last week, I presented to the Bay Area Council's Transportation Committee on the proposed bridge toll increase. Committee members seemed to recognize the importance of keeping the bridges in a state of good repair and were also supportive of MTC continuing to advocate for state and federal funding to invest in the bridges. MTC staff held a webinar on Wednesday, Nov. 13, for the public on the proposed 2026 toll increase and HOV policy changes. Approximately 36 people attended the webinar.
  - **Holiday Wreath and Award.** The BATA bridge team delivered some early holiday cheer on Nov. 16 with the annual installation of the holiday wreath over the Yerba Buena Island Tunnel on the Bay Bridge.
  - **MTC was recognized as Partner of the Year** at their 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony on Nov. 13. MTC Director of Funding Policy and Programs, Theresa Romell and Kenneth Kao attended to accept this award.
  - **Planning and Capital Grant Opportunities: 2024 Call for Projects.** On Sept. 30, MTC announced the release of \$60 million in planning and capital funding to support local implementation of MTC's Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) Policy and Climate Program. The funds include multiple grant and technical assistance programs that are being administered simultaneously to help applicants coordinate efforts across funding categories. Visit the [2024 Coordinated Call web page](https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/2024-coordinated-toc-and-climate-grants) (<https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/2024-coordinated-toc-and-climate-grants>) for an overview of the programs.
  - **Applications for the TOC Planning and Implementation grants are due** on Nov. 22, 2024, at 4 p.m. These funds are focused on TOC Policy implementation and include grants and technical assistance to help jurisdictions develop and implement plans and policies to comply with the TOC Policy.
  - **Applications for the Climate Program Implementation grants are due** on Dec. 20, 2024, at 4 p.m. These funds are focused on Climate Program implementation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and include grants for capital investments.

- **BayREN Launches Its New Public Buildings Programs.** The Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) recently introduced new no-cost services for local government and special district staff within the region with the launch of its Integrated Energy Services (IES) Program and the Targeted Decarbonization Services (TDS) Program earlier this month.
  - IES focuses on providing holistic support for all energy-related building systems and includes the Energy Concierge as well as an Energy Roadmapping service. TDS is focused on building decarbonization with a showcase pilot as well as education and financing services for local government staff.
  - Jurisdictions interested in these no-cost services can fill out an interest form on BayREN's website. <https://www.bayren.org/public-programs>.

News Headlines from [The Bay Link Blog \(https://blog.bayareametro.gov/\)](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/):

- **[You're invited: Regional Mapping & Wayfinding debut](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/youre-invited-regional-mapping-wayfinding-debut)** (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/youre-invited-regional-mapping-wayfinding-debut>) Bay Area transit agencies and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) will debut test transit maps and signs next week with a press event and tour showcasing the new maps and signs at El Cerrito del Norte BART station.
- **[ABAG recruits for SF Bay Restoration Authority Governing Board](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/abag-recruits-sf-bay-restoration-authority-governing-board-0)** (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/abag-recruits-sf-bay-restoration-authority-governing-board-0>) The Association of Bay Area Governments is recruiting elected officials of Bayside Cities or Counties, regional park districts or open space districts that touch the Bay to serve on the Governing Board of the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority.
- **[Help shape the Bay Trail at SFO: Take the survey](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/help-shape-bay-trail-sfo-take-survey)** (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/help-shape-bay-trail-sfo-take-survey>) The Bay Trail San Francisco Airport (SFO) Gap Closure Study is in its last phase of public engagement before the data is analyzed for the final report.
- **[New year rings in toll increase at seven Bay Area bridges](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/new-year-rings-toll-increase-seven-bay-area-bridges)** ([https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/new-year-rings-toll-increase-seven-bay-area-](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/new-year-rings-toll-increase-seven-bay-area-bridges)

- [bridges-0](#)) With the new year just weeks away, the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) reminds drivers that tolls at the region's seven state-owned toll bridges will go up by \$1 on Jan. 1, 2025.
- **[Video: Exclusive look at the Bay Bridge's suspension cables work](#)**  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/video-exclusive-look-bay-bridges-suspension-cables-work>) The Bay Bridge cable investigation is part of the BATA-Caltrans team's never-ending responsibility to keep all seven of the Bay Area's state-owned toll bridges in good working order.

### **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>)