

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee**

January 9, 2026

Agenda Item 3a

**ABAG Resolution No. 5-2025, Revised. and MTC Resolution No. 4686, Revised. Approval
of MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council Appointments**

Subject:

Refer the nominees to the inaugural MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council (term running from January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2029) to the ABAG Executive Board and Metropolitan Transportation Commission for approval.

Summary:

ABAG Resolution No. 5-2025 and MTC Resolution No. 4686 established the combined MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council (“Council”) and called for the recruitment and appointment of a new Council every four years. An Ad Hoc Selections Committee consisting of three members each from MTC and the ABAG Executive Board received extensive information on the candidates, including their written application materials and a list of recommendations from MTC and ABAG board members. The Ad Hoc committee deliberated and recommended 27 candidates to MTC Chair Noack and ABAG President Ramos. However, one of the candidates for a civic organization, the League of Women Voters, passed away in December, and staff is considering other candidates to fill the final slot. Staff is also recommending minor technical updates to the resolutions aimed at streamlining approval of travel reimbursements and clarifying the policy with respect to when councilmembers can claim a per diem for attending an MTC or ABAG meeting.

Background:

In 2025, MTC and ABAG adopted parallel resolutions to integrate the MTC Policy Advisory Council and ABAG's Regional Planning Committee into a single advisory council to serve the Commission and ABAG Executive Board. The new body is structured as follows:

- Nine county-based representatives (one from each of the nine Bay Area counties) with at least four members representing the interests of low-income residents and four members representing the interests of communities of color. An additional member shall be selected to represent the interests of either low-income residents or communities of color.

- Nine county-based representatives (one from each of the nine Bay Area counties) with at least four members representing the interests of people with disabilities and at least four members representing the interests of older adults. An additional member shall be selected to represent the interests of either older adults or people with disabilities.
- Nine at-large members representing one or more of the following regional interests: labor, business/employers, environment, transit advocacy, youth, civic organizations focusing on community service, advocacy, and/or social welfare, and affordable housing.

Recruitment for the new body ran from May through July 2025 and was open to all Bay Area residents. MTC and ABAG promoted the opportunity through web posts, social media, e-newsletters reaching over 50,000 subscribers, and direct outreach to community organizations, youth program alumni, local agencies, and other stakeholders. The agency received 156 applications—a 15% increase over 2021 and 30% over 2017—from a diverse pool of candidates representing academia, business, labor, students, community leadership, and everyday Bay Area residents. Applicants brought a wide range of skills and a strong commitment to improving quality of life across the region.

A staff panel conducted a preliminary review of all candidates, after which an Ad Hoc Selections Committee was formed by Chair Noack and President Ramos with three representatives each from MTC and the ABAG Executive Board. The committee members were:

- MTC
 - Commissioner Marilyn Ezzy Ashcroft (Alameda)
 - Commissioner Eddie Ahn (San Francisco)
 - Commissioner Victoria Fleming (Sonoma)
- ABAG
 - President Belia Ramos (Napa)
 - Vice President Carlos Romero (San Mateo)
 - Director Pamela Campos (Santa Clara)

Nine staff anonymized and reviewed 156 applications, inviting 80 candidates to group Zoom interviews of 45–60 minutes. Scores reflected a combination of the written application and interview performance. All ABAG Executive Board members and MTC Commissioners were given the opportunity to review applicants from their respective county and provide

recommendations that were shared with the Ad Hoc Committee. In December the Ad Hoc Selections Committee reached final consensus on all 27 candidates and staff shared their recommendation with MTC Chair Noack and ABAG President Ramos, who supported the Committee's recommendation.

Issues: After the Ad Hoc committee had agreed upon the 27 candidates, staff learned the unfortunate news that Roma Dawson, who had been recommended to fill an "at large" seat representing the League of Women Voters in the civic organization category had passed away. Staff have reached out to the League of Women Voters to see if they have an alternative nominee to recommend. In the meantime, staff recommend (with the support of Chair Noack and President Ramos) proceeding with the 26 nominees and a vacancy in one of the at-large seats associated with civic organizations. Once a new nominee is identified for this category, staff will return to the Committee with that recommendation, which would be forwarded to the ABAG Executive Board and Commission for their approval.

Technical Updates to Resolution:

Staff also recommends some technical cleanup to the resolutions for the new Council:

- Requiring submittal of travel reimbursement requests within a reasonable amount of time
- Clarifications to allow members to be compensated for attending a Council Subcommittee or an MTC or ABAG meeting at the request of the ABAG President, MTC Chair or Chair of the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee adopt the slate of candidates recommended by MTC Chair Noack and ABAG President Ramos and forward them to the ABAG Executive Board and Commission for approval, respectively. Staff further recommends that the Committee adopt and refer the proposed updates to the resolutions.

Attachments:

- MTC Resolution No. 4686
- ABAG Resolution No. 5-2025



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