

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
Community Advisory Council**

May 1, 2026

Agenda Item 5.a.

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Overview of recent MTC and ABAG policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information only

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – May 2026

Staff Liaison Report – May 2026

Updates and Follow Up Items:

- MTC CARE Power-building and Engagement (Pb+E): Applications are now open for the “Learning Lab” – a 6-month peer learning and professional development opportunity for Bay Area community-based organization staff. **Applications are due by 11:59pm PST on Sunday, May 31, 2026.** Program benefits include: \$20,000 stipend per organization; up to 20 organizations will be selected, four in-person sessions and four virtual sessions, up to three hours of technical assistance, and peer learning and project implementation support. Learn more by visiting: [CARE Pb+E: Learning Lab](#). The Call for Applications can be found at: <https://carepbe.slideroom.com/>
- Councilmembers received a summary of the CARE Participatory Budgeting and Implementation (PBI) Guidelines planned for consideration on May 13, including flexibility for counties, an equity-centered approach, and a proposed \$400,000 set-aside for participatory budgeting (PB); staff also plan to follow up with draft PB best practices resources for Council input. For both PBI Guidelines and PB best practices resources, staff invite feedback, with availability to meet individually as needed. Contact Kate Fosburgh (kfosburgh@bayareametro.gov) or Raleigh Merrill (rmerrill@bayareametro.gov) with further inquiries.
- The Norman Mineta Bay Area High School Summer Academy application window is now mostly closed, with exceptions for certain area with underrepresentation. Staff will provide an oral update on where further [applications](#) are needed, with the new deadline of May 4, 2026. <https://mtc.one/SummerAcademy2026>

Executive Director's Report to the Commission & ABAG Exec Board:

The following items are excerpts from the April 2026 Executive Director's Reports to the Commission and ABAG Executive Board. To read past reports in their entirety, see these links:

- [Commission Report: https://mtc.ca.gov/news/executive-directors-report](https://mtc.ca.gov/news/executive-directors-report)

Commission Updates:

Next-Gen Clipper (C2)

Adoption of the new system and the volume of transactions continue to grow. To date, 1.4 million Clipper cards have migrated to the new system. As of early April, 38% of systemwide trips are in C2 — 27% on Clipper cards and 11% on contactless credit/debit cards. Despite the continued high call volume in March, average handle time dropped under 13 minutes (down two minutes from February), and average wait time improved sharply from 23 minutes to 14 minutes. While we do not yet have the full picture of April activity, weekly call data as of the week ending April 18 indicates continued improvement in call center performance with reduced handling time of 11 minutes and an average wait time of just over 4 minutes. As we prepare for migration at scale, we are taking a structured, requirements-based approach that includes close coordination with transit operators and Cubic leadership to ensure accountability, measurable progress and reliable customer experience. Additional details on Next-Gen Clipper’s progress and status will be available in my report to the Clipper Executive Board for their April 27 meeting, which will be posted [here](https://mtc.ca.gov/meetings-events/clipper-executive-board-2026-04-27t200000) (https://mtc.ca.gov/meetings-events/clipper-executive-board-2026-04-27t200000).

Senate Bill 79 Regional Maps

On April 8, MTC released a preliminary draft map of the areas where SB 79 (Wiener, 2025) will apply in the Bay Area when it takes effect on July 1. Staff is engaging affected local jurisdictions throughout April and will present an information item on the draft map at the May MTC Planning Committee. A summary of key provisions of SB 79 that are most relevant to local governments is available [online](https://abag.ca.gov/our-work/housing/regional-housing-technical-assistance/senate-bill-79-2025). (https://abag.ca.gov/our-work/housing/regional-housing-technical-assistance/senate-bill-79-2025)

Work Begins on I-580 Westbound HOV Lane Extension

Initial work began this week on a six-month project to convert the far-left lane of westbound I-580 to a high-occupancy vehicle lane from just east of the Piedmont Avenue

undercrossing in Oakland to the start of the existing westbound carpool lane near the foot of the MacArthur Maze. The 2.3 mile project — a partnership with Caltrans and the Alameda County Transportation Commission — marks the Bay Area’s first conversion of a general-purpose lane to a carpool lane. This is a key element of the Bay Bridge Forward initiative to improve efficiency, reduce delays and move more people across the bridge.

BAHFA-Financed Teacher Housing Opens in Oakland

On April 2, Chief Deputy Executive Director Alix Bockelman, Deputy Executive Director for Housing & Energy Daniel Saver, along with other MTC staff, attended a ribbon cutting for Idora, a first-of-its-kind teacher housing community in Oakland’s Temescal district. Through the Housing Preservation Project Technical Assistance Grant Program, BAHFA provided \$34,000 to Rooted Housing, enabling the project to qualify for and secure additional funding from public and private sources. Idora has 33 below-market rate units available on a first-come, first-served basis for Oakland Unified School District teachers. State Senator Jesse Arreguín, State Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, Congresswoman Lateefah Simon and Commissioner and Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee were among the speakers at the event.

BAHFA Presentation to Bay Area Caucus

On April 22, 2026, Deputy Executive Director Daniel Saver will present to the Bay Area Caucus with an update about the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority. The invitation was extended by Senator Josh Becker, Chair of the Bay Area Caucus, and reflects the Legislature’s ongoing interest in BAHFA’s success. The presentation will include a briefing on BAHFA’s achievements to date, the agency’s new strategic plan, and advocate for BAHFA’s \$15 million one-time request from the FY26-27 state budget. Materials from the presentation are attached to this report, including a four-page

summary of BAHFA's impacts to date and a county-by-county list of BAHFA-funded projects.

BCDC Approves Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Environmental Justice Methodology

Last August, the Bay Conservation Development Commission (BCDC) approved Amendment No. Six to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge's BCDC permit. The approval made the eastbound part-time lane on the lower deck a permanent feature and extended the westbound upper deck pilot, allowing for the restoration of the emergency shoulder during the weekdays while keeping the bike and pedestrian path open on weekends.

ABAG Executive Board Updates:

There has been no ABAG Executive Board meeting since the March meeting. The ABAG Executive Board next meets on May 21, 2026.

Save the Date for the General Assembly

Save the date for the ABAG General Assembly on Thursday, June 18. The event will be held at the Bay Area Metro Center and will focus on the next update to the Regional Housing Needs Allocation.

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

- **Work to start on I-580 carpool lane extension in Oakland**

<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/work-start-i-580-carpool-lane-extension-oakland>

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) today announced that construction work will begin next week on a six-month project to convert the far-left lane of westbound Interstate 580 to a high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane from just east of the Piedmont Avenue undercrossing in Oakland to the start of the existing westbound carpool lane near the foot of the MacArthur Maze.

- **[San Francisco Bay Ferry shatters ridership record for March](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/san-francisco-bay-ferry-shatters-ridership-record-march)**
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/san-francisco-bay-ferry-shatters-ridership-record-march>) San Francisco Bay Ferry this week announced it shattered its ridership record in March, carrying more than 300,000 passengers over the month. The previous high-water mark for SF Bay Ferry ridership in March was 239,639 passengers in 2019.
- **[Marin Measure AA expenditure plan adopted](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/marin-measure-aa-expenditure-plan-adopted)**
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/marin-measure-aa-expenditure-plan-adopted>) The Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Directors approved amendments to the Measure AA Expenditure Plan last month following a comprehensive review process and extensive input from the community and our partner agencies.
- **[MTC-ABAG Mourn, Remember Life and Legacy of Rod Diridon](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-abag-mourn-remember-life-and-legacy-rod-diridon)**
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-abag-mourn-remember-life-and-legacy-rod-diridon>) Former longtime Santa Clara County Supervisor Rod Diridon, Sr., who served as chairman of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, died Friday, April 3. He was 87.
- **[Financial Efficiency Review Independent Oversight Committee receives draft report](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/financial-efficiency-review-independent-oversight-committee-receives-draft-report)**
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/financial-efficiency-review-independent-oversight-committee-receives-draft-report>) This week, MTC transmitted to the newly formed Financial Efficiency Review Independent Oversight Committee the draft report for Phase 1 of a two-phase Financial Efficiency Review of four of the Bay Area's largest transit agencies — AC Transit, BART, Caltrain and SFMTA — as required by last year's enactment of state Senate Bill 63 (SB 63).

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 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)