

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

April 3, 2026

Agenda Item 9.a.

Authorizing the Use of Remote Teleconference Meetings

Subject:

During their respective March 2026 meetings, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Executive Board authorized the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council (Council) to use the wider set of remote meeting attendance rules allowed under California Senate Bill 707. Both MTC and ABAG passed the respective resolutions (MTC Resolution No. 4756 and ABAG Resolution No. 3-2026) authorizing the use of teleconference meetings by the Council pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.8.6 and making findings that the using teleconference meetings would benefit the public and the Council.

Background:

The Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code Section 54950, *et seq.*) is California’s open meetings law, generally requiring that all legislative bodies conduct all business in open and public meetings. While the Brown Act originally contemplated primarily in-person meetings, the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted several amendments to the Brown Act to allow more bodies to meet remotely via teleconference to promote flexibility and greater access for body members and the public who are unable to attend in person. The most recent of these amendments went into effect on January 1, 2026.

Under the newly enacted Government Code Section 54953.8.6, “subsidiary bodies” – defined as advisory bodies that do not make final decisions – may be authorized by their creating bodies to meet via teleconference. Government Code Section 54953.8.6 requires the creating body to review the subsidiary body’s circumstances and find that authorizing teleconference meetings would benefit the public and the body members. The statute also required the body to still designate at least one location within the jurisdiction of the subsidiary body that serves as the location where body members and members of the public can still attend in person if they choose to do so. Authorizing teleconference meetings under this statute differs from other methods of teleconferencing because it allows all body members to participate remotely from

any location for all meetings without requiring special notice or approval or requiring public access to the remote location.

The Council meets the definition of “subsidiary body,” and staff believes that authorizing the Council to participate remotely via teleconference under the updated procedures allowed in SB 707 will enhance both public and Council member participation and access by making it easier for Council members to participate remotely when circumstances arise that make in-person attendance difficult. The Council comprises 27 members from all nine Bay Area counties, many of whom have day jobs, family or other responsibilities, and other life circumstances that can make it difficult for all members to participate in person at the Bay Area Metro Center every month. Allowing teleconferencing in the more flexible method allowed for subsidiary bodies reduces the challenge of ensuring an in-person quorum at one location and eliminates the risk that meetings are delayed or need to be canceled due to lack of public access at remote locations. Because the statute requires an in-person location to still be available, members of the public would still have the option to attend in person or via teleconference at their discretion.

Next Steps:

Now that both the Commission and the ABAG Executive Board and have adopted complementary resolutions allowing Councilmembers to attend meetings via teleconference pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.8.6, staff recommends that the Council adopt a motion allowing for teleconference meetings and making findings that such authorization benefits the public and the Council. Staff will ensure that an action item will be brought to the relevant bodies to renew the resolution at the required six-month intervals.

Issues:

None identified.

Attachments:

Attachment A – MTC Resolution No. 4756

Attachment B – ABAG Resolution No. 3-2026