

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

October 13, 2023

Agenda Item 3a

2023 Legislative Scorecard

Subject:

Comparison of MTC/ABAG 2023 Advocacy Program with legislative outcomes in the 2023 state and federal legislative sessions.

Overview:

The 2023 state legislative session is drawing to a close, with an October 14, 2023, deadline for Governor Newsom to sign or veto bills. The state budget was an extensive focus area in Sacramento this year, with MTC/ABAG heavily involved in the uphill battle of securing transit funding in the face of a very tight budget. MTC/ABAG also engaged in a range of other transportation, housing, climate, and local government bills, including two critical bills that will help empower Bay Area voters to raise local and regional revenues for key Bay Area priorities: Assemble Bill (AB) 1319 (Wicks) and Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 1 (Aguiar-Curry).

AB 1319 – MTC/ABAG’s sponsored Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAFHA) “clean-up” bill – was approved by the Legislature in September and awaits action by the Governor. The Legislature also enacted ACA 1, placing on the November 2024 ballot a measure to lower the vote threshold for housing, transportation, climate resilience, and other infrastructure-related local bond measures and special taxes to 55 percent from two-thirds, in line with the threshold for school bonds. Similar proposals have been introduced year after year, but for decades have been unable to secure the two-thirds votes needed to place the measure on the ballot, so it’s a remarkable achievement that ACA 1 was enacted.

MTC and/or ABAG took positions on 14 other bills this year (16 total), adopting support positions on 15 bills and opposing one unless amended. As of the writing of this memo, six bills MTC and/or ABAG supported are awaiting action by the Governor, one has been chaptered, one was integrated into the fiscal year (FY) 2023-24 transportation budget trailer bill, one was amended to address a non-related topic, one was vetoed (AB 1085 (Maienschein)) and five became two-year bills. The bill MTC opposed unless amended (AB 1335 (Zbur)) is also a two-year bill. Staff will provide a verbal update on the latest actions by the Governor at your Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee meeting.

It was also a fruitful year in Washington, D.C., with the United States Department of Transportation Bipartisan Infrastructure (BIL) making available tens of billions of dollars in BIL grant funds (BIL is also called the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or IIJA). Congress approved even more supplemental transportation and housing funding in the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill than required in the BIL. FY 2024 is off to an uncertain start, with Congress narrowly averting a government shutdown late last week by approving a bipartisan stopgap spending bill that will keep the federal government open through mid-November. This bides time for Congress to negotiate full FY 2024 funding bills.

The attached 2023 Legislative Scorecard, which compares our advocacy program goals with outcomes in Sacramento and Washington D.C. to date, provides more detail on these and other 2023 legislative priorities.

Recommendation:

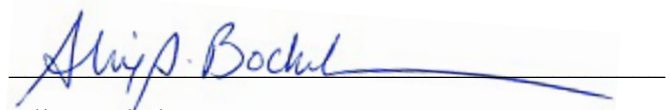
Information

Issues:

None identified.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: 2023 Legislative Scorecard (Advocacy Program Goals vs. Outcomes)



Alix Bockelman