



METROPOLITAN  
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COMMISSION

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## *Memorandum*

**Date:** April 24, 2024  
**To:** Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)  
**From:** MTC Policy Advisory Council Chair, Pamela Campos  
**Regarding:** April 2024 Council Report to Commission

### **Summary:**

This memo provides a summary of the activity of the Policy Advisory Council (Council) over the previous month.

### **March 22, 2024 Meetings**

The Policy Advisory Council met on March 22, 2024. The Council received a verbal update on the regional transportation measure, Senate Bill (SB) 1031 (Wiener/Wahab). Suggestions made by the Policy Advisory Council were to develop a strong communications plan that addresses the urgency for this solution by demonstrating the past and future tangible, local changes to their transportation infrastructure and a blueprint for unifying communities and transit systems. Additionally, any new revenue stream must have the trust and support of voters which will require full transparency and community engagement.

The Council also received a presentation highlighting relevant findings from various MTC initiatives related to future highway investments, including key policy tradeoffs related to reliability, mobility, climate, transit, and affordability. To summarize responses from the Policy Advisory Council, near-term investments in the highway system should prioritize community safety and in the long-term must focus on climate resilience. The need for community-based convenings was also emphasized to ensure the most fiscally responsible use of tax-payer funds on voter-approved projects. Finally, an ‘either or approach’ to the arterial vs express bus conversation was not supported, and instead we recommend investing in both as they are equally needed by community members going to work, school, appointments, and other places.

The Equity and Access Subcommittee received a report on trends emerging from Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority's (BAIFA's) low-income toll discount pilot on the Interstate 880 (I-880) Express Lanes (named “Express Lanes START”) after six months of operation. Feedback from the Equity and Access Subcommittee was positive, the results look promising and there was interest in the potential of expanding this program to other communities’ transit

corridors. There was also an update of MTC's CARE Cycle 1 - Power-Building and Engagement Program (Category 3) Proposed Approach for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 through FY 2025-26. The update was well-received by the Equity and Access Subcommittee with strong interest in ensuring there is funding to sustain this opportunity for community-led projects and investments.

Sincerely,

Pamela Campos

Chair, Policy Advisory Council