

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

February 23, 2024

Agenda Item 7a

Youth Programs Update

Subject:

Overview of MTC/ABAG Youth Programs and Plans for 2024.

Background:

This item provides an update on two youth programs supported by MTC/ABAG: the *Pathways to Government College Mentorship Program* and the *Norman Mineta Bay Area Summer Academy* for high school students, efforts that align with MTC’s Equity Platform.

2023 marked the third summer that MTC and ABAG have sponsored youth summer programs after they were suspended in the summer of 2020 due to budgetary and public health constraints. The **Norman Mineta High School Summer Academy** provides a multi-week, mostly remote learning curriculum for Bay Area high school students. The **Pathways to Government College Mentorship** is a targeted effort to develop a pipeline of college-age students who come from underrepresented backgrounds at the agencies. As the public health advisories lessened, staff provided the youth with an in-person experience at the Bay Area Metro Center while retaining the benefits of remote access for much of the program.

Program	Participants by Year		
	2021	2022	2023
High School Summer Academy	29	58	113
Pathways to Government College Mentorship	5	6	11

The number of high school students who completed the program nearly doubled for the second year in a row, from 58 to 113 participants from the summer of 2022 to 2023. The college program also nearly doubled in 2023, after being limited to a handful of students in 2021 and 2022. Recruitment efforts for both programs were focused on encouraging students from Equity Priority Communities (including students with disabilities, and low-income and students of

color) to apply. All students were paid at living-wage levels (\$25/hour) and provided strongly positive feedback on their experiences.

Both programs can grow by enriching the curriculum and expanding recruitment networks to ensure broader participation from across the Bay Area– an effort that the MTC Council can help to advance by spreading the word to your communities and networks. Recruitment will go live in the spring of 2024, including direct outreach to Title I schools in coordination with Council Chair Campos in San Jose. Staff will email you related materials; your support in sharing these opportunities with your networks is greatly appreciated. Please contact Ky-Nam Miller if you would like support conducting additional outreach in your communities.

In addition to existing programs, MTC staff have fielded inquiries from local jurisdictions seeking support in developing youth pipelines to fulfill expanding opportunities in public service. Staff will provide an overview of new efforts to meet anticipated workforce demands from partner transit operators and public agencies.

Issues:

None identified

Recommendation:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: PowerPoint