Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council

October 28, 2025 **Agenda Item 6a**

2025 Legislative Scorecard

Subject:

Comparison of MTC's and ABAG's Joint 2025 Advocacy Program with legislative outcomes in the 2025 state and federal legislative sessions.

Background:

The 2025 state legislative session ended on September 13, 2025, following a year defined by continued fiscal constraints, complex federal-state dynamics, and the need for a strong state partnership to stabilize and strengthen the Bay Area's transit network. MTC and ABAG advanced a legislative agenda focused on securing near-term stability and long-term resources for transportation and housing, reauthorizing California's Cap and Trade program, and supporting policies and programs to advance Plan Bay Area 2050. This memo highlights the key legislative accomplishments.

Senate Bill (SB) 63 (Wiener/Arreguín), which MTC supported and helped shape, authorizes placement of a regional transportation sales tax on the November 2026 ballot in five Bay Area counties was signed by the Governor. MTC also coordinated with coalition partners to combat proposals to claw back prior-year SB 125 state funding commitments for transit operations and capital projects and supported a $750 million bridge loan for Bay Area transit, which is currently under negotiation with the Newsom Administration.

MTC and ABAG supported reauthorization of the state's Cap and Trade program, which was extended to 2045 with an updated funding framework. Consistent with MTC and ABAG's Cap and Trade Advocacy Principles, the program will continue to serve as a tool to support implementation of Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS), including through providing continuous appropriations for rail, transit and affordable housing programs. Also related to housing, MTC and ABAG sought $30 million in state support for the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority operations. While the request was not funded, it helped lay the foundation for future partnership through potential housing bond efforts with a letter of support from the Bay Area legislative delegation.

MTC and ABAG also co-sponsored Assembly Bill (AB) 670 (Quirk-Silva), which allows jurisdictions to count toward their housing element targets units that are converted from "naturally occurring" affordable housing to deed-restricted units, and supported major housing finance and production proposals. AB 670 was signed by the Governor.

MTC played a central role on AB 697 (Wilson), which has been enacted and enables near-term mobility and habitat restoration improvements on the State Route 37 corridor to proceed under a streamlined construction timeline. The bill is the culmination of a multi-year effort from North Bay partners. AB 697 was signed by the Governor.

MTC and ABAG also co-sponsored SB 239 (Arreguín) to update the state's Brown Act law to expand options for members of advisory boards to participate in meetings remotely. Mid-year, Senator Arreguín agreed to integrate SB 239's provisions into SB 707 (Durazo) and advance a more comprehensive Brown Act bill. SB 707 has been signed by the Governor. MTC's Policy Advisory Council was particularly engaged in supporting this bill, serving as a lead witness in support of the bill on behalf of MTC. They championed its potential to support a more diverse and representative cross-section of the Bay Area public serving on advisory bodies.

In total, MTC and ABAG took positions on 11 bills this year (cosponsored two), provided technical assistance on seven others, as well as engaged in budget and Cap and Trade discussions.

At the federal level, MTC and ABAG tracked evolving policy under the new administration and provided information and support to regional and national partners. Federal tax legislation made significant changes, including positive developments for housing through the expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit. Congress also began surface transportation reauthorization discussions. MTC submitted priorities and will continue engaging as the process advances.

The attached Legislative Scorecard provides more detail on these and other 2025 priorities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendation:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Legislative Scorecard presented to the October 10, 2025 MTC ABAG Legislation Committee