Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Policy Advisory Council

October 28, 2025 **Agenda Item 7b**

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – October 2025

Staff Liaison Report – October 2025

Follow-Up Items:

- Member Kinman asked whether the Council will allocate time to create a list of recommended priorities for the new MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council group. Director Long responded that while the incoming group is a brand-new body, it seems reasonable for the current Council to share recommendations. She suggested adding this to the agenda before the end of the year.

The following items are excerpts from the September 2025 Executive Director's Report to the Commission. To read past reports in their entirety, see this link: https://mtc.ca.gov/news/executive-directors-report

Updates

- **This was a productive last month for MTC-supported legislation.** Senate Bill 63 (Wiener/Arreguín) reached the Governor's desk and two MTC-sponsored bills, AB 697 (Wilson) regarding State Route 37 and AB 670 (Quirk Silva) related to housing preservation are also awaiting his signature.
- **Chair Noack joined San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie, BART general manager Bob Powers and a host of representatives from the financial services, travel and entertainment sectors at an Aug. 19 press event to celebrate the launch of Tap-and-Ride**, which allows people with contactless debit and credit cards to pay their fares on BART. This is a key milestone in the transition to the Next Generation Clipper system. In the coming months, the debit and credit card payment functionality will be expanded to include all Bay Area transit agencies that accept Clipper for payment.

- **Commissioner Mashburn represented both MTC and the Solano Transportation Authority at a press event held Aug. 15 to celebrate the groundbreaking** for the long-awaited new westbound truck scales and inspection facility along Interstate 80 less than a mile east of the existing and outdated Cordelia scales. This project has been a longtime priority — not just for MTC and Solano County but also for Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol, both of which had a lot of people at the groundbreaking event. The eastbound facility opened in 2013. The relocation and redesign of the much larger westbound facility will accommodate trucks coming in from Highway 12 and I-80.
- **Chair Noack, Vice Chair Moulton-Peters and Commissioners Ezzy Ashcraft, Burt, John-Baptiste, Papan and Ramos, along with Alix, Lisa and I, participated in the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Investment Tour** with other local leaders on Sept. 5. The tour provided an immersive look at VTA's strategic transportation projects, including Palo Alto Transit Center, Rengstorff Station, Great America Station, Milpitas Station, West Portal Site and Diridon Transit Center.
- **Federal policy that allows Clean Air Vehicles in the High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)** Lanes without the required number of occupants is set to expire Sept. 30. Congressman DeSaulnier recently introduced H.R. 4948 to extend it another six years. Congress is not expected to enact such legislation. Accordingly, we are implementing this change in the field through customer communications and coordinating with our state and regional partners.
- **A reminder that the first phase of the toll increase approved by BATA late last year to help pay for the preservation, rehabilitation and operation of the Bay Area's seven state-owned toll bridges will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2026.** In October, staff will begin a customer information campaign to remind drivers of these changes. Tolls for all regular two-axle cars and trucks will increase by 50 cents to $8.50 on Jan. 1.

- **Yesterday, Sept. 23, was All Aboard Bay Area Transit Day**, a day when MTC in partnership with Bay Area transit agencies encourages residents to ride the bus, take the train or travel by ferry. This is part of September's Transit Month celebration, which spotlights the work the Bay Area's transit agencies do to keep residents moving, whether going to work or going to school, seeing friends and family, or attending an event. During Transit Month, residents and visitors alike can look forward to a region-wide ride contest and prizes, and a calendar full of transit-themed activities (https://lu.ma/transitmonth2025).
- **This Friday, Sept. 26, Alix Bockelman, Lisa Klein and I will attend "All Aboard with Transit CEOs,"** a multi-modal ride-along and social event giving the public a chance to ride with and meet regional transit leaders as part of Transit Month. The ride-along will start at 3 p.m. with a BART ride into San Francisco and then catching a Golden Gate Ferry to Larkspur before continuing with a ride on SMART and the bus after.
- **On Aug. 11, Alix Bockelman spoke alongside leaders from BART, Caltrain, Tri Delta Transit and Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority at a news conference promoting the Big Sync,** in which Bay Area transit agencies updated their schedules at the same time in mid-August to significantly improve transfer reliability and timing. With these changes, transit riders who use more than one system will see a variety of improvements across the Bay Area, saving some riders as much as 20 minutes on their trips. This is the third iteration of a coordinated Big Sync in the Bay Area.
- **Last week, I participated on the panel Toll Roads and Transit: Integrated Mobility Strategies for Corridors** at the American Public Transportation Association's TRANSform Conference and Expo in Boston. The panel focused on how road tolling and transit can be planned and operated as a system, and how regions can benefit as a result. The combination of toll roads and transit enables regions to take a holistic look at ways to address travel demand while providing travelers with choices that can save them time and money.

- **The Regional Housing Technical Assistance (RHTA)** webinar on the housing provisions contained in budget trailer bills AB 130 and SB 131 — including significant reforms to the California Environmental Quality Act — was one of the largest, most engaged groups ever for a RHTA webinar: 453 people participated from all nine counties and most Bay Area cities and most attendees stayed for 70 minutes or more. This result would not have been possible without the Regional Early Action Planning Grant Program 2 (REAP 2.0), which funds our contracts with legal consultant Goldfarb & Lipman and TA consultant Community Planning Collaborative.
- **MTC's Transit 2050+ team** was honored with the 2025 Excellence in MPO Coordination and Partnership Award at the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) national conference this month in Rhode Island. The Transit 2050+ effort has been managed jointly with the region's transit operators and re-envisions our transit network for a post-pandemic future – with fewer resources. A final update on Transit 2050+ was presented at the Sept. 12 MTC Planning Committee meeting and the final report will be published in early 2026.
- **The Power-Building and Engagement (Pb+E) grant program,** part of MTC's Community Action Resource Empowerment initiative, is accepting applications for community-driven projects that expand housing choices and affordability and reduce car dependency. Pb+E will distribute $1.3 million in grants to community-based organizations under three project categories. The application window opens Friday, Sept. 26 and closes Oct. 9, 2025. Please help us spread the word about this funding opportunity to community-based organizations in your counties. Visit the MTC website for more information: https://mtc.ca.gov/funding/funding-opportunities/community-action-resource-empowerment-care-program/care-power-building-and-engagement-pbe-program. The funding for this grant program comes from the state's REAP 2.0 program.

- **Matt Maloney, MTC Metro Planning & Policy Deputy Executive Director, has been appointed to the California Sustainable Communities Task Force** — a cross-sector coalition tasked with catalyzing the implementation of California's climate, housing, equity and transportation goals. The 30-member task force was launched by California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Secretary Omishakin in August to explore sustainable transportation investments, land use planning and funding and authority needed for regional implementation, among other areas. The task force will produce a final report in Nov. 2026 with recommendations for legislative, regulatory and budgetary actions.
- **Mark Your Calendars:** A Commission workshop will be held October 22-23 at the Embassy Suites in Walnut Creek, located conveniently opposite the Pleasant Hill BART station. The workshop will follow our regularly scheduled Commission meeting at the Bay Area Metro Center.

News Headlines from The Bay Link Blog (https://blog.bayareametro.gov/):

- MTC's Transit 2050+ wins award at AMPO conference (https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtcs-transit-2050-wins-award-ampo-conference) MTC's Transit 2050+ planning initiative won a national award at the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) conference, held last week in Providence, R.I.
- **29th annual national Walk & Roll to School Day Oct. 8, 2025** (https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/29th-annual-national-walk-roll-school-day-oct-8-2025) International Walk, Bike & Roll to School Day will be celebrated this year on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025, and schools are participating throughout the Bay Area. Nearly two dozen schools in eight of the nine Bay Area counties have registered as participating in this year's events – see the full list of participating schools from across the nation.

- **Priority Conservation Areas (PCA) Program revised, new call for proposals coming** (https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/priority-conservation-areas-pca-program-revised-new-call-proposals-coming) . ABAG-MTC's Priority Conservation Areas (PCA) Program — which indicates regionally significant areas to be protected and improved — has been revised. PCAs include natural habitats, farms and ranchlands, recreation areas, urban green spaces and locations that can help fight the effects of climate change.

Have a Question? Ask a Librarian

If you need assistance locating information or are having difficulty navigating the MTC-ABAG websites, please feel free to contact the MTC-ABAG head librarian. Reference assistance is available by telephone (415-778-5236) or email library@bayareametro.gov. Information can also be found on the MTC-ABAG library webpage (https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtc-abag-library).

For MTC and Plan Bay Area Glossaries:

- Glossary of Transportation Planning Acronyms & Terms (https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtcabag-library/glossary-transportation-planning-acronyms-terms)
- Plan Bay Area Glossary (https://www.planbayarea.org/about/glossary)