

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

**December 8, 2023**

**Agenda Item 4a**

**Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Visits**

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**Subject:**

Update on preparations for MTC/ABAG's 2024 Sacramento and Washington, D.C., legislative advocacy trips.

**Overview:**

Preparations began this month for MTC/ABAG's annual advocacy visits to Sacramento and Washington, D.C. This year, staff recommends that MTC/ABAG visit Sacramento the week of March 11, 2024. This time window is ideal for a visit focused on policy priorities (regional revenue measure, regional housing needs assessments, etc.) – it is far enough past the bill introduction deadline (mid-February) that we will have a sense of the legislative landscape but early enough in the legislative cycle to inform policy committee decisions.

Staff also recommends adding a "Bay Area Transportation Reception" to the Sacramento advocacy visit. For many years, MTC has co-hosted the "California Transportation Reception" in Washington, D.C., for Members of Congress and their staff, Administration officials, and critical congressional committee staff. The Washington, D.C. reception has been an essential tool for MTC and other California transportation stakeholders to demonstrate unity to our federal elected officials and other federal transportation partners. Each year, Southern California transportation stakeholders led by Mobility 21 – a coalition of local government leaders, transportation providers, business, labor, and community leaders – host a similar legislative reception in Sacramento. Given MTC's anticipated sponsorship of authorizing legislation for a regional transportation revenue measure in 2024, staff recommend that MTC organize a "Bay Area Transportation Reception" during the March Sacramento advocacy trip. We would anticipate coordinating the reception with Bay Area transportation leaders and stakeholders to display a similar show of unity.

Regarding MTC/ABAG's Washington, D.C. advocacy, we recommend a May visit this year and have identified the third week of May (May 13 – May 16) as a preferred option. This timing avoids conflict with the proposed Sacramento visit in March while remaining an opportune time to advocate for our federal grant priorities before major grant decisions. (During election years, the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) typically ceases grant awards in the months before an election, meaning the summer is often busy with award announcements.)

This timeframe also aligns with the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors' Annual Meeting, which works well for our southern California partners who jointly host the California Transportation Reception.

As with previous trips to Washington, D.C., we expect the trip would be extended four days (including travel days). We would include meetings with the Bay Area Congressional delegation, officials within the U.S. DOT and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, partner organizations, and relevant committee staff. We propose that MTC continue to co-host the annual California Transportation Reception, typically held in the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Room in the Rayburn House Office Building.

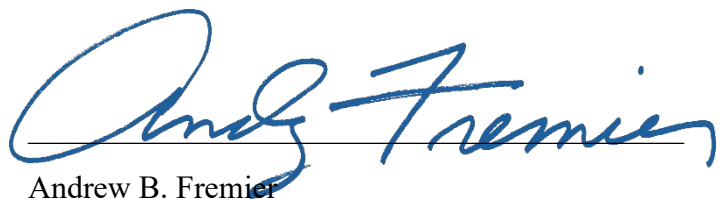
We look forward to hearing the Committee's feedback and answering any questions you may have.

**Recommendation:**

Information

**Attachments:**

None



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