

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Policy Advisory Council**

**June 28, 2024**

**Agenda Item 6c**

**Staff Liaison Report**

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**Subject:**

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

**Issues:**

None identified.

**Recommendations:**

Information

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – June 2024

## **Staff Liaison Report – June 2024**

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### **Executive Director's Report:**

The following items are excerpts from the May 2024 Executive Director's Report to the Commission. To read past reports in their entirety, check the agenda for a given Commission meeting. Search for past meetings on [MTCs Legistar webpage](https://mtc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx) (<https://mtc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>)

### **MTC/ABAG Annual Advocacy Trip to Washington, D.C.**

Last week I was joined by Commissioners Canepa and Dutra-Vernaci as well as ABAG President Belia Ramos and Vice President Jesse Arreguin along with MTC staff Georgia Gann Dohrmann, Rebecca Long and Theresa Romell on our annual trip to Washington. Meetings were held with members and staff of the Bay Area Congressional delegation, and officials with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. We were honored to have California Senator Alex Padilla, Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi and FHWA Administrator Shailen Bhatt join us along with several other members of Congress at the California Transportation reception which we co-host each year with the Southern California Association of Governments and other partner agencies.

### **FHWA/FTA Certification Commends Public Engagement**

The FHWA and FTA this month jointly certified MTC's planning process as "a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive process [that] reflects a significant professional commitment to deliver quality in transportation planning." The federal review, which occurs every four years, specifically commended us on our innovative outreach and engagement practices utilized during the development of Plan Bay Area 2050.

### **Bay Wheels Bikeshare Debuts in San Mateo County**

MTC and Lyft kicked off National Bike Month by joining with partners from BART, SFMTA and Daly City to cut the ribbon on a new [Bay Wheels bikeshare](https://mtc.ca.gov/operations/traveler-services/bay-wheels-bike-share-program) (https://mtc.ca.gov/operations/traveler-services/bay-wheels-bike-share-program) station at the Daly City BART station. The new docking station marks the first Bay Wheels location in San Mateo County. I was delighted to be joined at the event in Daly City by Commissioners Canepa and Papan, and by San Francisco Supervisor Myrna Melgar, Daly City Mayor Juslyn C. Manalo, SFMTA Transportation Director Jeffrey Tumlin and representatives from BART, Lyft, San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition.

### **College Mentorship Program to Honor Late Deputy Executive Director**

To honor former Deputy Executive Director Ann Flemer, who died earlier this year, MTC's internship program for college students will be renamed the Ann Fitzgerald Flemer College Mentorship Program. Ann began her 32-year career at MTC as a college intern herself in 1982, and over the following decades she became a cherished mentor to an entire generation of leaders at MTC and at many of our partner agencies. Throughout her career, Ann was a champion for young people's access to transportation and an advocate for their participation in the planning process. I will make this same announcement tomorrow afternoon at a celebration of Ann's life to be held here at the Bay Area Metro Center. Staff will implement the name change after this news has been shared with Ann's family and the other guests.

### **MTC, CARB, TransForm Unveil New Mobility Hub at San Jose Apartment Complex**

Residents of the Betty Ann Gardens Apartments in San Jose's Berryessa district celebrated the opening of a new mobility hub, developed through a partnership between the MTC and the Oakland-based nonprofit TransForm to expand mobility options and lower transportation costs for lower-income renters. The hub includes electric vehicles and chargers that can be shared by community residents; e-bikes, folding bicycles and secure bike parking; and a monitor with real-time arrival information for nearby transit services. I'd like to thank Commissioners Mahan, Chavez and Abe-Koga for their participation, and also our staff member Krute Singa for her leadership in establishing the mobility hub.

### **Caltrain Electric Train Tour and 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Commissioner Abe-Koga, former Commissioner and now Senator Cortese, and other state and local elected officials were in San Carlos on May 11 for a celebratory event and tour of Caltrain's new, modern electric trains. Guests including MTC staff Alix Bockelman and Melanie Choy enjoyed exploring the spacious interiors, learning about the new features and getting a glimpse of what Caltrain will be like in 2024 and beyond.

### **MTC Staff Ascend to Leadership Positions at COMTO**

The Northern California Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) this month held its Board of Directors election for the 2024-26 term. MTC staff members were elected to two of the five open positions. DeNise Blake will serve as the COMTO Chapter President for the next two years, and Luz Campos will serve as Treasurer. DeNise and Luz both work in the agency's Facilities and Contract Services section. They will be sworn into their new COMTO positions next month.

### **Bike Month and 2024 Bike Champion of the Year Winners**

May is National Bike Month, and the 2024 Bike Champion of the Year awards recognize individuals nominated by the public for inspiring bicycling in their communities, honoring riders in each of the nine Bay Area counties for their commitment to cycling as a primary mode of transportation. [Read more about the winners](https://mtc.ca.gov/news/2024-bike-champion-year-winners-announced) (https://mtc.ca.gov/news/2024-bike-champion-year-winners-announced) in each of the nine Bay Area counties on the MTC website.

### **Portal Project Enters Engineering Phase**

FTA notified the Transbay Joint Powers Authority that the Portal project (the extension of Caltrain service, and ultimately California High-Speed Rail, to the Salesforce Transit Center) is entering the engineering phase of the Capital Investment Grant at a federal share of \$3.38 billion—a significant milestone toward a Full Funding Grant Agreement. This project aligns with the Commission's priorities for both the FTA program and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Competitive Grants Strategy. The FTA funding represents 41% of the total Portal project budget and is a significant federal investment in downtown San Francisco. Speaker Emerita Pelosi attended a celebratory event for the Portal on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **Objective Standards for Multifamily Housing: Introducing MTC-ABAG's Objective Design Standards Handbook**

MTC-ABAG's Objective Design Standards Handbook provides a how-to manual for local governments seeking to create objective design standards. An April webinar introduced this new resource intended to help planners develop standards for multi-family residential and mixed-use projects. The webinar video and slides, as well as the Handbook and related materials, [are available on the ABAG website](https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/objective-design-standards-handbook-residential-and-mixed-use-projects). (<https://abag.ca.gov/technical-assistance/objective-design-standards-handbook-residential-and-mixed-use-projects>)

## **Looking Ahead**

### **State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference Re-scheduled**

The State of the San Francisco Estuary Conference has been re-scheduled for May 28-29 at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center. The event was cancelled in March because the previous venue was not ready. More information: <https://www.sfestuary.org/>

**News Headlines from [The Bay Link Blog](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/)** (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/>): (as of June 14, 2024)

- [MTC, legislators reset effort to put region's transportation future in voters' hands](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-legislators-reset-effort-put-regions-transportation-future-voters-hands) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-legislators-reset-effort-put-regions-transportation-future-voters-hands>). The Metropolitan Transportation Commission will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, June 12, to discuss building regional consensus for state legislation that would authorize Bay Area voters as early as 2026 to consider a transportation revenue measure to preserve and enhance public transit in the region.
- [Public transit to Oracle Park offers value, convenience](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/public-transit-oracle-park-offers-value-convenience) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/public-transit-oracle-park-offers-value-convenience>). With parking near Oracle Park outpacing the cost of game tickets, public transit operators are reminding fans there are cheaper and more convenient ways to go to watch the San Francisco Giants play baseball. Some are even offering special service and/or promotions.

- [MTC-ABAG delegation advocates in Washington for Bay Area priorities](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-abag-delegation-advocates-washington-bay-area-priorities-0)  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/mtc-abag-delegation-advocates-washington-bay-area-priorities-0>). Commissioners David Canepa and Carol Dutra-Vernaci, ABAG President Belia Ramos and Vice-President Jesse Arreguin, along with MTC-ABAG Executive Director Andrew Fremier traveled to Washington D.C. earlier this month to advocate for Bay Area transportation and housing priorities.
- [Caltrans, Contra Costa County unveil northbound I-680 Express Lane options](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/caltrans-contra-costa-county-unveil-northbound-i-680-express-lane-options)  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/caltrans-contra-costa-county-unveil-northbound-i-680-express-lane-options>). Caltrans and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority invite members of the public to participate in a pair of early June meetings to learn more about the agencies' plans to [add an Express Lane to northbound Interstate 680](https://ccta.net/projects/innovate-680/express-lane-completion/) (<https://ccta.net/projects/innovate-680/express-lane-completion/>) between Walnut Creek and Martinez, and to weigh in on their newly released [Draft Environmental Document](https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-05/I-680%20Contra%20Costa%20Northbound%20Express%20Lane%20Completion%20Project%20DEIR%20May%202024.pdf) ([https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-05/I-680 Contra Costa Northbound Express Lane Completion Project DEIR May 2024.pdf](https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2024-05/I-680%20Contra%20Costa%20Northbound%20Express%20Lane%20Completion%20Project%20DEIR%20May%202024.pdf)) for the proposed project.
- [Bay Area transit transformation gets \\$18 million boost](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/bay-area-transit-transformation-gets-18-million-boost)  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/bay-area-transit-transformation-gets-18-million-boost>). The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) this week approved an \$18.3 million allocation to fund eight near-term transit priority projects in San Jose, San Francisco, Redwood City and the East Bay.
- [Throwback Thursday: historic Muni streetcars continue to roll](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/throwback-thursday-historic-muni-streetcars-continue-to-roll)  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/throwback-thursday-historic-muni-streetcars-continue-to-roll>). The green and cream colored streetcars that rolled around San Francisco for decades can still be seen as part of Muni's F Market Line historic streetcar service. Known as the Presidents' Conference Committee or PCC model, San Francisco received 120 of the cars between 1939 and 1952. Those cars were the workhorses of Muni's streetcar lines all the way through the 1970s.

- [30th anniversary of Bike to Work/Wherever Day unprecedented success](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/30th-anniversary-bike-workwherever-day-unprecedented-success)  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/30th-anniversary-bike-workwherever-day-unprecedented-success>). This year's Bay Area Bike to Work/Wherever Day (BTWD) on May 16 saw record post-pandemic participation as riders from around the region joined to celebrate the event's 30th anniversary on a day with intermittent wind and sunshine across the Bay. [Click here see dozens of images or Bay Area bicyclists as they made their way here, there and everywhere last Thursday.](#) (<https://mtc.ca.gov/news/bike-work-day-2024>)
- [The Portal project celebrates \\$3.38 billion in Federal Transit Administration funding](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/portal-project-celebrates-338-billion-federal-transit-administration-funding)  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/portal-project-celebrates-338-billion-federal-transit-administration-funding>).
- [San Jose, Palo Alto score federal road safety dollars](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/san-jose-palo-alto-score-federal-road-safety-dollars)  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/san-jose-palo-alto-score-federal-road-safety-dollars>). On Friday, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced more than \$63 million in grants from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program, including almost \$9.4 million for Bay Area projects.
- [Take public transit to Juneteenth celebrations](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/take-public-transit-juneteenth-celebrations) (<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/take-public-transit-juneteenth-celebrations>). Take public transit to celebrate Juneteenth throughout the Bay Area with events being held by cities and community organizations all month long.
- [USDOT finalizes new fuel economy standards for model years 2027-2031](https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/usdot-finalizes-new-fuel-economy-standards-model-years-2027-2031)  
(<https://blog.bayareametro.gov/posts/usdot-finalizes-new-fuel-economy-standards-model-years-2027-2031>). New cars and light trucks will be required average of 50.4 miles per gallon by model year 2031, [the U.S. Department of Transportation announced last week.](#) (<https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/usdot-finalizes-new-fuel-economy-standards-model-years-2027-2031>)

### **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](mailto:library@bayareametro.gov) Information can also be found on the [MTC-ABAG library webpage](https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtc-abag-library) (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) (https://mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources/mtcabag-library/glossary-transportation-planning-acronyms-terms)
- [Plan Bay Area Glossary](https://www.planbayarea.org/about/glossary) (https://www.planbayarea.org/about/glossary)