

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

January 12, 2024

Agenda Item 3c - 23-1342

Proposed Final 2024 MTC/ABAG Joint Advocacy Program

Subject:

Final 2024 Joint Advocacy Program for MTC and ABAG, expressing the agencies' state and federal legislative priorities.

Background:

Attachment A is the proposed Final 2024 Joint Advocacy Program, which incorporates adjustments based on the Committee's feedback in November as well as feedback from partner agency staff and other stakeholders. Text changes are shown in italics and strikeout.

Proposed 2024 Legislative Priorities & Final Advocacy Program Updates

Staff is proposing that MTC/ABAG's top 2024 advocacy priority will be MTC-sponsored enabling legislation for a potential 2026 regional transportation revenue measure and accompanying policy provisions to support transit system improvements that enhance coordination and improve the rider experience. The most substantive changes from the draft advocacy program to the proposed final 2024 advocacy program are on this item . Specifically, the proposed final program specifies the intent for transit accountability and reform measures to be incorporated into the revenue measure enabling legislation. Other anticipated priorities remain as follows, with major modifications italicized:

- Maintaining state transit funding commitments made in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 state budget deal;
- Engaging in ongoing discussions related to narrowing the Bay Area's near-term transit operating funding gap;
- Continuing to coordinate with Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry and other coalition partners on Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 "clean-up" legislation to ensure the measure appearing before voters in November 2024 has the best possible chance of passage; and
- Engaging in discussions related to updating the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process.

Other state focus areas such as transportation system effectiveness, climate, resilience and the Brown Act remain largely consistent with the draft advocacy program (and last year's advocacy program), with clarifying updates such as noting that MTC/ABAG will continue to engage in discussions related to road pricing as it relates to Plan Bay Area 2050 implementation. Similarly, proposed federal advocacy priorities track closely with those from the draft advocacy program. Staff continues to propose MTC/ABAG begin to engage with national partners on surface transportation reauthorization priorities (Federal Advocacy item 2).

Outreach on 2024 Advocacy Program

In addition to seeking feedback from the Joint Legislation Committee in November, the draft advocacy program was presented to MTC's Policy Advisory Council, MTC's Partnership Legislative Committee comprised of staff in Bay Area transportation agencies and other advocacy organizations involved in transportation policy, housing partners from around the region and legislative staff from the Bay Area's delegation in Sacramento for feedback. Additionally, in developing advocacy priorities, staff conferred with Bay Area regional agency partners, regional transportation planning agencies from across the state and state and national transportation and housing partners.

Recommendation:

MTC Commission Approval

ABAG Executive Board Approval

Issues:

None identified.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Final MTC/ABAG 2024 Joint Advocacy Program



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