

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

November 3, 2023

Agenda Item 3b

Draft 2024 MTC and ABAG Joint Advocacy Program

Subject:

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

Background:

MTC and ABAG each year adopt a joint advocacy program that guides the agencies' state and federal advocacy. Staff seeks input on advocacy program priorities from agency issue area experts, stakeholders and other key partners – including MTC's Partnership Legislative Committee, the Policy Advisory Council, key housing partners, and Bay Area state and federal delegation staff – in early fall, presents a draft advocacy program to the Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee in November, and returns to the Committee in December with a proposed final advocacy program for Commission and ABAG Executive Board adoption.

Proposed 2024 Legislative Priorities:

Staff anticipates MTC/ABAG's top 2024 advocacy priority will be MTC-sponsored enabling legislation for a potential 2026 regional transportation revenue measure. (Agenda Item 3a provides an overview of proposed regional transportation revenue measure goals, guiding principles, expenditure priorities, revenue options and next steps toward authorizing legislation). Other anticipated priorities include:

- Ensuring the state honors transit funding commitments from 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;
- Supporting transit system improvements that enhance coordination and improve the rider experience; and

- 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.

Staff also anticipates the legislature in 2024 will explore updates to the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process and that ABAG/MTC will engage in those discussions to ensure any updates are:

1. Aligned with Plan Bay Area 2050's guiding principles.
2. Structured to empower regions to balance the state's sometimes competing goals related to climate, housing and equity.
3. Implementable at both the regional and local levels.

Other state focus areas such as transportation system effectiveness, climate, resilience and the Brown Act remain largely consistent with last year's advocacy program. Similarly, draft federal advocacy priorities track closely with those from 2023, with a major caveat: Staff is proposing MTC/ABAG begin to engage with national partners on surface transportation reauthorization priorities. Though the current surface transportation law, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), extends through 2026, it is customary for reauthorization discussions to begin as early as this winter.

Recommendation:

Information

Issues:

None identified.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Draft 2024 Joint Advocacy Program



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