



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 8

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-4700  
TEL 510.817.5700  
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769  
FAX 510.817.5848  
E-MAIL [info@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:info@mtc.ca.gov)  
WEB [www.mtc.ca.gov](http://www.mtc.ca.gov)

*Memorandum*

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: October 1, 2014

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – October 2014

**MTC Awards Ceremony to be Held October 22**

Every two years, MTC recognizes people, organizations, programs and projects that have made extraordinary contributions to Bay Area transportation. This year's awards ceremony will be held on Wednesday, October 22 at 9 am, just prior to the day's normal Commission meetings. The event will be at the Scottish Rite Center in downtown Oakland, and refreshments will be served at 8:30 am before the ceremony. Note that the start time for the Commission meetings to be held in the MTC MetroCenter Auditorium will be moved back to 10:30 a.m.

You will receive an awards invitation via email, and the winners will be posted on the MTC web site following the event. Please mark your calendars and watch your email inbox for your invitation. We hope you can join the Commission in honoring this year's winners.

**2015 Transportation Improvement Program Adopted by the Commission**

As an update, the 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was adopted by the Commission at its September 24, 2014 meeting and can now be found on the MTC web site at <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/tip/2015/>. The 2015 TIP has been forwarded to Caltrans to be included in the Draft 2015 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). The Draft 2015 FSTIP will be available for review and comment at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/transprog/oftmp.htm> from October 7, 2014 to October 28, 2014. The 2015 FSTIP is expected to receive final federal approval in mid-December 2014.

In addition, a Guide to the TIP can be downloaded at [http://files.mtc.ca.gov/pdf/TIP/2015/guide\\_to\\_the\\_2015\\_tip.pdf](http://files.mtc.ca.gov/pdf/TIP/2015/guide_to_the_2015_tip.pdf) or a hard copy can be ordered from the MTC-ABAG Library (510.817.5836).

Questions regarding the TIP can be directed to Adam Crenshaw at [acrenshaw@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:acrenshaw@mtc.ca.gov) or 510.817.5794.

### **TRIP Report Documents California’s Road Condition Crisis**

National researchers, Caltrans and regional authorizes are sounding the alarm about California’s streets and roads. Decades of declining revenue, higher costs, and maintenance budget cuts are critically impacting a street and road system that is now half a century old.

TRIP, a national transportation research group out of Washington, D.C. has recently released some staggering statistics on Northern California and the rest of the state. To view the announcement highlights and read the report, go to [www.tripnet.org](http://www.tripnet.org). And to see a video containing announcement highlights, go to MTC’s web site at [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/video/trip\\_report.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/video/trip_report.htm).

### **Last Chance This Year to Experience Electric**

The year’s final “Experience Electric – The Better Ride” events will be held this month in Fairfax, San Jose and Walnut Creek. If you haven’t had a no-pressure opportunity to test-drive one of the latest electric cars, now is your chance to feel the difference between driving with electricity and driving a gas-powered car. The latest models from Tesla, BMW, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Fiat, Ford, Honda, Nissan and Smart will be available for licensed drivers to try on a first-come, first-served basis. Upcoming Experience Electric events will be held on:

- **Saturday, October 11, 2014**  
Noon to 5 pm  
Biketoberfest  
773 Center Blvd.  
Fairfax, California
- **Sunday, October 26, 2014**  
9 am to 1 pm  
Walnut Creek Farmer’s Market  
1781 Locust Street  
Walnut Creek, California
- **Saturday, October 25, 2014**  
Noon to 5 pm  
VivaFest! Dia De Los Muertos  
2<sup>nd</sup> Street and St. James Street  
San Jose, California

### **Executive Director’s Report**

The following items were in the September 2014 Executive Director’s Report to the Commission:

- *Obama signs Bailout into Law — Washington, DC, August 8*  
President Obama last month signed the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 into law, which transferred an additional \$11 billion into the cash-strapped Highway Trust Fund and extended the MAP-21 authorization from October 1, 2014 to May 31, 2014. Thus ended any hope of dealing with the federal surface transportation program’s chronic funding shortfalls during the lame duck session later this year. Thus also began

## **Executive Director’s Report (continued)**

another likely parade of short-term extensions of MAP-21 until a new surface transportation bill with adequate funding can be enacted. Attachment 1\* is a roster of all the short-term extensions of the last four transportation authorizations.

- ***SB 375 Target Update Roundtable – Sacramento, September 5***

As I have informed you previously, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) is considering whether to adjust the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets now that the major MPOs in the state have met or exceeded the targets with their first sustainable communities’ strategies (SCS), and have embarked on their second round of SCS planning. The ARB is scheduled to act on the GHG target issue at its October meeting. If I could read the tea leaves for you, I anticipate that ARB probably will not change the GHG targets for the “Big 4” MPOs until the third round of plans, but the board may face pressure to raise the fairly low “placeholder” targets that were adopted for the Central Valley MPOs in the first round of SCS planning.

- ***John Foran Dies – San Francisco, September 11***

MTC’s “founding father,” former Assemblyman and State Senator John Francis Foran, died earlier this month after a brief bout with cancer. John was 84 years old and had maintained an active social and travel calendar until the last few weeks of his life. John was a formidable legislator and wonderful friend to this agency, not only because he authored the bill creating MTC in 1970, but also because he nurtured our growth and maturation in the decades after that founding event. We have posted an obituary on MTC’s home page that can be found at the following link: [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current\\_topics/9-14/john\\_foran.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/9-14/john_foran.htm). I attended John’s memorial service at St. Ignatius Church in San Francisco last Friday, as did former MTC Chair Jon Rubin.

- ***TIGER Grants Announced – Washington, DC, September 12***

In the 6<sup>th</sup> round of discretionary multi-modal grant making under the TIGER program, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced the funding of 72 projects around the nation for a total of \$600 million in federal assistance. Unfortunately, the Bay Area received only one grant totaling \$1 million, although the silver lining behind that cloud is that the grant will help fund MTC’s core capacity transit study. A list of all 72 projects nationwide as well as some additional detail about the California projects from Senator Feinstein’s office can be found in Attachment 2\*.

\*To read the September 2014 Executive Director’s report to the Commission in its entirety, go to [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed\\_report.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed_report.htm).