

## Agenda Item 8



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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### *Memorandum*

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: February 11, 2015

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – February 2015

### **Vital Signs Web Launch**

On Wednesday, January 28, Vital Signs – an interactive web site that Bay Area residents can use to track the region’s progress toward reaching key transportation, land use, environmental and economic policy goals – was launched to the public and unveiled at the MTC Commission meeting.

The first phase of the Vital Signs initiative examines 14 different indicators by which the health of the Bay Area’s transportation systems can be monitored. These include several measures of Bay Area transit agencies’ performance; a detailed look at pavement conditions on state highways, city streets and county roads; and a rank-ordered list of the 139 most congested freeway segments in the region. Phase II of the Vital Signs project, slated for completion this spring, involves land use and economic development measures. Data for Phase III, which will focus on environmental and safety questions, is due for release this summer.

While project manager Dave Vautin will be at your meeting next month to give you an overview of the site and answer any questions you might have, feel free to preview the site when you get the chance. In addition to using the site to take the pulse of the region, users can also learn more about historical trends, differences and similarities among the Bay Area’s many communities, and how the nine-county region stacks up against other major U.S. metropolitan areas. Attached to this report is a flyer (Attachment A) with some basic information about questions that can be answered and topics that will be monitored (and when they will be reported) on the site.

To view MTC’s press release on the Vital Signs web launch, go to:  
[http://mtc.ca.gov/news/press\\_releases/vitalsigns\\_launch.htm](http://mtc.ca.gov/news/press_releases/vitalsigns_launch.htm)

To get to the Vital Signs web site, go to:  
<http://www.vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov/>

## **2013 Congestion Report Available**

As a result of the Vital Signs initiative, on January 9, MTC released its first comprehensive congestion report since 2009, which includes the ever-popular “Top 10” list of the most congested sections of freeways in the Bay Area.

Among the notable findings from MTC’s Vital Signs analysis of the 2013 freeway congestion data — and from the updated data collection methods — is a big shakeup in the “Top 10” list of congestion hot spots over the past five years. The eastbound Interstate 80 commute in the afternoon from U.S. 101 in San Francisco out to Yerba Buena Island moved into the top spot with an average 6,900 daily vehicle hours of delay and average speeds of just 4 mph at the peak of the commute. This was the Bay Area’s eighth most congested commute corridor in 2008.

The press release on the 2013 congestion report along with a complete downloadable list of the 139 most-congested Bay Area freeway segments can be found online at:

[http://mtc.ca.gov/news/press\\_releases/congestion\\_2013.htm](http://mtc.ca.gov/news/press_releases/congestion_2013.htm)

## **Express Lanes Open House**

MTC plans to convert the existing High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes between Oakland and Milpitas to express lanes. You are invited to attend an informational meeting to learn about the project and talk with project team members.

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015**

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Fremont City Hall

3300 Capitol Ave

Fremont, California

Express lanes are specially-designated highway lanes that are free for carpools, vanpools, buses and other eligible vehicles, and also allow solo drivers to choose to pay tolls to use the lane.

The project intends to:

- Maximize the capacity of the HOV lanes;
- Provide reliable travel times for customers;
- Better manage lanes to keep traffic moving; and
- Allow solo drivers access to the HOV lane by paying a toll.

Can't Make the Meeting?

View the online open house at [www.BayAreaExpressLanes.org](http://www.BayAreaExpressLanes.org), which will be open from January 30 to March 6, 2015.

For more information on the Express Lanes Open House meetings, go to:

[http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current\\_topics/1-15/express\\_lanes.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/1-15/express_lanes.htm)

### **Update on New MTC Commissioners**

Last month I reported that MTC had two new Commissioners: Jason Baker and Julie Pierce. This month the Commission received yet another new Commissioner. Like her predecessor, newly-elected Oakland Mayor **Libby Schaaf** has appointed herself to the Commission, and she attended her first meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Commission will hold a special meeting on the morning of your meeting, February 11<sup>th</sup>, to elect their next chair and vice chair, and I will report the outcome at your meeting that afternoon.

For an online list of the current Commission (including links to their local elected biography), visit MTC's web site at: [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/about\\_mtc/commissioners/](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/about_mtc/commissioners/)

### **2014 Year in Photos and Online Annual Report**

Last year was packed for MTC with projects and programs that continue to foster unity and sustainability in the Bay Area. Between new infrastructure that creates connectivity, initiatives that take care of our climate and programs that cultivate community, we're well on our way to a stronger and healthier region. An online pictorial highlighting the year's major events is now available online at: [http://mtc.ca.gov/news/photos/year\\_in\\_photos\\_2014.htm](http://mtc.ca.gov/news/photos/year_in_photos_2014.htm)

To see the complete online annual report, go to: <http://mtc.ca.gov/library/2014/>

### **Golden Gate Bridge Median Barrier Erected**

The closure of the Golden Gate Bridge over the weekend of January 10-11, 2015, was a rare opportunity to capture the span sans traffic, along with the new moveable median barrier that was installed that weekend. Public officials gathered at a ceremony Sunday morning, January 11, 2015, to mark completion of the project and to pay tribute to motorists who had lost their lives from cross-over accidents in the past. MTC's contribution of \$20 million covered two-thirds of the barrier's cost.

To view pictures of the Golden Gate Bridge moveable median barrier and the installation celebration, go to [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/photos/ggb\\_1-15.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/photos/ggb_1-15.htm).

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

The following items were in the December 2014 Executive Director's Report to the Commission:

- ***Meeting with Senator Beall – December 18, San Jose***  
Chair Worth, Vice Chair Cortese, Alix Bockelman and I met with Senator Jim Beall to discuss various transportation issues. As you know, Senator Beall is a former MTC chair and was recently appointed chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee. In the Assembly, Jim Frazier of Oakley was appointed chair of that body's Transportation Committee. This is the first time in my memory when both transportation chairs hailed from the Bay Area.

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

- ***High Speed Rail Groundbreaking – January 6, Fresno***

I was invited to attend the official groundbreaking for initial construction of the California High Speed Rail network. The ceremony in Fresno featured a rousing speech from Governor Jerry Brown that was occasionally accompanied by noisy protests from the perimeter of the event site – perhaps a fitting launch for the controversial project.

More Info on the groundbreaking can be found at:

[http://mtc.ca.gov/news/current\\_topics/1-15/hsr.htm](http://mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/1-15/hsr.htm)

- ***Road Usage Charge Advisory Committee – January 23, Sacramento***

You have a new acronym to learn: RUC, which stands for Road Usage Charge. You might also call it the levy formerly known as the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Fee. Under whatever name, the concept is to charge motorists directly for their use of roads, instead of indirectly through a tax on gasoline. The Legislature has authorized a pilot project to test the concept in California (Oregon has already conducted a couple of them) in 2017. The RUC advisory committee was established to oversee the design and implementation of the pilot. Commissioner Haggerty has been appointed to the 15-member committee.

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

- ***Caltrain Electrification Funding Session – January 26, Oakland***

We hosted a major meeting of all the Caltrain stakeholders who are attempting to fashion a new funding package to close the estimated \$450 million shortfall confronting the project to electrify the Caltrain right of way and purchase new electric vehicles to replace its current diesel fleet. We still have more work ahead of us, but all the stakeholders appear committed to working together to fund the gap so that both the system and railcar contracts can be put out for bid during 2015.

\*To read the January 2015 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).

# VITAL SIGNS



[vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov](http://vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov)



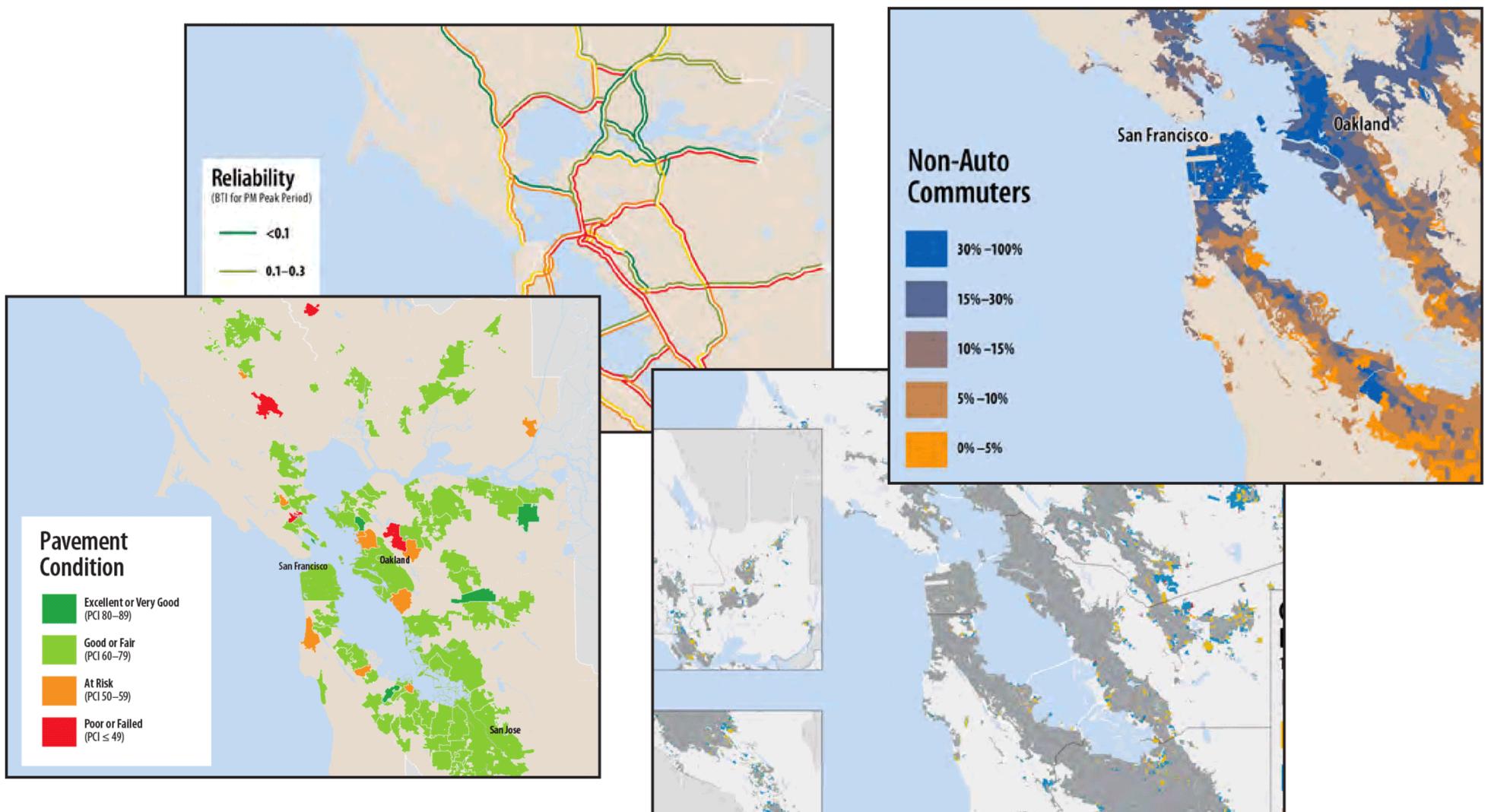
MTC is pleased to present *Vital Signs*, an innovative and interactive online tool to help you track the Bay Area's progress toward reaching key transportation, land use, environmental and economic policy goals — and to illustrate our region's historical trends, differences and similarities between our many communities, and how the Bay Area stacks up compared to other major metro areas. Just as indicators such as temperature, pulse and blood pressure reveal much about a person's overall health, so too can measures such as freeway delay, housing construction and per-capita gross regional product be used to gauge the performance of our diverse and dynamic region.

As you explore the *Vital Signs* homepage, you will find an overview of each performance area — with links to individual measure pages where you can view graphs and maps that highlight the performance of the region, of individual cities and counties, and of other metropolitan areas. All data is downloadable on each of the measure pages or through the Data Center.

*Vital Signs* is rolling out in phases. Phase 1 (completed January 2015) examines 14 different transportation indicators. Use Vital Signs now to find the answers to your transportation questions!

- Is my commute more congested than my spouse's?
- How many Rockridge residents ride public transit?
- What is the commute time for workers in Mountain View?
- Do more people ride Caltrain or VTA each day?
- Do residents of Pacific Heights drive more than residents of North Beach?
- Where are San Francisco workers commuting from?
- How much worse is congestion in L.A.?
- Golden Gate Transit requires how much subsidy to transport each rider?
- How does the pavement in Vallejo compare to pavement in Benicia?
- Which Bay Area highway has the most potholes?
- ...and many more!

(Continued...)



Key findings from Phase 1 of *Vital Signs* include:

- Commute times and mode shares have remained remarkably stable for decades
- Though San Francisco and Santa Clara County “import” a lot of workers, most commuters live and work in the same county
- Traffic congestion and transit demand are highly concentrated in the central Bay Area
- Freeway travel times are more reliable in the Bay Area than in any other major U.S. metro area, despite our higher-than-average congestion levels
- The condition of Bay Area highways and bridges has improved over the years, but pavement conditions on local streets and roads have stagnated or grown worse
- Total transit ridership is growing, but per-capita transit use has fallen over time

Here is a list of the topics that *Vital Signs* will monitor and report on:

## Transportation (January 2015)

- Commute Mode Choice
- Commute Time
- Commute Patterns
- Traffic Volumes at Regional Gateways
- Time Spent in Congestion
- Miles Traveled in Congestion
- Travel Time Reliability
- Transit Ridership
- Transit System Efficiency
- Daily Miles Traveled
- Street Pavement Condition
- Highway Pavement Condition
- Bridge Condition
- Transit Asset Condition

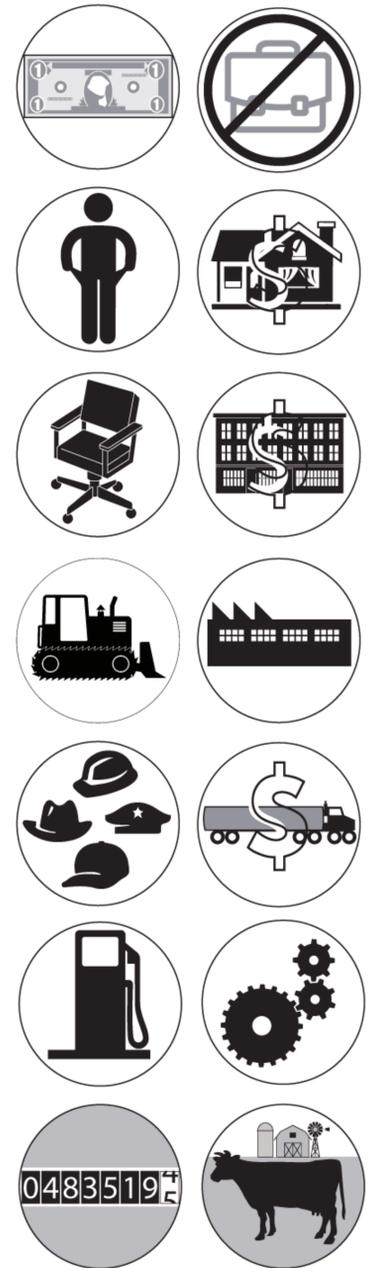


## Land Use (March 2015)

- Our Population
- Our Jobs
- Housing Growth
- Greenfield Development

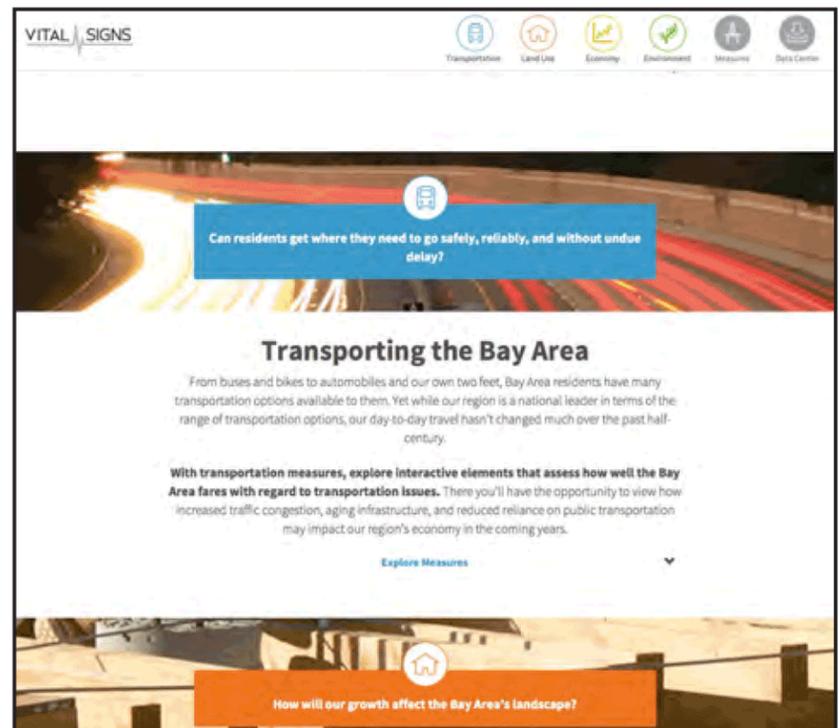
## Economy (Spring 2015)

- Job Creation
- Unemployment
- Income
- Labor Force Participation
- Home Prices
- Rents
- Overall Affordability
- Housing Affordability
- Poverty
- Economic Output
- Freight Activity
- Freight Value



## Environment (Summer 2015)

- Particulate Emissions
- Fuel Sales
- Fatalities from Crashes
- Injuries from Crashes
- Bay Fill
- Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise



Explore our region's Vital Signs at:  
[vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov](http://vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov)



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