

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council Equity and Access Subcommittee

February 25, 2025

Agenda Item 5a

June 2025 Disability Conference

Subject:

Update on a planned disability conference scheduled for June 2025 at the Bay Area Metro Center.

Background:

The disabled community in the Bay Area faces significant challenges, including fragmented service delivery, limited resources and inadequate platforms for collaboration among stakeholders. As the Bay Area’s regional coordinating agencies, MTC-ABAG will host a conference aimed at bringing together leaders and members of the disability community across the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area on June 16 and 17, 2025. The primary objectives of the conference are to:

1. convene the community in a welcoming, centralized regional forum to lay the foundation for building a robust network of individuals, advocates and organizations to reinvigorate the disability rights movement around the topics of transportation, housing and the environment;
2. summarize the conference proceedings for the purpose of advancing community goals and action items identified during the conference; and
3. identify opportunities for future coordination and collaboration among conference participants.

Over the past several weeks, staff have worked in partnership with individual disability rights advocates to develop a preliminary approach to organizing the conference — adjusting the scope and resources to accommodate an event that is feasible and in alignment with our agencies’ goals and scope, is purposeful and well executed.

A key first step in organizing the conference is to put together an advisory group of people with disabilities and other key stakeholders to help shape the program and content of the conference. Earlier this month, staff began the work to identify candidates to participate in the advisory group — including reaching out to Chair Fitzgerald and Vice Chair Parker for recommendations.

Staff is requesting that the Chair and Vice Chair appoint two Equity & Access Subcommittee representatives to the disability conference advisory group, which will begin meeting in early March through August. In addition to providing guidance on the conference agenda and program, advisory representatives will help inform the production of the conference proceedings report.

The event will be free and open to members of the disability community across the nine Bay Area counties. Registration is expected to open in early April. Questions about the conference can be directed to the conference project manager, Leslie Lara-Enríquez at llara-enriquez@bayareametro.gov.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Save the Date Flyer