



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

Date: October 22, 2025
To: Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
From: Carina Lieu, Policy Advisory Council Chair
Regarding: October 2025 Council Report to Commission

Summary:

At its September 23, 2025 meeting, the Policy Advisory Council received staff presentations on legislative updates; an update on the Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) program; as well as proposed updates to the Regional Network Management Customer Advisory Group structure.

Legislative Updates

Below is a summary of the feedback provided by MTC Policy Advisory Council members regarding the State Legislative Update presented by Rebecca Long, focusing on SB 63 and related transit and housing issues:

- **SB 63 Funding and Oversight:** The Councilmembers raised concerns about limited oversight and discretionary control in SB 63's funding structure, especially regarding direct agency transfers and minimal administrative allocations.
- **Highway 37 and Environmental Concerns:** Council feedback emphasized environmental constraints on Highway 37 due to protected species and expressed interest in exploring modal shifts like converting HOV lanes to rail to reduce car dependency and support regional transit goals.
- **Equity and Housing Preservation:** The Council had questions about Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (or "NOAH") as a cost-effective strategy to preserve affordability and prevent displacement, noting concerns about fairness to low-income landlords and the potential return of AB 736, an affordable housing bond that did not pass this session.

Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) program update

Council members expressed strong support for the CARE program's community-driven approach, praising its inclusive design, equity focus, and alignment with local initiatives. Key feedback emphasized the need for a longer implementation timeline, stronger technical assistance for underserved communities, and funding strategies that ensure access for smaller organizations. Members also encouraged scalable, innovative projects and ongoing state support to sustain long-term impact.

Proposed updates to Regional Network Management Customer Advisory Group Structure

Council members supported expanding representation in the RNM Customer Advisory Group to include heavy rail operators and underrepresented groups like youth and seniors, while raising concerns about transparency, equity, and the structure of advisory roles. They emphasized the need for elected representation, clearer governance, and stronger technical support to ensure inclusive and legitimate participation across diverse communities. Appointees will be provide regular reports back to the Council.