



NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Citizen Advisory Committee Agenda Memo

TO: Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)
FROM: Danielle Schmitz, Executive Director
REPORT BY: Danielle Schmitz, Executive Director
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SUBJECT: Executive Director Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVRTA) Citizen Advisory Committee receive the Executive Director Report.

BACKGROUND

Regional Update

- The Metropolitan Transportation Commission received a comprehensive intentent audit report on the fiscal conditions of five of the region's large transit operators: SFMTA, BART, Caltrain, Golden Gate, and AC Transit. These systems are the most vulnerable given the impending fiscal cliff. Collectively, these transit properties will have a \$3.73 billion cumulative shortfall from FY 26-FY 30. The shortfall is largely due to the pandemic ridership slump, increases in expenses of 4% annually (of which 50% are labor related). Farebox revenues are still below pre-pandemic levels. State and federal bailout funds have helped dramatically but those funds are anticipated to be exhausted by FY 2026. Pressure on regional revenues (SB 63) could impact NVRTA, particularly if a revenue measure does not pass.
- The Commission also received an update on SB 63 (Weiner/Arreguin). The revenue measure is expected to generate over \$500 million annually and is structured to include San Francisco, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties with an opt in provision for Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. The expenditure plan is still being developed but currently MTC is suggesting 90% of funds going to the counties determined by local regional partners. The 10% annual amount that would

go to MTC will be apportioned \$25 million to fare subsidies, \$10 million to mapping and wayfinding, \$15 million to transit priority measures (which could include transit signal priority or pre-emption, priority queue jumps/transit lanes, including shoulder running), and \$5 million to improve accessibility coordination. It should be noted that MTC is refunding NVTa to reimburse costs associated with providing “one seat” services to all locations in Vallejo. Vine-Go already provided services to Kaiser Hospital.

- MTC Programming and Allocations Committee approved \$14.2 million allocation in Transit Development Act (TDA) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds for FY 2026 transit operations, and planning. This is the largest subsidy that NVTa gets annually for transit operations.
- On June 16 – MTC hosted an event titled Accessibility Futures; Sharing, Listening, Learning. The workshop will focus on communications, housing, transportation, environment and more.

Local Update

- On June 16th NVTa held an open house at the Soscol Gateway Transit Center to receive comments/input from members of the public on the Countywide Transportation Plan. Thank you, Diana and team, for coordination and to CAC members Ron Richardson and Patricia Lynch for attending.
- A big shout-out to Transit staff and Communications for all the BottleRock and La Onda planning, and last-minute operational changes. The Vine saw a total 5% increase in ridership overall for the two festival weekends.
- The Vine Trail Coalition’s Locomotion Fundraiser in the month of May is now behind us. The Notorious Valley Transportation Animals or NVTa raised \$4,475 and rode, walked, and ran 973 miles. Shout out to our very own Kate Miller who biked 470 miles in the month, logging almost half of the team’s trips! Also shout out to Diana Meehan for rallying the troops and organizing this fun and great cause.
- NVTa is already feeling the impact of the Trump tariffs. Gillig, the company that we have 14 electric buses on order with – one of now just two OEMs manufacturing electric buses that we can acquire with federal funds – has notified us they have incurred costs of almost \$300,000 due to the tariffs.
- NVTa held a ribbon cutting to christen the new Calistoga Shuttle on June 26th at Pioneer Park in Calistoga.
- It was a good month for State Route 37. The replacement of the Novato Creek bridge on the west side of the SR 37 corridor will receive \$67 million from Caltrans’ State Highway and Operational Protection Program (SHOPP) to complete the funding package. The project team has also been notified that Package 2 of the Sears Point to Mare Island Improvements, which includes the east bound additional lane, is recommended by the California Transportation Commission staff to receive \$73 million from the Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP).

The program team also applied for \$25 million from the Local Partnership Program funds – but that grant application was not funded so the project still has a shortfall, but the project team is optimistic about finding other sources to gap that funding.

- Lastly, we had a few retirements last month, longtime Executive Director had her last day on June 27th last week. Kate was a tremendous leader for the Agency, a personal mentor of mine, and secured millions in state and regional discretionary funds for Napa County projects and programs over her 13 years of service. Kate will remain in the city of Napa in retirement and has promised me she will check-in on us from time to time.
- Renee Kulick, NVTAs longtime Procurement and Compliance Officer, also retired from the agency after 15 years of service. Renee was instrumental in managing the many contracts NVTAs enters on an annual basis and making sure our procurement policies were current and being followed. Renee has always played a central role within the culture of the agency – plying all of us with treats from her candy jar and being a stepmom and favorite to all our dogs. Her infectious laughter and unique sense of humor has made her a great friend to all of us. Renee, and her husband, John, will be moving away from the area. We are all very sad to see her go but wish her the best of luck in her next adventure.

ATTACHMENTS

None