



November 5, 2025
CAC Agenda Item 8.1
Continued From: New

Action Requested: **INFORMATION**

NAPA VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Community Advisory Committee Agenda Memo

TO: Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
FROM: Danielle Schmitz, Executive Director
REPORT BY: Danielle Schmitz, Executive Director
(707) 259-5968 / Email: dschmitz@nvta.ca.gov
SUBJECT: Executive Director Report

RECOMMENDATION

That the Napa Valley Transportation Authority (NVTA) Community Advisory Committee receive the Executive Director Report.

BACKGROUND

Personnel

New Hire - On October 27th NVTA welcomed a new Bilingual Outreach Coordinator, Zaira Renteria. Zaira will be working under Rebecca Schenck in the Transit Department on various transit and transportation programs including transit travel training, and the VCommute program, etc. She will also be assisting with outreach events and working alongside communications. Zaira comes to NVTA from Abode services working as a Family Outreach Coordinator working with the unhoused. Welcome Zaira!

Local Update

- **Bus Animal Naming Contest** – NVTA is inviting elementary school students to name its electric fleet mascots - the owl, hawk, butterfly and bee. The contest will launch on September 15th with a winning name selected for each animal on October 31st. Winning students will be treated to a special bus experience, receive a basket of Vine Transit prizes, and celebrate with a pizza party for their class.

Regional Update

- MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) have created a new Community Advisory Council which will replace the previous Policy Advisory Council. Made up of 27 residents with diverse perspectives, the Council advises

MTC and ABAG on issues related to housing and land use, transportation and the environment. Each county will have representation on the Council.

- MTC held their annual Commission Workshop on October 22nd and 23rd in Walnut Creek. Topics of discussion were the upcoming One Bay Area Grant cycle which is the federal surface transportation block grant, Surface Transportation Program and Congestion Management Air Quality (STP/CMAQ) funding that comes to the local jurisdictions through MTC. The overall funding is expected to be reduced from OBAG 3 due to dwindling highway trust fund receipts, as well as reduction in some additional one-time monies that were rolled into OBAG 3. The commission also spent a good amount of time discussing Transit Oriented Community policy, which is very controversial but is tied to some of the transportation funds MTC programs, so it was a lengthy discussion.

State Legislation

- SB 63 (Wiener/Arreguin) – On October 13th Governor Newsom signed the Transportation Revenue Measure enabling legislation – the legislation would authorize placement on the November 2026 ballot a 14-year ½ cent sales tax to sustain and improve public transportation. Even though the measure is focused on the 5 large counties, there are rider focused improvements included in the revenue measure that will be applied Bay Area wide. In addition, Vine transit service connects to many of the regional systems like BART that will benefit from this measure.
- Senate Bill 697 (Wilson) was signed by the Governor on October 8th, authorizing the State Route 37 Sears Point–Mare Island Improvement Project to proceed with limited take of fully protected species necessary for construction. This is a significant milestone for the corridor and reflects the strong partnership among the four North Bay counties, Caltrans, and MTC. Under this legislation, the construction window can extend beyond the previous 10–12 week seasonal limit, allowing work to continue without lengthy interruptions tied to fully protected species timelines. This will enable more efficient project delivery, shorten overall construction duration, and help advance long-awaited improvements to this critical corridor.

Federal Update

- Government Shutdown – The Federal Transit and Federal Highway Agency staff are funded through the Highway Trust Fund and those departments are still open and staff is not furloughed. Although standard operations are reported to be active, the US Department of Transportation relies on other departments to review and/or

approve transportation projects like the US Dept. of Labor which has to give approval for contracts, or the EPA which must provide environmental approval (NEPA). Many of the departments that intersect the Department of Transportation are furloughed right now, which will affect transportation projects. This is not our first government shutdown, we have weathered these storms before, over the long-term we are coordinating with our partners, Caltrans, and MTC to understand what long-term impacts this may have if the shutdown were to last beyond a couple months.

ATTACHMENTS

None