

# Memorandum

**TO:** RULES COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Betsy Shotwell

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** April 16, 2004

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Approved

Date

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**SUBJECT: SB 2741 (SALINAS,WOLK) METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION: GOVERNING BOARD**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve a support position for AB 2741 (Salinas and Wolk), which would expand the membership of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) governing board from 19 to 21 by adding two additional members appointed by the Mayor of San José and the Mayor of Oakland. A one-week turnaround to Council is requested.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) was created by the state Legislature in 1970 to serve as the transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. In the Bay Area, MTC functions as both the region's metropolitan planning organization (MPO), a federal designation, and the regional transportation planning agency (RTPA) for state planning and programming purposes. MTC is responsible for the Regional Transportation Plan, a comprehensive blueprint for the development of mass transit, highway, airport, seaport, railroad, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. MTC also screens requests from local agencies for state and federal grants for transportation projects to determine their compatibility with the Plan. MTC receives policy direction from a 19-member panel made up of appointed local elected and agency officials from throughout the Bay Area.

## **ANALYSIS**

During the 2001-02 Legislative Session, Senator Tom Torlakson introduced legislation, which if passed would have merged the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). That bill was defeated in the Assembly Local Government Committee, with the caveat that MTC and ABAG form a taskforce to develop a local solution to issues of concern. During the taskforce meetings, it was recognized that one of the issues that needed to be addressed was the representational make-up of the MTC governing board. Although the ABAG/MTC taskforce recognized the need to

review the representation issue it was not included as part of the taskforce's work plan. The taskforce concluded its work in December 2003.

On February 20, 2004, two pieces of legislation were introduced to expand the membership of MTC's governing board. AB 2741 as introduced by Assemblymember Simon Salinas would have expanded the commission to 36 members from the current 19. The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) sponsored AB 2741. Additionally, Assemblymember Lois Wolk introduced AB 2908, which increased the commission by two members and was sponsored by MTC. The goal of both measures was to increase regional participation on the commission with the inclusion of representatives from San Jose and Oakland.

During the months of February and March regional discussions took place in regards to both bills, including discussions between MTC and VTA in order to reconcile the differences in the legislation. At its March 19, 2004 VTA Board of Directors workshop, staff announced that an agreement had been reached with MTC to support and move forward a single piece of legislation aimed at expanding the regional membership of MTC's commission.

AB 2741 (Salinas) was amended in the Assembly on March 30, 2004 and incorporates language from Assemblymember Wolk's AB 2908 expanding the membership of MTC's governing board with two new members appointed, one by the Mayor of San José and one by the Mayor of Oakland. Under the current structure, the Mayor of San Francisco has had the ability to appoint one member to MTC. If passed by the Assembly and Senate and signed into law by the Governor, AB 2741 will create a governing board with greater regional balance. The recommended changes to MTC's governing structure will provide the three largest cities in the Bay Area: San José, Oakland and San Francisco, with equal input into regional transportation decisions.

The enactment of AB 2741 will provide the City of San José a voice at the table for greater participation in regional transportation decision-making. In addition, San José's participation to the MTC's governing board will strengthen MTC's voice as the Bay Area region competes for State and Federal funding to implement the region's transportation priorities

**Status:** AB 2741 passed the Assembly Transportation Committee on April 13, (8-4), and was re-referred to the Assembly Local Government Committee.

### **COORDINATION**

This memo has been coordinated with the Department of Transportation, the City Attorney's Office, and the City's Legislative Representative in Sacramento.

BETSY SHOTWELL  
Director, Intergovernmental Relations

RULES COMMITTEE

04-16-04

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