

Update on Regional Transit Coordination

AC Transit Board of Directors

February 10, 2021



Presentation Overview

1. Transit Coordination Today
2. Governance
3. Transit Network Management Concepts

Shared Goals for Bay Area Transit

- Restore and increase Bay Area **transit ridership**
- Improve **regional connections** and overall function of transit systems as an integrated regional network
- Improve the **rider experience**, creating a **world-class network** that is more understandable, reliable, frequent, effective, and easy to use
- Focus on **equity** to ensure that the region's transit network is accessible and affordable to all
- **Identify new revenues** to ensure that new regional integration strategies can be advanced without negatively impacting riders that depend on reliable local services

What we are
doing today:

Operator Framework

- **Regular Coordination:** weekly coordination involving multiple disciplines
- **Sharing Best Practices:**
 - Service planning and recovery strategies
 - Public outreach and approval processes for pandemic related service adjustments
 - Social distancing requirements
- **Service Principles:** Developing common service principles during the pandemic and into recovery
- **Regional Efforts:** Engaging with MTC-led regional efforts (i.e. Fare Integration, Mapping, Clipper START)
- **Long-Range Planning:** FASTER regional funding measure involved coordinated on long-range planning

Coordination Today:

Ongoing & Planned Efforts

Hold regular
coordination
meetings for
upcoming
schedule
changes

Establish
key regional
hubs list and
map

Conduct in-
depth pilot
case studies
to improve
connectivity
at regional
hubs

Utilize
technology
to visualize
and better
understand
connections

Align service
sign-up
calendars to
enable
coordinated
schedule
changes

Examples:

- *Communication between BART and connecting transit agencies in advance of Spring 2021 service adjustments*
- *Minimized scheduled gaps between Caltrain & BART at the Millbrae Station*
- *SFMTA worked with SamTrans and GGBHTD to provide coverage in certain overlapping areas where SFMTA had to scale back service recently*

MTC Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force (BTRTF): Transformation Action Plan

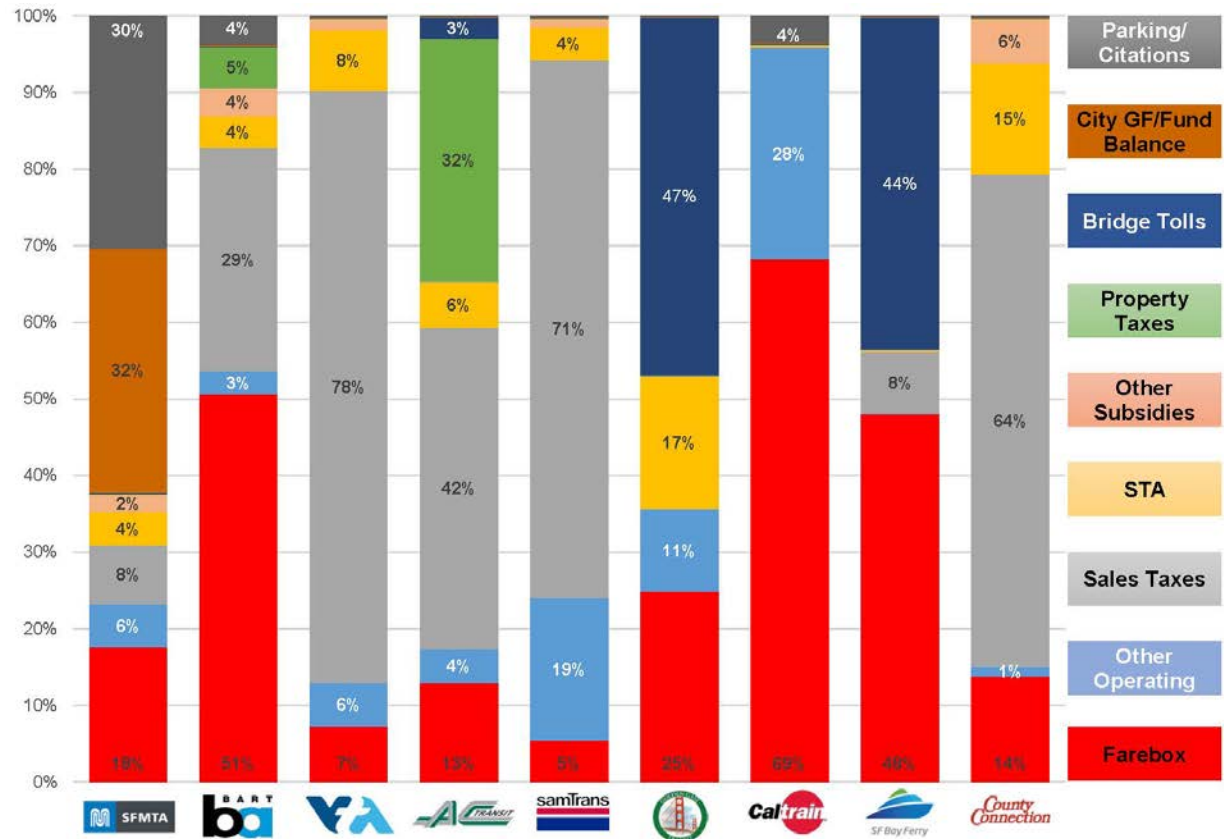
- Task Force Adopted 4 Goals
 1. Recognize Critical Recovery Challenges Facing Transit Agencies
 2. Advance Equity
 3. **Identify near-term actions to implement beneficial long-term Network Management & Governance reforms**
 4. Integrate current MTC and state transit initiatives with Network Management & Governance reforms
- Next Steps:
 - Define Problem Statement & Develop Network Management Concept Alternatives: January/February
 - Spot bill introduced by Assembly Member Chiu: January
 - Legislative Proposal Developed: Spring/Summer
 - Content of Transformation Action Plan anticipated to inform legislation: June
 - Deadline for bill to pass Legislature for 2022 enactment: September 10

Existing Governance & Local Authority

- Transit Agency Authority Varies by Agency but Typically:
 - Accountable to boards to deliver transit operations and capital projects as defined in enabling legislation and/or funding measures
 - Sets fares, budgets, levels of service, schedules, etc.
 - Eligible recipient of funding from various local/county, regional, state, and federal sources
 - Transit funding throughout region is often tied to specific jurisdictions with specific requirements
 - **Specific to AC Transit:**
 - **Special District created by the CA Legislature**
 - **Publicly elected Board of Directors – accountable to the voters**
 - **Multi-county/multi-jurisdiction operations without control of right-of-way, land use policies, etc.**
 - **Voter approved parcel tax and oversight**
- MTC Authority Related to Transit Coordination
 - Long history of legislation granting MTC transit coordination authority (dating to 1970s)
 - MTC Resolution 3866 (last updated in 2015)
 - Contains requirements related to Transit Coordination, Fare and Schedule Coordination, and Regional Transit Information
 - Allows MTC to identify, recommend, establish and coordinate transit connectivity improvements, requirements and performance standards –and condition regional discretionary funds based on compliance
 - MTC may exert influence by withholding funding; however, doing so may work against the purposes of advancing coordination and providing better service

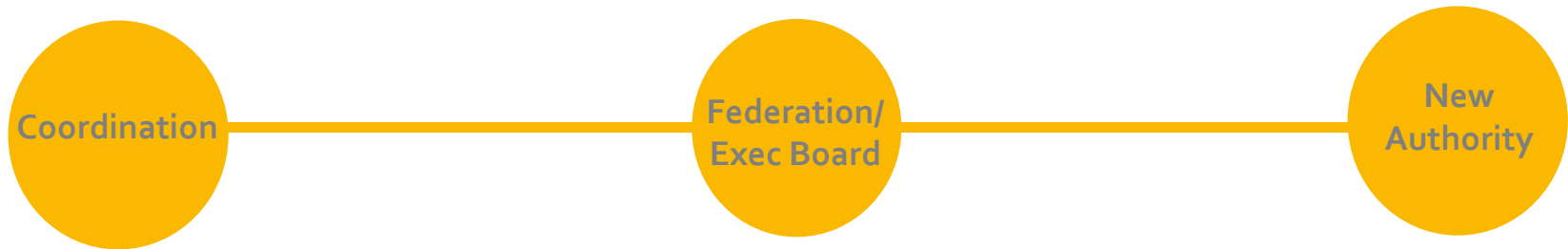
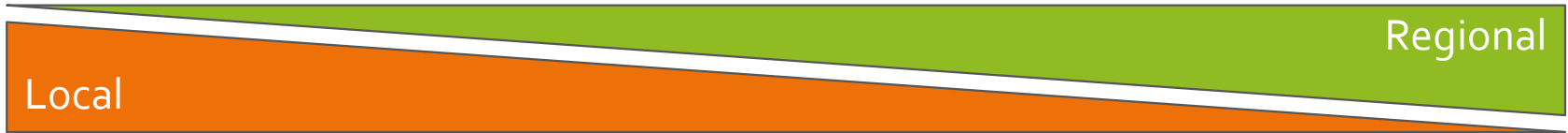
Existing Funding Streams: Selected Comparison of Revenues

- Funding streams/sources vary substantially by agency, are locally relevant, and can come with restrictions on their use



FY19-20 Adopted Budgets – Revenue Share Comparisons

Network Management and Governance Decision-Making Authority Spectrum



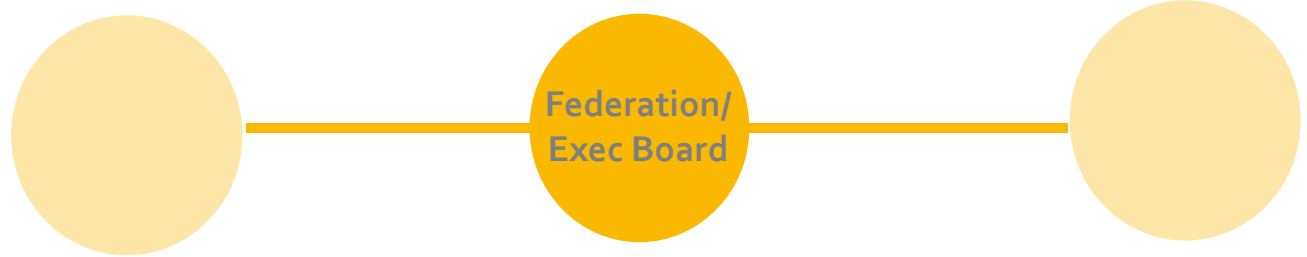
Decision Areas: Service/Schedules | Fares | Branding | Funding

Critical Questions:

- As the Task Force and Draft Legislation Advance, what is the preferred balance of decision-making authority?
- What new funding will be identified to achieve a successful transformation?

Transit Network Management Federation/ Exec Board Concept:

Authority & Governance



- **Draft Concept** under development by Transit Operators for discussion
- **Formalizes unprecedented coordination** happening now
- Retains individual **agency control** and board **accountability**
- Recognizes **financial realities**
- Identifies **near-term priority action items**
- Ensures **public accountability & engagement**, such as Creation of a Policy Advisory Committee
- Suggests ideas for **membership** composition, including a subset of small & large operator general managers and MTC's Executive Director

Transit Network Management:

Key Opportunities and Challenges

Opportunities

- Improved **regional coordination**
- Potential to improve **customer experience**, particularly related to travel on multiple systems
- Potential for improved **efficiency**
- **Transit priority** for improved reliability, frequency, and travel time savings
- Develop a **business case** for transformation that is both impactful and achievable

Challenges

- Additional **funding** to support efforts not identified
- Loss of **local control and accountability**
- **Fares** are integral to complex funding structures unique to each locality and agency
- Tradeoffs between **regional and local** service – investment in regional service without negative impacts to local service
- Brand recognition is linked to **accountability and voter support**
- Quantifying **customer benefits**