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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MTC Approves Plan to Consolidate Regional Planning with ABAG

OAKLAND -- Today, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) took an important step toward fully consolidating its functions with those of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG).

"The MTC reaffirmed its commitment to meeting the goals of California's landmark climate change law, AB32, by voting to move toward the creation of one regional government agency to plan for how best to improve our crumbling transportation infrastructure, improve rapid transit options and provide affordable housing near job centers," said Dave Cortese, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors President and Chair of the MTC.

The MTC is the transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. ABAG provides planning and research resources to local cities and towns related to land use, housing and other projects. Every other region in California has one government entity that coordinates the regional planning of major transportation infrastructure projects and affordable housing.

"Reducing skyrocketing home prices so that the middle class can afford to live near job centers and cutting commute times are important issues that are best addressed by one streamlined entity, as opposed to two," added Cortese.

The 21-member board voted unanimously to begin the process of consolidation, which will:

- Create a “one-stop-shop” for expanded technical assistance and grants focused on serving local governments better.
- Use taxpayer dollars more productively by improving communications between regional agencies and cities.
- Bolster staff resources on policy development and analysis to develop solutions to the region’s challenges.
- Enable local elected officials, business leaders, and the public to speak with one voice on the most important state and federal policy issues.

Full details are included in the attachment to this news release.

For questions or an interview, call the Office of Supervisor Dave Cortese at 408-299-5030.



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