



ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Accessible Futures: Sharing. Listening. Learning.

Monday, June 16, 2025 & Tuesday, June 17, 2025

Bay Area Metro Center
San Francisco, California

Conference Program

Day 1 — June 16, 2025

8 a.m. – 8 p.m. **Registration/Information/Coat Check** *Lobby*

The registration and information desk will remain open for the duration of the conference. Secure coat check will be available to conference attendees to safely store and retrieve personal belongings as needed.

8–9 a.m. **Breakfast** *Lobby*

Breakfast will be served in the lobby. Please note food is not allowed in the Board Room. Food is welcome in all other spaces of the conference.

9–10 a.m. **Welcome** *Yerba Buena Conference Room
Board Room (overflow)*

MTC-ABAG Chief Operating Officer **Nick Roethel** will kick off the conference followed by welcoming remarks from MTC Chair **Sue Noack** from Contra Costa County and Commissioner **Dorene M. Giacopini**, who represents the U.S. Department of Transportation on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Then, conference staff will provide an overview of conference activities followed by **Dr. Victor Pineda**, who will offer welcoming remarks.

10–10:30 a.m. Break & Refreshments Lobby

Refreshments will be served in the lobby, and quiet spaces will be available for conference attendees who need them.

10:45 a.m.–12 p.m. Breakout Discussions 1 Various Locations

Session A

Transportation: Understanding the Transportation Landscape and Mobility Challenges Around the Region

A presentation on transportation planning and improvement projects around the region and a conversation about priorities for funding.

Panelists: **Warren Cushman**, Community Organizer/Systems Change Advocate, CRIL & MTC Regional Network Management Customer Advisory Group member
Drennen Shelton, Planner, MTC-ABAG

Facilitator: **Naomi Armenta**, Transportation Consultant, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates

Location: **Yerba Buena Conference Room Board Room** (overflow)

Session B

Understanding Affordable Housing and Opportunities for Impact

An introduction to affordable housing in the Bay Area and a conversation about challenges and opportunities for impact.

Panelists: **Micaela Connery**, Co-Founder and CEO, The Kelsey
Rev. Sophia DeWitt, Chief Program Officer, East Bay Housing Organization
Carolina Reid, Associate Professor, I. Donald Turner Distinguished Professor in Affordable Housing and Urban Policy, University of California, Berkeley

Facilitator: **Fatimah Aure**, Senior Manager, The Kelsey

Location: **Temazcal Conference Room**

Session C

Understanding Climate Actions and Expanding Access to Public Spaces Around the Region

An introduction to environmental policy work at MTC-ABAG and a conversation to explore opportunities.

Panelists: **Natasha Daniels**, Senior Environmental Planner, San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Michael Germeraad, Resilience Planner, MTC-ABAG
Yeymi Reyes, Marketing Communications Manager, Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)

Facilitator: **Meghan Weir**, Consultant, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates

Location: **Claremont Conference Room**

12–1:15 p.m. Lunch Lobby & Temazcal Conference Room

Lunch will be served in the lobby. Participants are invited to join the lunch time keynote in the Temazcal Conference Room after picking up lunch.

Lunch time keynote by **Jade Theriault**, Comedian

1:30–2:30 p.m. Breakout Discussions 2 Various Locations

Session A

Accessible Transit Mapping and Wayfinding

A short presentation on the Regional Mapping & Wayfinding Project and a conversation about regional transit navigation.

Panelists: **Gordon Hansen**, Mapping and Wayfinding Project Manager, MTC-ABAG
Jumana Nabti, Manager of Access Programs, BART

Facilitator: **Ron Brooks**, CEO, Accessible Avenue

Location: **Yerba Buena Conference Room**

Session B

Housing Preservation: Single-Family Renovations, Modifications and Aging in Place

An introduction to the critical and complicated work of home preservation and a conversation around what's available and what's needed.

Panelists: **Jen Collins**, Operations and Finance Director, Oakland Community Land Trust

Jonathan Dena, Community Impact Manager, Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley

Michelle Starratt, Housing Director, Alameda County Housing Department

Facilitator: **Jessica Lehman**, Disability Organizer

Location: **Temazcal Conference Room**

Session C

Get Out and Play! Ensuring Accessible Recreation Across the Region

An overview on regional recreational opportunities and a conversation to identify community needs and expand accessible options.

Panelists: **Lily Brown**, Active Transportation Planner, MTC-ABAG

Camille Cauchois, Assistant Transportation Planner, MTC-ABAG

Dee (Diane) Dohm, Active Transportation Planner, MTC-ABAG

Emily Seelenfreund, Executive Director, BORP Adaptive Sports and Recreation

Sofia Zander, Zander Westbrook Design

Facilitator: **Mallika Gupta**, Consultant, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates

Location: **Claremont Conference Room**

Session D

Economic Empowerment: Barriers and Opportunities to Employment

A conversation about the practical issues for transitioning to employment and entrepreneurship as a pathway to self-employment.

Panelists: **Peter DeHaas**, Founder and Executive Director, San Francisco Disability Business Alliance

Ricardo Perez, IT and Green Energy Sector Business Consultant, Department of Rehabilitation

Facilitator: **Eileen Norman**, Executive Director, SF In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority

Location: **Board Room**

2:30–3 p.m.

Break & Refreshments

Lobby

Refreshments will be served in the lobby, and quiet spaces will be available for conference attendees who need them.

3:15–4:30 p.m.

Breakout Discussions 3

Various Locations

Session A

Riding the Bus: Exploring Changes to the Public Transit System

A conversation to prioritize the changes needed to the fixed-route transit and paratransit systems.

Panelist: **Catherine Callahan**, Mobility Manager and Public Transit Advocate

Michelle Rousey, Bay Area Transit Advocate and California Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee member

Joshua Saunders, BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF) Advisory Committee

Roland Wong, MTC Policy Advisory Council Member

Facilitator: **Naomi Armenta**, Transportation Consultant, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates

Location: **Yerba Buena Conference Room**

Session B

Accessibility Starts at Home: Approaches to Universal Design Standards

An overview of opportunities for ensuring accessible housing production, promising regional practices, and a conversation to identify opportunities to further these efforts.

Panelists: **Beth Kenny**, Former Member, City of Alameda
Commission on Persons with Disabilities & Disability
Justice Advocate

Tyler Mayo, Title 24 Regulations Manager, Codes
and Standards Division, State of California
Department of Housing and Community
Development

Tristan Suire, Planner, City of Alameda

Veronica Turdean, Associate Construction Analyst
and Chapter 11A Code Access Specialist, California
Department of Housing and Community
Development, Codes and Standards Division

Facilitator: **Dana Matlaw**, Consultant, Nelson\Nygaard
Consulting Associates

Location: **Board Room**

Session C

Climate Change: Impacts on People with Disabilities

A presentation on how environmental changes affect people with disabilities, and a conversation about needs, opportunities and policy interventions.

Panelists: **Dawn Skaggs**, Chief Program Officer, World Institute
on Disability

Jess Rivet, Community Task Force Volunteer, World
Institute on Disability

Alina Engleman Ph.D., Associate Professor,
California State University, East Bay

Alex Ghenis, Community Member

Marcie Roth, CEO and Executive Director, World
Institute on Disability

Facilitator: **Meghan Weir**, Consultant, Nelson\Nygaard
Consulting Associates

Location: **Claremont Conference Room**

4:30–4:45 p.m. **Break** *Lobby*

Brief break to transition to the first day’s closing session.

4:45–5:15 p.m. **Closing Plenary** *Yerba Buena Conference Room
Board Room (overflow)*

A brief session to report back on what was heard during the first day’s discussions and an overview of Day 2 activities.

Facilitator: **InterEthnica and Winter Consulting team**

5:30–8 p.m. **Reception** *Lobby & Temazcal Conference Room*

Celebrate the first day of the conference with an opportunity for conference participants to build community in a friendly environment with entertainment, open bar and hors d'œuvres.

Day 2 — June 17, 2025

8 a.m.–5 p.m.	Registration/Information/Coat Check	<i>Lobby</i>
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The registration and information desk will remain open for the duration of the conference. Secure coat check will be available to conference attendees to safely store and retrieve personal belongings as needed.

8–9 a.m.	Breakfast	<i>Lobby</i>
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Breakfast will be served in the lobby. Please note food is not allowed in the Board Room. Food is welcome in all other spaces of the conference.

9:00–10:00 a.m.	Breakout Discussions 4	<i>Various Locations</i>
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Session A

Transportation When You Want It: Taxis, Ride-Hailing, and On-Demand Transportation

A conversation about existing on-demand services and what is or is not working.

Panelists: **Steven Aquino**, Bay Area Freelance Technology Journalist

Catherine Callahan, Mobility Manager and Public Transit Advocate

Erin McAuliff, Acting Director of Accessible Services, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

Vinay Pimple, MTC Policy Advisory Council member

Facilitator: **Ron Brooks**, CEO, Accessible Avenue

Location: **Yerba Buena Conference Room**

Session B

Tenant Protections: Strategies for Keeping People Housed

An overview of current regional approaches to tenant protections and a conversation about challenges and opportunities for keeping people housed in the Bay Area.

Panelists: **Irene Farnsworth**, Anti-Displacement Program
Manager, Bay Area Housing Finance Authority
Eddie Ytuarte, Disability and Housing Activist

Facilitator: **David Driskell**, Community Planning Collaborative

Location: **Board Room**

Session C

Strengthening Communities in the Face of Climate Change: Preparing for Emergencies

A short presentation about emergency response and a conversation about the practical things you can do to prepare for the next disaster.

Panelists: **Sheela Gunn**, Emergency Preparedness
Coordination, Center for Independent Living
Jess Rivet, Community Task Force Volunteer, World
Institute on Disability
Marcie Roth, CEO and Executive Director, World
Institute on Disability
Dawn Skaggs, Chief Program Officer, World Institute
on Disability

Facilitator: **Meghan Weir**, Consultant, Nelson\Nygaard
Consulting Associates

Location: **Claremont Conference Room**

Session D

Workplace Advocacy: Asking for What You Need

A conversation about advocating for yourself in the workplace and critical decisions when thinking about work.

Panelists: **Camiel Hayes**, Campus and Vocational Program
Coordinator, Center for Independent Living
Hoa Le, M.D., Co-Founder, Reach Career Mentoring

Jill Noffsinger-Day, Area Director for Human Resources, US Foods

Ricardo Perez, IT and Green Energy Sector Business Consultant, California Department of Rehabilitation

Jennifer Yang, M.D., Co-founder, Reach Career Mentoring

Facilitator: **Naomi Armenta**, Transportation Consultant
Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates

Location: **Temazcal Conference Room**

10–10:30 a.m. Break & Refreshments Lobby

Refreshments will be served in the lobby, and quiet spaces will be available for conference attendees who need them.

10:40 a.m.–12 p.m. Keynote Yerba Buena Conference Room Board Room (overflow)

Remarks from **Congresswoman Lateefah Simon** who represents California’s 12th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. California’s 12th District encompasses parts of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, Piedmont and San Leandro. Born legally blind, Representative Simon has never driven a car. Followed by a group discussion facilitated by **Nicole Bohn**, Disability Access Consultant

12–1:15 p.m. Lunch Lobby & Temazcal Conference Room

Lunch will be served in the lobby. Participants are invited to join the lunch time entertainment in the Temazcal Conference Room after picking up lunch.

Lunch time entertainment by **Nina G**, Comedian

1:30–3 p.m. **Plenary & Conference Resolution** *Yerba Buena CR
Board Room (overflow)*

The conference planning team will share the conference resolution highlighting the unmet needs, broad principles and specific examples across participants’ focal areas.

Facilitator: **InterEthnica and Winter Consulting team**

3–3:30 p.m. **Break & Refreshments** *Lobby*

Refreshments will be served in the lobby, and quiet spaces will be available for conference attendees who need them.

3:30–4:15 p.m. **Closing Keynote** *Yerba Buena Conference Room
Board Room (overflow)*

Dr. Victor Pineda, Executive Director of the Center for Independent Living will address the conference.

Dr. Pineda will reflect on the enduring legacy of the 504 sit-ins as a catalyst for disability rights, while charting a bold path forward through inclusive urban design and smart city innovation to ensure a barrier-free future for all.

Monday & Tuesday	Ongoing Activities	<i>Various Locations</i>
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Community Tip Board

Do you have a resource to share? Do you have any helpful tips for the community?

A community resource board will be available for participants to share useful information with other conference participants. The conference planning team will compile all items posted to the community board and share them with participants after the conference.

Location: **Rincon Place Hallway**

Community Town Hall Comment Board

Do you have more to say about other issues not discussed during the conference?

Share topics of priority that should be captured in the conference proceedings report.

Location: **Rincon Place Hallway**

Video Testimonials

Participants will be able to record video testimonials to share more on other topics of importance to the community. Come share about your quality of life or what you would like to see change in the Bay Area to make it an accessible place to live, work and play.

Location: **Rincon Place Hallway**

A Microsoft Word version of this program is available upon request. Please email disabilityconference@bayareametro.gov to request a copy.