



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

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## News from: **The City of Oakland**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Quan, Kaplan, Reid Push for Oakland's Right to Vote on Metropolitan Transportation Commission**

*Oakland, CA* – Mayor Jean Quan and Councilmember Rebecca Kaplan testified on Tuesday in favor of [Assembly Bill 57](#), which would allow the mayors of Oakland and San Jose to appoint a voting member to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), reflecting the growing population shift and need for regional planning to solve the Bay Area traffic problems.

MTC is the sponsor of AB 57, introduced last year by Assemblymember Jim Beall (D-San Jose), and would add two seats to the MTC in order to provide for representation of both Oakland and San Jose.

Quan and Kaplan expressed their support for the legislation to ensure that transportation funding can be distributed in a more equitable manner; they spoke at a hearing of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing. State Senator Mark DeSaulnier (D-Concord) chaired the hearing, which was held in Oakland City Hall.

City Council President Larry Reid, who has testified in support of the legislation at previous hearings, said he was appreciative of the Legislature's effort to move the bill forward.

The commission, which is a designated "metropolitan planning organization" for the nine-county Bay Area, is made up of 19 members – neither Oakland nor San Jose are currently represented.

Advocates of the bill said that Oakland is at the center of the region's transportation network, and that AB 57 is needed to work towards achieving equity in transportation funding.

"The majority of trips begin and end Alameda or Santa Clara Counties. And much of the total transportation impact goes unmeasured because of Oakland's central location. Oakland deserves a seat on the MTC," Quan said.

She cited population projections, auto registration data and major transit hubs like the Oakland International Airport and Port of Oakland as reasons why the city should be represented – and added that the majority of trips begin and end in Alameda or Santa Clara counties.

"Oakland deserves the right to vote," Kaplan said. "This is basic democracy – Oakland is a transit center, and coherent regional planning requires that this crucial, central city be at the table."

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Union City Mayor Mark Green, who chairs the Association of Bay Area Governments and also sits on the MTC, also spoke in support of the bill.

“Oakland is the fourth most sustainable city in the country and is prepared to play a leading role in the Bay Area’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” Quan said. “But we need adequate representation so that Oakland has equitable and balanced access to transportation funding.”

The hearing was the third of three special committee meetings on the bill, which awaits action in the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing. Hearings were also held in San Jose and San Francisco.

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