

WEEKLY FLASH



Tears and Smiles as Bay Area Council Scholars Honored

In an emotional ceremony, this week the Council honored ten outstanding Bay Area high school seniors with scholarships to attend the region’s top colleges. Sponsored by the [Bay Area Family of Funds](#), the Bay Area Council Scholarship Program supports students of exceptional ability from underserved neighborhoods in the Bay Area. These are students who have overcome tremendous obstacles and despite the odds have demonstrated both an amazing potential to succeed and a passion for giving back to their communities. Each year, ten Bay Area Council Scholars are selected to receive awards from \$5,000 to \$10,000. This year we were able to increase awards thanks to the College Access Foundation, who awarded a \$100,000 grant over the next two years to the program.

Here Comes the Future of Bay Area Transportation

The Bay Area Council is working on the region’s new transportation plan, Transportation 2035 (T2035), with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. We are pushing for several priorities. The first is region-wide ramp metering, one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing congestion and travel time. Another is a complete region-wide High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane system. We are pushing for local governments to step up to fund more pothole repairs for local streets, leaving more regional money for regional projects like goods movement, major regional transit capital projects – such as eBart, SMART, BART to San Jose, the Capitol Corridor, etc. – and maximizing the capacity of existing freeways. We also want MTC to assign funding prioritization to areas where local governments have agreed to accommodate increased housing density and transit options. For our full recommendations, [click here](#).

Article of the Week

[This article](#) in the *Contra Costa Times* covers twin challenges to the November High Speed Rail Bond, coming from the California State Senate and Union Pacific Railroad.

Quote of the Week

“They just wanted the opportunity to meet together alone. It’s a deeply personal time, too. You’re sorting out your feelings.” Senator Feinstein, who hosted Senators Obama and Clinton in her Washington home last night for [their first private sit-down](#).

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