

From: [Scott Feeney](#)
To: [MTC-ABAG Info](#)
Subject: Telecommuting mandates are a terrible idea
Date: Friday, September 11, 2020 10:56:17 PM

External Email

Dear MTC commissioners and staff,

I was concerned to hear that the MTC will consider a proposal 9/23 to mandate large employers have 60% telecommuting. Any such mandate is a move in the wrong direction (and that percentage pushes the idea into the territory of the absurd).

Instead, consider requiring large employers to have at least 60% of employees not drive alone to work. Public transportation, carpooling, walking, biking, shuttles, and telecommuting are all good options.

Telecommuting does not work for everyone. We may be doing it out of necessity during a pandemic but that doesn't mean it's equally productive. Moreover, your agency's job is to help the Bay Area get around in safe and sustainable ways. Telling us to mostly just stay at home is an abdication of that responsibility.

It's not a problem for lots of people to commute if we have well-funded, well-integrated, affordable, reliable transit, and streets that are safe for (e-)biking and walking. It becomes a problem only when unsafe streets and confusing, unaffordable, unavailable, or poorly-performing transit force too many people into cars. Which is indeed too often the case in the Bay Area, and that is what MTC should be focusing on fixing.

The ridiculous idea to force telecommuting sounds like it was invented by a suburbanite who can't imagine a different way than driving everywhere, or a retiree who doesn't have to deal with the consequences. I hope you'll reject this idea and instead work to enable sustainable transportation.

Best,
Scott Feeney

