

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Transportation-Air Quality
Conformity Analysis for the Amended Plan Bay Area 2040 and the 2021 TIP
(Conformity Analysis)
Response to Public Comments

The Draft 2021 TIP and Conformity Analysis were released for public review and comment from November 9, 2020 through December 14, 2020 and were presented at a public meeting on December 9, 2020 to receive public comment. The following is a list of the public comments submitted to MTC along with staff's responses to these comments. No comments were made during the public hearing. This list does not include the project listing changes requested by project sponsors. The correspondence are available at <http://mtc.ca.gov/our-work/fund-invest/transportation-improvement-program>.

No.	Name	Agency/Organization	Dated	Response
1	Bill Mayben	Public	Email 11/11/2020	#1
2	John Whitehead	Public	Email 11/22/2020	#2

Comments on the Draft 2021 TIP

Comment

One commenter did not support the adoption of the 2021 TIP at this time and advised that investments should be re-prioritized. The commenter supported expanded funding for public transit and reduced funding for roadway projects.

Response #1

The TIP itself does not select specific transportation improvements for implementation. It is rather a compilation of projects resulting from actions taken by various governing bodies through a comprehensive planning, project selection process.

Project development typically begins at the local level. Local jurisdictions develop their own processes for priority setting and project selection and typically seek public input during those processes. Once a local jurisdiction has decided that a project or suite of projects is a priority, they submitted it to MTC to be considered for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Plan (Plan).

MTC staff reviews the project to determine if it is consistent with local, regional, state and federal priorities and requirements. Among these, are federal requirements that the Plan and the TIP make progress towards achieving performance targets that cover various modes of travel including bicycles, walking, transit and freight, in addition to automobile travel. If a project is included in the Plan it may then be prioritized for funding and implementation.

The vast majority of funding included in the TIP has specific eligibility requirements established in federal regulations, in state statute, or by voter approval, and are controlled by governing bodies other than MTC, such as the Federal Highway Administration, the California

Transportation Commission, Caltrans, County Transportation Agencies or local Transit Districts. For funds controlled by the Commission, project selection occurs through separate Commission action before being included in the TIP – such as through the Regional Transportation Improvement Program, the Transit Capital Priorities (TCP) Program and the One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) Program.

MTC then includes these projects in the TIP after the project sponsor demonstrates project funding, scope and schedule consistent with the Plan. The decision to include a project in the TIP does not represent an allocation or obligation of funds, or final project approval. Before securing funding and approval for project implementation, the project is subject to environmental review and final approvals from federal, state, regional or local agencies depending on fund sources, and project-specific required actions. The environmental process will include additional opportunities to comment on the scope, design elements and impacts of a project.

MTC's Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area's Transportation Improvement Program outlines the various opportunities available to the public and interested stakeholders to get involved in the transportation planning and project development process (see MTC's website at: <http://mtc.ca.gov/our-work/fund-invest/transportation-improvement-program.>)

Further information about funding programs, their specific priorities and their development and project selection processes can be found online at: <http://mtc.ca.gov/our-work/fund-invest.>

Comments on the Draft Conformity Analysis

Comment

One commenter suggested that the Conformity Analysis be updated to include more discussion of the health impacts of transportation-related emissions.

Response #2

While the current Conformity Analysis meets federal air quality conformity requirements as written, we agree that further information on the health impacts of transportation-related emissions would be useful to stakeholders. We propose to include an additional appendix discussing these impacts in the upcoming conformity analysis on Plan Bay Area 2050 and the 2021 TIP, expected later this year.