

# Bay Area *on the move*

## Connecting transportation, land use and climate protection

**RTP** *Regional Transportation Plan*: A master plan required by state and federal law to guide the region's transportation investments for a 25-year period. Updated every four years, the RTP uses projections of population and employment growth, and ensuing changes in travel demand, to help direct future transportation investments. The current RTP, adopted in 2005, is known as Transportation 2030. Now under way is an update of the Bay Area's RTP, known as Transportation 2035: Change in Motion, which is scheduled for adoption in 2009.



**SAFETEA** *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users*: The federal surface transportation legislation passed by Congress in 2005 that authorizes funding programs for highways, transit and travel safety through 2009.

**Smart Growth**: Referred to as "Focused Growth" in the Bay Area, this is an approach to transportation and land-use planning that concentrates growth in city centers and other established neighborhoods to avoid urban sprawl. Smart Growth favors compact land uses, mixed-use development (offices, retail, residential, for example), a range of housing types, and walkable, transit-oriented and bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly communities. The Bay Area is seeking to advance this concept through the FOCUS PDAs and PCAs.

**TLC** *Transportation for Livable Communities*: Funding program created by MTC in 1998 to fund small-scale, community- and transit-oriented projects that improve neighborhood vitality.

**TOD** *Transit-Oriented Development*: A type of development that links land use and transportation facilities to support public transit systems and help reduce sprawl, traffic congestion and air pollution. Transit-oriented developments include housing, along with complementary public uses (jobs, retail and services), at a strategic point along a regional transit system, such as a rail hub. MTC has adopted a TOD Policy that will be applied to transit extension projects in the Bay Area to ensure transit-supportive local land-use plans and policies.

**VHD** *Vehicle Hours of Delay*: The average delay per vehicle multiplied by the total number of vehicles. Delay is the time difference between travel under congested conditions and travel at the posted speed limit.

**VMT** *Vehicle Miles Traveled*: One vehicle (whether a car carrying one passenger or a bus carrying 30 people) traveling one mile constitutes a vehicle mile. VMT is a common measure of the use of Bay Area roads and freeways, and of regional economic activity.



### A Quick Guide to Terms and Acronyms

Though transportation and planning professionals strive to use plain English, we acknowledge a tendency to lapse into an intricate, acronym-filled dialect that often seems to bear little resemblance to the mother tongue. For this we apologize and offer the following guide to some of the key terms and acronyms you're likely to encounter at today's Bay Area *on the Move* event.

**AB 32** *Assembly Bill 32*: The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006; state legislation requiring a statewide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels or lower by the year 2020.

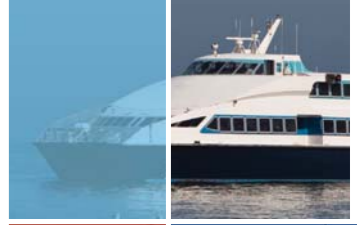
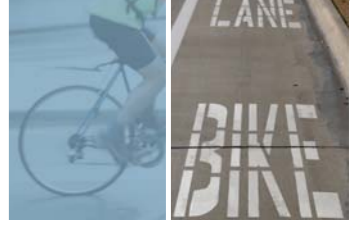
**ABAG** *Association of Bay Area Governments*: The council of governments and designated regional planning agency representing the Bay Area's nine counties and 101 cities. ABAG initiates innovative programs, projects and partnerships to help resolve the region's economic, social and environmental challenges, providing research and analysis and cost-effective local government service programs. ABAG appoints a representative to sit on MTC.

**BAAQMD** *Bay Area Air Quality Management District (more commonly referred to as the Air District)*: Regulates industry and employers to keep air pollution in check and sponsors programs to clean the air. The Air District also works with MTC, ABAG and BCDC on issues that affect transportation, land use and air quality.

**Bay Area Partnership** (also known simply as "The Partnership"): A confederation of the top staff of various transportation agencies in the region, including MTC, public transit operators, county congestion management agencies (CMAs), city and county public works departments, ports, ABAG, the Air District, BCDC, Caltrans, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Partnership works by consensus to improve the overall efficiency and operation of the Bay Area's transportation network, including developing strategies for financing transportation improvements.

**BCDC** *San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission*: A state-established agency with jurisdiction over dredging and filling of San Francisco Bay and limited jurisdiction over development within 100 feet of the Bay. BCDC appoints a representative to sit on MTC.

**Carbon Dioxide**: Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is a gas that is emitted naturally through the carbon cycle or through human activities. The largest source of CO<sub>2</sub> globally is the combustion of fossil fuels (such as coal, oil and gas) in power plants, automobiles, industrial facilities and other sources.





**Carbon Footprint:** A measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced, often measured in units of carbon dioxide.

**Congestion Pricing:** A policy designed to allocate roadway space more efficiently by charging drivers a fee that varies with the level of traffic on a congested roadway.

**Environmental Justice:** This term stems from a presidential executive order to promote equity for disadvantaged communities and to promote the inclusion of low-income residents, and racial and ethnic minorities in decision-making. Local and regional transportation agencies must ensure that services and benefits, as well as burdens, are fairly distributed to avoid discrimination.

**Financial Constraint:** A federal requirement that long-range regional transportation plans reflect realistic assumptions about revenues likely to be available during the 25-year planning period. Projects included in the plan must have a reasonable expectation of being funded, based on anticipated revenues.

**FOCUS** *Focusing Our Vision:* A regional planning initiative spearheaded by ABAG in cooperation with MTC, and in coordination with the Air District and BCDC. FOCUS seeks to protect open space and natural resources while encouraging infill development in existing communities (see PCAs and PDAs below).

**FPI** *Freeway Performance Initiative:* MTC's effort to improve the operations, safety and management of the Bay Area's freeway network via deploying system management strategies, completing the HOV lane system, addressing regional freight issues and closing key freeway infrastructure gaps.

**Greenhouse Gases:** Any of the gases — including carbon dioxide, methane and ozone — whose absorption of solar radiation is responsible for the greenhouse effect, in which the atmosphere allows incoming sunlight to pass through but absorbs heat radiated back from the earth's surface.



**HIP** *Housing Incentive Program:* An incentive program initiated by MTC in 2000 that provides seed money to municipalities and their development partners to encourage the development of compact residential communities near public transit hubs.

**HOT Lane** *High-Occupancy/Toll Lane:* A freeway carpool lane in which solo drivers can pay a fee to travel in the lane during designated hours. Carpools, buses, emergency vehicles and other qualifying vehicles can travel in HOT lanes free of charge. One form of congestion pricing.

**HOV Lane** *High-Occupancy Vehicle Lane:* The technical term for a carpool lane, commuter lane or diamond lane.

**JPC** *Joint Policy Committee:* This consortium coordinates the regional planning efforts of ABAG, the Air District, BCDC and MTC.

**MTC** *Metropolitan Transportation Commission:* The transportation planning, financing and coordinating agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

**PM** *Particulate matter:* A mixture of tiny solid and liquid particles — such as those from dust, dirt, soot or smoke — that are found in the air. When inhaled, these particles can settle deep in the lungs and cause serious health problems.

**PCA** *Priority Conservation Area:* Regionally significant open spaces for which there exists a broad consensus for long-term protection and for which public funds may be invested to promote their protection. These areas will be identified through the FOCUS program.

**PDA** *Priority Development Area:* Locations within existing communities that present infill development opportunities, and are easily accessible to transit, jobs, shopping and services. Local jurisdictions identified these locations voluntarily through the FOCUS program.



**Peak Period:** The time during which the greatest amount of travel occurs. It may be specified as the morning (a.m.) or evening (p.m.) peak.

**Projections 2007:** The most recent long-term forecast from ABAG that describes the changes in population, housing and employment anticipated in the region over the next 25 years. This forecast recognizes emerging trends in markets, demographics and local policies that promote more compact infill development and transit-oriented development. MTC uses Projections 2007 as its underlying socio-demographic and land-use assumptions for planning purposes.

**Resolution 3434** (also known as the *Regional Transit Expansion Program*): A list of high-priority rail and express bus improvements to serve the Bay Area's most congested corridors. These corridors are focused on promoting transit-oriented development to maximize transit ridership. MTC adopted Resolution 3434 in December 2001 to establish clear priorities for the investment of transit expansion funds.

**RHNA** *Regional Housing Needs Assessment:* The Regional Housing Needs process is a state mandate regarding planning for housing in California. ABAG is responsible for allocating this state-determined regional housing need among all of the Bay Area's nine counties and 101 cities. Factors used by ABAG in its allocation process include projected household growth, existing employment and projected employment growth, and projected household and employment growth near transit.

