# DRAFT Public Participation Plan

## for the San Francisco Bay Area

**June 2026**

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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# Chapter 1 — Introduction

This public participation plan (PPP) outlines the many opportunities available to get involved and provide input on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) work. MTC is committed to a transparent decision-making process that is informed by meaningful public consultation and community engagement. MTC wants residents in the San Francisco Bay Area to be involved in the regional planning process. As such, MTC aims to give the public ample opportunities for early and continuous participation opportunities in important projects, plans and decisions, and to provide full public access to key decisions.

The policies and investments made by MTC influence the lives of people who live and work in the Bay Area every single day. To help inform those decisions, MTC is committed to providing ample, accessible opportunities for members of the public, partners and other stakeholders to engage with our policymakers about ongoing programs and projects. This PPP defines our mission and vision for public engagement and participation, along with the processes for communicating with the public about our programs, plans, projects and decisions. This plan seeks to provide Bay Area residents with the information necessary to participate in and influence the regional policy development and decision-making processes.

## What is MTC?

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission is the transportation planning, financing and coordinating agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. MTC supports the region's network of streets, roads, highways, public transit systems, airports and other transportation resources, including the movement of goods through ports and freight rail lines. MTC was created by the California Legislature in 1970 to plan the Bay Area's transportation system. The federal government later designated MTC as the Bay Area's metropolitan planning organization (MPO) charging it with the task of coordinating and deciding how to spend federal transportation dollars that are suballocated to the region. Over the years, MTC staff's work has expanded through state legislation to address other regional issues, including climate adaptation, housing finance and administration of toll bridge revenues.

MTC's role has expanded into multiple authorities — some created by state law or as a joint powers authority to carry out specific duties or projects for residents of the Bay Area.

### Statutory Entities

- **Bay Area Toll Authority** (BATA) – manages the toll revenues from the Bay Area's seven state-owned bridges. BATA also manages FasTrak®, the electronic toll payment system established in state law.
- **Bay Area Housing Finance Authority** (BAHFA) – established in state law, BAHFA is a first-of-its kind regional authority created to address the Bay Area's chronic housing challenges.
- **Public Transit Revenue Measure District** (PTRMD) – established by Senate Bill 63 (2025), which also authorizes to be placed on the November 2026 ballot, the District has many responsibilities, including administrative responsibilities related to the November 3, 2026 statewide general election and additional responsibilities if a regional transportation revenue measure were to be approved by the voters.

### Joint Powers Authorities

- **Bay Area Headquarters Authority** (BAHA) – manages and maintains the Bay Area Metro Center building in San Francisco where ABAG and MTC are housed. BAHA was established as a joint powers authority of MTC, ABAG, the Bay Area Air District and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission — all co-located in the Bay Area Metro Center.
- **Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority** (BAIFA) – oversees the financing, planning and operation of MTC Express Lanes and related transportation projects. BAIFA was established as a joint powers authority of MTC and BATA to administer express lanes and other toll facilities.

## Two Boards, One Staff

In 2008, Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg) was enacted and called upon regional agencies to link together their transportation and land use plans more closely to help achieve climate goals — specifically, reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the transportation sector. This law linked MTC's work more closely with that of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Bay Area's regional planning agency responsible for housing and land use planning.

ABAG is a joint powers authority of the nine counties and 101 cities in the region that works to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among them to build healthier, stronger communities. ABAG helps local governments plan for new housing development and adapt to change while addressing sustainability, energy, resilience and equity. In 2017, the staffs of both agencies were consolidated via a contract for services, and they now work as one integrated organization reporting to two boards to promote better collaboration and integration on common regional goals.

## Public Participation Plan Purpose

Two key planning efforts prompt the development of a public participation plan: the **Regional Transportation Plan** (RTP) and the **Transportation Improvement Program** (TIP). State law also requires a participation plan for the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). Together, the RTP and SCS make up the region's long-range plan known as **Plan Bay Area**. Federal regulations require MTC to engage in a planning process that creates opportunities for public involvement, participation and consultation throughout the development of the RTP. Furthermore, SB 375 requires MTC to develop a public participation plan for the RTP/SCS.

However, the work of MTC expands beyond these planning and funding efforts to encompass a range of plans, projects and programs that work together to improve the quality of life for all Bay Area residents as well as our natural environment. As such, this public participation plan details MTC's decision-making process through policy committees and highlights other opportunities for getting involved and influencing the regional decision-making process. The federal requirements for public participation related to the RTP and TIP are included as **Appendix B. Public Participation Procedures for the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program**, and the state requirements related to the RTP/SCS are included as **Appendix C. Public Participation Plan for Plan Bay Area 2060**.

## Public Participation Opportunities

MTC works on a myriad of plans, projects and programs with a wealth of engagement opportunities. Below is a sampling of major efforts.

- **Plan Bay Area** — The long-range regional plan for the Bay Area is focused on transportation, housing and environmental resilience, and serves as the region's RTP

and SCS. See Appendix C for the complete public participation plan for the next update of Plan Bay Area.

- **Transportation Improvement Program** (TIP) — The TIP is a federally-required comprehensive four-year regional spending plan for near-term transportation projects, programs and investment priorities. Federal regulations require MTC to engage in a planning process that creates opportunities for public involvement, participation and consultation throughout the development of the TIP. The public participation procedures for the TIP are thoroughly detailed in Appendix B.
- **Overall Work Program** (OWP) — The OWP describes the annual budget, allocation and use of federal and state transportation planning funds in the Bay Area. The OWP is developed each fiscal year and details the agency's planning and budgetary priorities for the following fiscal year.

## Who We Engage

MTC aims to engage the entire nine-county San Francisco Bay Area in all its economic, geographic and demographic diversity. The agency is committed to engaging and using input from a range of stakeholders, including:

- **General Public** — all residents of the region, with special consideration for the needs of historically underserved populations, including people of color, communities with low-incomes, persons with disabilities, youth, communities with limited English proficiency and elderly individuals.
- **Community Organizations** — especially those that serve Equity Priority Communities and other groups such as environmental advocates, special interest nonprofit organizations, neighborhood groups, homeowner associations and others.
- **Government Agencies** — public agencies like local transit operators, cities and counties, other regional agencies like the Air District, public health agencies, water districts, county transportation agencies (CTAs), the region's ports and airports, and agencies working on transportation, housing and environmental issues at the state and federal levels, including Federal Land Management Agencies.
- **Business Community** — private-sector entities whose work intersects with transportation and land use planning, including business associations, private transportation providers, freight shippers, consulting firms, technology developers and non-profit business interest groups.

- **Elected Officials** — elected representatives at all levels, including city councils and mayoral offices, county supervisors, and state and federal legislators.
- **Tribal Governments and Native American Communities** — federally recognized tribal governments within the Bay Area and California Native American tribes with tribal cultural resources in the region.

See chapter six for a full list of partners with whom MTC strives to engage.

# Chapter 2 — MTC's Commitment to Engagement

## MTC's Mission, Vision and Values

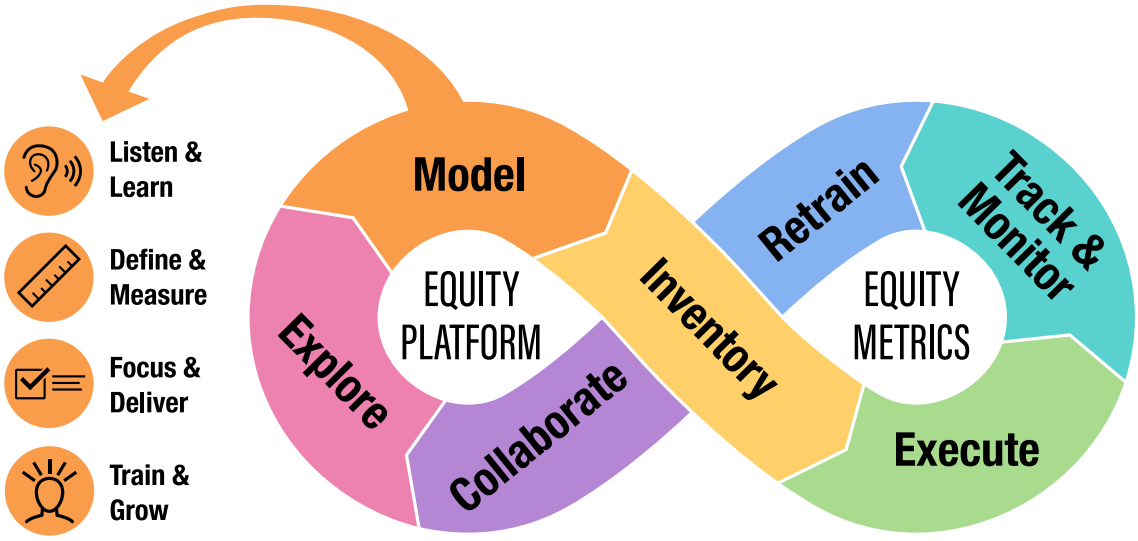
Public participation plays a critical role in supporting **MTC's mission to advance shared local and regional priorities for transportation, housing and the environment**, and in realizing its **vision of a vibrant Bay Area that is connected, equitable and sustainable**. Meaningful engagement strengthens regional decision-making by ensuring that plans, policies and investments reflect lived experiences across the Bay Area's diverse communities. Through inclusive and accessible public participation, MTC seeks to build trust, improve outcomes and foster shared ownership of regional strategies that shape how people move, live and thrive throughout the region. Public input is especially critical in addressing cross-jurisdictional challenges and aligning regional priorities with local needs and capacities.

This PPP is grounded in **MTC's core values of collaboration, equity, excellence, innovation and integrity**, which guide how the agency engages with the public and its partners. MTC is committed to valuing all voices and perspectives by reducing barriers to participation, prioritizing outreach to historically underserved communities, and creating multiple, culturally responsive ways for the public to engage. Engagement practices emphasize transparency and accountability, ensuring that public input is clearly documented, meaningfully considered and communicated back to participants. By continuously improving engagement tools and approaches, MTC aims to provide high-quality public participation processes that support equitable outcomes and strengthen confidence in regional decision-making.

## Equity Platform

MTC defines equity as inclusion into a Bay Area where everyone can participate, prosper and reach their full potential. The agency is committed to advancing equity through policies, investments and processes that address historic disinvestment and structural

barriers faced by historically underserved populations, including people with low incomes and communities of color.




Adopted by the Commission in January 2023 (Resolution No. 4559), MTC's Equity Platform provides a framework for how the agency approaches equity across its programs, decision-making and external engagement. The platform is grounded in four interconnected pillars:

- Listen and Learn
- Define and Measure
- Focus and Deliver
- Train and Grow

The Equity Platform is an ongoing and iterative process that guides staff in designing solutions centered on affected communities, expanding access to opportunity for those most impacted by exclusion, and shifting decision-making in ways that meaningfully reflect community priorities. It also emphasizes continual learning and capacity-building to strengthen institutional practices that support fairness, inclusion and accountability. Additional information about MTC's Equity Platform is available at mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/what-mtc/equity-platform.

Operationalizing the Equity Platform within public and community engagement means intentionally revising policies and implementing practices that elevate voices historically underrepresented in regional decision-making. This includes outreach and engagement approaches that prioritize historically underserved populations. Through these efforts, MTC seeks to ensure that public participation processes are accessible, inclusive and responsive, and that community input meaningfully informs regional plans, programs, and investments.

## Guiding Principles: Our Vision for Engagement

MTC's guiding principles for engagement serve as our vision for public participation and are rooted in our mission to advance equity in the Bay Area by investing resources in engagement strategies that lift the voices of those who have been historically left out of the decision-making process, and working to ensure historically underserved populations can meaningfully influence decision-making.

1. **Effective engagement has a clear purpose.**
   Defining the purpose for engaging the public, understanding the context and identifying the audience of those affected is imperative to ensure meaningful engagement from the standpoint of the agency and the participants.

2. **Effective engagement requires two-way education and relationship building.**
   Acknowledging the expertise that exists within a given community and boosting engagement with activities that increase mutual education fosters more productive conversations. Ongoing, mutual education improves outcomes and requires cultivating relationships with partners and communities to build trust and achieve consensus.

3. **Effective engagement is not one-size-fits-all.**
   Efforts must be tailored to each unique project and audience to enhance community engagement while making every effort to increase participation opportunities for those most impacted by past and current decisions.

4. **Clear communication is essential in effective engagement.**
   Public engagement must be conducted through clear and compelling communications that are appropriate for the intended audience. Leveraging inclusive storytelling builds shared understanding.

5. **Effective engagement demands accountability.**
   Informing the public of opportunities to participate in the process and clearly demonstrating how community voices have influenced planning and policy decisions builds confidence in the public process.

6. **Engagement requires openness and transparency.**
   An open and transparent public participation process empowers low-income communities and communities of color to participate in decision-making that affects them (adopted as an environmental justice principle by the Commission in 2006).

# Engagement Framework

Our engagement framework describes the iterative process MTC follows when implementing public engagement programs and activities, and guides *how* we conduct engagement.

**Framework Element 1: Coordinate Engagement Efforts Across the Agency to Reduce Engagement Fatigue**

MTC recognizes that residents, community-based organizations and partner agencies are often asked to participate in multiple overlapping outreach efforts across plans, programs and decision points. As a prerequisite for engagement, and to reduce "engagement fatigue" and improve the quality of participation, MTC will strengthen internal coordination, so engagement requests are better timed, more clearly connected to decisions, and less duplicative across teams and projects.

**Framework Element 2: Communicate Early and Often**

MTC structures major planning initiatives and funding decisions to provide the public with many opportunities to help shape outcomes. MTC provides timely information to raise awareness of upcoming projects, key milestones and opportunities to influence policy development and decision-making processes.

**Framework Element 3: Enable Access for All**

MTC works to provide all Bay Area residents with opportunities for meaningful participation, regardless of ability, age or income. This strategy aims to increase activities that reach communities who have been historically left out of policy decisions that affect them. Further, MTC recognizes that individuals should not need to be transportation professionals to understand our work.

**Framework Element 4: Prioritize Co-creation and Plain Language**

MTC aims to conduct engagement activities that design and create solutions in partnership and collaboration with communities affected by policies and decisions. MTC strives to create clear content to foster informed, productive dialogue throughout the engagement process.

**Framework Element 5: Respond and Report Back**

MTC is committed to summarizing comments heard from participants on impending actions, so decision-makers and the public have a clear understanding of the depth and breadth of opinions on a given issue. MTC also strives to report back on how input informed staff analysis and decisions — and, when outcomes do not align with comments received, to explain why.

To remain effective when comment channels receive high-volume, duplicative or automated submissions (including template or AI-generated messages), MTC will organize input to identify unique issues and ideas, distinguish form/duplicate messages from substantive individualized comments, and document both volume and content in a transparent manner.

**Framework Element 6: Assess Impact**

MTC evaluates our engagement activities in an effort to inform and improve future engagement. Evaluation helps determine who was missing from the process and identifies opportunities for improvement and corrective action.

# Chapter 3 — Opportunities for Ongoing Participation

## Policy Committees

MTC carries out much of its work through policy committees, which serve as the primary forums where the public has direct access to the Commission and where regional transportation, housing and funding decisions are discussed, debated and shaped. These committees review proposals, hear staff presentations and consider public input before making recommendations to the full Commission. As a result, the committee level is where most substantive policy deliberation occurs.

MTC strongly encourages public participation in policy committee meetings, as this is where public comment can be most impactful in the decision-making process. All committee meetings are open to the public and include opportunities for members of the public to observe proceedings, participate virtually and provide input directly to decision-makers.

A complete calendar of committee and Commission meetings is available on the MTC website at mtc.ca.gov/meetings-events. Members of the public may also receive email updates about individual committee meetings by contacting the MTC Public Information Office at info@bayareametro.gov or (415) 778-6757 and requesting to be added to a committee's distribution list.

Members of the public can watch meetings via webcast on the MTC website, or they can participate in meetings either in-person or via Zoom. To provide live public comment, participants must join the meeting by Zoom or attend in person. Instructions for attending or participating remotely are provided on the Meetings & Events page by selecting the specific meeting of interest.

### MTC Committees

The following committees have federal and statutory planning responsibilities and make recommendations to the Commission:

- **Joint MTC-ABAG Legislation Committee** — A joint committee of MTC and ABAG that oversees both agencies' legislative advocacy priorities, including positions on state bills and budget requests.
- **Planning Committee** — Oversees MTC's planning studies, including updates to Plan Bay Area. Typically meets jointly with the ABAG Administrative Committee.
- **Programming and Allocations Committee** — Develops the policies and recommendations about how to spend regional, state and federal funds, and allocates funding to specific projects.
- **Regional Network Management Committee** (formerly the Operations Committee) — oversees the Regional Network Management framework and many of the programs MTC runs for the public, including MTC's traveler services like 511 and Clipper®, as well as highways and major roads.

Other MTC Committees include:

- **Administration Committee** — Oversees and approves administrative tasks, including staff oversight, consultant contracts, budgeting and financial policies, reports and audits. Has final decision-making authority over most agenda items.
- **BAIFA Network & Operations Committee** — Oversees the BAIFA Express Lane network and State Route 37 tolling.
- **BAIFA Regional Toll Policy Committee** — Guides BAIFA on coordination of toll policies and express lane planning.

In addition, BAHFA and BATA have their own oversight committees:

- **BAHFA Oversight Committee** — Oversees BAHFA's work to address the Bay Area's chronic housing challenges.
- **BATA Oversight Committee** — Oversees policies and funding decisions related to BATA, including FasTrak, the region's electronic toll collection system.

Furthermore, MTC believes that strong collaboration creates better transportation systems for the Bay Area and has several interagency committees that work with many partners to manage a transportation network that ranges from sidewalks to regional rail, and that is owned and operated by dozens of government agencies.

## ABAG Committees

MTC's work is sometimes conducted jointly with ABAG. For example, ABAG's General Assembly periodically receives updates on Plan Bay Area, and the Legislation Committee

is a joint committee of ABAG and MTC. Additionally, ABAG's Administrative Committee meets jointly with MTC's Planning Committee to discuss and advance decisions on the long-range plan and other relevant topics.

- **ABAG Administrative Committee** — Studies recommendations assigned by the ABAG Executive Board (i.e., the executive director selection) and discuss joint efforts such as Plan Bay Area.
- **Joint MTC-ABAG Legislation Committee** — A joint committee of MTC and ABAG that oversees both agencies' legislative advocacy priorities, including positions on state bills and budget requests.

Full information on ABAG's policy committees is available at abag.ca.gov/about-abag/what-we-do/how-we-govern.

# MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council

In March 2026, the MTC Policy Advisory Council and ABAG's Regional Planning Committee merged into the new MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council. MTC and ABAG are committed to including the public in an open and transparent process of making housing and transportation decisions for the Bay Area. Made up of 27 residents with diverse perspectives, the Council advises MTC and ABAG on issues related to housing and land use, transportation and the environment.

The Council meets on the first Friday of each month, and its meetings are open to the public. To be notified about MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council meetings, contact the MTC Public Information Office at (415) 778-6747 or info@bayareametro.gov and request to be added to the Council's distribution list.

# Other Engagement Activities

## Public Meetings and Events

Public meetings on specific issues or projects are held as needed. These meetings can range from large in-person open houses and community workshops to small group discussions or focus groups to webinars or online workshops. To solicit comments on various plans, projects and programs, MTC holds meetings online or throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. Meetings are located and scheduled to maximize public participation (including virtual, evening meetings, etc.). MTC provides notice of upcoming

meetings and events on the MTC website. If appropriate, e-mail announcements and news releases are also sent to the public and local media outlets, respectively.

## Public Hearings

Public hearings are sometimes required by law for certain policy decisions. Notice of these public hearings is placed on MTC's website, and — when required by law — in the legal section of numerous newspapers in the region, including newspapers circulated in historically underserved communities of the Bay Area. Materials to be considered at public hearings are posted online and made available to interested persons upon request. To be notified when public hearings are scheduled, contact the MTC Public Information Office at (415) 778-6747 or info@bayareametro.gov and request to be added to the public hearing distribution list.

## Online Engagement

### *Websites*

**MTC's website** — mtc.ca.gov — is targeted to audiences ranging from transit riders to transportation professionals, elected officials and news media seeking information on particular programs, projects and public meetings. Updated daily, the site provides information about MTC's projects and programs, the agency's structure and governing body, and upcoming public meetings and workshops. It contains the names, e-mail addresses and phone numbers for staff and Commission members; all of MTC's current planning and funding documents; information about the MTC-ABAG Library and a link to the library catalog; as well as detailed facts about the region's travel patterns. It also includes important links to partner government agencies as well as to other MTC sites such as the Bay Area's 511.org, ClipperCard.com, and BayAreaFasTrak.org.

**The Vital Signs website** — vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov — provides a wealth of data on Bay Area travel and commute patterns. Vital Signs tracks trends related to transportation, land and people, the economy, the environment and social equity. This data-driven website compiles dozens of indicators; each is presented with interactive visualizations that allow readers to explore historical trends, examine differences between cities and counties, and even compare the Bay Area with other peer metropolitan areas.

**The ABAG website** — abag.ca.gov — is targeted to local government staff and elected officials. The site provides information on ABAG's work, as well as the agency's structure

and governing body; upcoming public meetings and events; and technical assistance resources for local staff.

**The Plan Bay Area website** — planbayarea.org — is the central hub for information about the long-range plan, including key milestones, engagement opportunities and materials for public review. The site is targeted to all audiences interested in getting involved in the long-range plan development process.

### *Social Media Channels*

MTC has a plethora of social media channels that help to engage the Bay Area's nearly eight million residents.

#### MTC's main social media channels

- Facebook, MTCBATA
- Instagram, MTCBATA
- https://twitter.com/mtcbata Bluesky, MTCBATA
- Threads, MTCBATA
- YouTube, MTCBATA
- TikTok, MTCBATA
- LinkedIn, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

#### Other MTC social media channels

- Clipper
  - Facebook, BayAreaClipper
  - Twitter, @BayAreaClipper
  - YouTube, BayAreaClipper_Official, https://www.youtube.com/@clipperonyourphone4742
  - Instagram, bayareaclipper_official
  - Discord, bayareaclipper_official (alerts channel)
  - Reddit, u/clippercard_official & subreddit r/bayareaclippercard
- FasTrak®
  - Facebook, BayAreaFasTrak
  - Twitter, @fastrakbayarea
  - Vimeo, bayareafastrak
- 511
  - Facebook, 511SFBay
  - Instagram, 511sfbay
  - Twitter, @511SFBay
  - Bluesky, 511SFBay

### *Bay Link Blog*

The Bay Link blog is a source for news and insights from MTC and ABAG. The blog compiles news headlines about transportation, housing, the environment and the economy from around the Bay Area and shares original content about MTC's and ABAG's work. The blog is available at: blog.bayareametro.gov.

### *e-News*

MTC maintains several distribution lists used to send out announcements, e-newsletters, meeting agendas, project updates, and much more. To sign up to receive updates from MTC, visit mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/public-participation/get-involved. To be added to the distribution lists of MTC committees, contact the MTC Public Information Office at info@bayareametro.gov or (415) 778-6757 and request to be added to the individual committee distribution list.

As required by state statute, Plan Bay Area and BAHFA offer a simple way for the public to register to receive updates. Plan Bay Area has an e-newsletter that is sent periodically, delivering project updates and announcements during the plan development process. To sign up to receive Plan Bay Area updates, visit planbayarea.org/get-involved/mailing-list.

BAHFA also has a simple way to sign up for updates, including news on their projects and engagement opportunities. To sign up to receive BAHFA updates, visit abag.ca.gov/our-work/housing/bahfa-bay-area-housing-finance-authority.

## Public Information Office

MTC's commitment to public participation includes staff dedicated to involving the public in our work. In addition to the components of MTC's public outreach program detailed in this plan, public information staff can:

- request translation services or ADA accommodations for members of the public who speak languages other than English or are visually- or hearing-impaired.
- help and make available to the public any item on its websites (including meeting notices, agendas, meeting materials, etc.) when a person does not have Internet access.
- work with interested organizations to arrange for staff and/or Commissioners to make presentations to community groups.
- respond to inquiries from the public and media received by:

- Telephone: (415) 778-6757
- Mail: 375 Beale Street, Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94105
- E-mail: info@bayareametro.gov

## Multilingual Phone Lines

Members of the public can reach public information staff in various languages:

- English: (415) 778-6757
- Chinese: (415) 778-6689
- Spanish: (415) 778-6656

## Plan Bay Area Comment Line

Plan Bay Area has a dedicated listening line that allows members of the public to participate in the plan update process via phone. Participants can record their comments to be entered into the official record. Callers can leave Plan Bay Area-related comments in English, Cantonese, Mandarin and Spanish by calling (415) 778-2292.

## Library

The MTC-ABAG Library provides access to both a digital and physical collection of materials on transportation planning, housing, demographics, economic trends, public policy issues and more. The library, located at 375 Beale Street, offers a collection of publications from MTC and ABAG, as well as research on current topics, historical documents from transit agencies and local governments, and more.

The digital collection can be accessed through the library catalog, and the physical collection can be accessed by making an appointment to visit the library. Call or email our American Library Association-accredited librarian for reference assistance or to make an appointment to visit the library's physical collection at (415) 778-5236 or library@bayareametro.gov. MTC also offers a searchable, complete digital archive of reports, plans and more at mtc.ca.gov/digital-library.

# Chapter 4 — Engagement Techniques

MTC uses various techniques to engage the public. A menu of the participation methods we employ is outlined below and includes traditional approaches as well as opportunities to engage virtually. These techniques are informed by outreach we conducted in advance of updating this plan.

## Traditional Methods

- Conduct meetings, workshops and open houses at varied times of day, including evening/weekend meetings, to encourage participation.
- Present to existing groups and organizations, co-host events with community groups, business associations, etc.
- Participate in community events.
- Contract with community-based organizations in Equity Priority Communities for focused outreach.
- Use “pop-up” workshops/meetings in public gathering places. These are on-the-spot meetings or workshops held in locations where the public is already gathered.
- Organize small-group discussions such as focus groups with participants recruited randomly from telephone polls or recruited by stakeholder interest groups.
- Sponsor a topical forum or summit with partner agencies, the media or other community organizations.
- Host question-and-answer sessions with planners and policy board members.

## Virtual Engagement

- Virtual workshops/open houses hosted via online meeting platforms like Zoom.
- Provide remote access to meetings by webcasting meetings via Facebook, YouTube, websites, etc.
- Host telephone town halls or online webinars.
- Provide asynchronous opportunities for participating (e.g., webinar recordings with online comment forms, interactive games, etc.).
- Online interactive surveys, polls.

- Use social media and paid digital promotion to reach a larger audience.
- Post video recordings of past public meetings/workshops.
- Post written or display materials from in-person meetings online.
- Encourage interaction among participants via web (e.g., online discussion boards, etc.).
- Provide access to planning data (such as maps, charts, background on travel models, forecasts, census data, research reports, etc.).
- Post information online in advance of public meetings.

## Visualization Techniques

- Maps
- Charts, illustrations, photographs
- Table-top displays and models
- Electronic voting at workshops
- PowerPoint slide shows
- Videos (traditional, animated, simulation)

## Polls and Surveys

- Statistically valid telephone polls Electronic surveys via web and SMS-based (text) surveys
- Intercept interviews/surveys where people congregate, such as at transit hubs.
- Printed surveys distributed at meetings, transit hubs, on-board transit vehicles, etc.

## Online and Printed Materials

- User-friendly, accessible documents (including use of executive summaries)
- Review of publications to ensure use of plain language
- Postcards, mailers, etc.
- Maps, charts, photographs and other visual means of displaying information
- Use of the Bay Link blog to share important or complex information in an accessible manner

## Targeted Mailings/Flyers

- Work with community-based organizations to distribute flyers/information via their channels.
- Periodic e-newsletters, e-announcements, etc.
- E-mail to targeted distribution lists
- Distribute “Take One” flyers to key community organizations
- Place notices on board transit vehicles and at transit hubs

## Local Media

- Issue news/press releases
- Invite reporters to news briefings.
- Conduct media roundtables to educate reporters on complex topics.
- Meet with editorial staff.
- Submit opinion pieces/commentaries to local news media.
- Purchase display ads.
- Negotiate inserts into local printed media.
- Visit ethnic media outlets to encourage use of MTC/ABAG news releases.
- Place speakers on radio/TV talk shows.
- Public Service Announcements on radio and TV.
- Develop content for public access/cable television programming.
- Develop civic journalism partnerships.

## Notification of Meetings and Events

- Maintain an updated Meeting & Events online calendar.
- Post meeting and events announcements on websites.
- Use paid digital promotion to promote events and meetings.
- Use of the Bay Link blog to promote events and meetings.
- Distribute e-mail blasts to share important announcements, project updates, etc.
- Disseminate information through partnerships with local government, transit operators and community-based and interest organizations.
- Distribute periodic e-newsletters.

- Disseminate information via social media channels.
- Disseminate information via local media.

## Techniques for Involving Low-Literacy Populations

- Use plain language in all materials and presentations.
- Train staff to be alert to and anticipate the needs of low-literacy participants in meetings, workshops, etc.
- Robust use of visualization techniques to communicate about complex topics, including maps and/or graphics to illustrate trends, choices being debated, etc.
- Personal interviews or use of audio recording to obtain oral comments.
- Use of a listening line for participants to submit audio comments via phone.

## Techniques for Involving Communities with Low Income and Communities of Color

- Presentations and discussions with the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council.
- Paid partnerships with community-based organizations that are trusted by the relevant communities with whom we are trying to engage to co-host meetings and remove barriers to participation by offering assistance, such as childcare, meals, translation services, etc.
- Distribute “Take One” flyers on transit vehicles and at transit hubs.
- Outreach in the community (such as pop-up meetings at flea markets, libraries, health centers, etc.).
- Use of community and ethnic media outlets to announce participation opportunities.
- Paid informational stories in ethnic media.

## Techniques for Involving Limited-English Proficient Populations

See also MTC’s Final Revised Plan for Special Language Services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Populations, which can be found in English, Spanish and Chinese on MTC’s website at mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/public-participation/language-assistance.

- Conduct meetings entirely in languages other than English (e.g., Spanish, Chinese).
- Train staff to be alert to, and to anticipate the needs of participants who speak languages other than English at meetings and workshops.
- Personal interviews or use of video/audio recording to obtain oral comments in languages other than English.
- Use of social media channels used by persons who speak languages other than English.
- Translated documents and web content on key initiatives.
- Translated materials; have translators available at meetings, upon request.
- Include information on meeting notices about how to request translation assistance.
- Translated vital news releases and outreach to non-English media, such as radio, television, newspapers and social media.
- When conducting statistically valid polls, surveys or focus groups, offer the information in other languages.
- Follow the guidance in the MTC language assistance plan.

## Techniques for Involving Native American Tribes

- Send tribal governments and relevant tribal representatives, organizations or groups timely and adequate public notices and announcements.
- Connect with tribal governments and establish an expected level of communication.
- Actively seek tribal government input on MTC projects and programs through direct contact with Chairpersons and/or tribal representatives, as appropriate.
- Respond to all tribal government comments.
- Respond to all consultation requests from tribes.
- Intentionally create engagement opportunities for tribes to be involved in the regional planning process.

## Techniques for Reporting on Impact

- Present/share information on what was heard with decision-makers.
- Report how public input influenced the process to decision-makers.
- Summarize key themes of public comments in staff reports to policy committees.

- Notify participants when reporting how public input influenced the process and/or when sharing information on what was heard.
- Use e-newsletter articles to report back to participants.
- Post comments, key themes and/or how feedback influenced the process online.

# Chapter 5 — Partners

MTC aims to meaningfully engage those affected by its policies, actions and decisions and to tailor engagement efforts to each project and its respective audience.

Below is a sample list of partners MTC strives to engage in its work as required by federal and state law:

- affected public agencies
- affordable housing advocates and organizations
- airport operations
- bicycle and pedestrian advocacy organizations
- broad-based business organizations
- chambers of commerce
- city managers
- commercial property interests
- communities with low incomes
- community development agencies and organizations
- community-based organizations
- county transportation agencies
- economic development agencies
- educational community and institutions
- elderly and retired persons
- elected officials
- environmental advocates
- environmental protection agencies
- Equity Priority Communities
- federal agencies
- federal land management agencies
- freight shippers
- general public
- health and wellness representatives
- home builder representatives

- homeowner associations
- landowners
- individuals with limited English proficiency
- local government staff
- local planning departments
- natural disaster risk reduction agencies/organizations
- neighborhood and community groups
- neighborhood councils
- organizations serving rural area residents
- parent organizations
- persons with disabilities
- private providers of transportation
- private sector
- providers of freight transportation services
- public agencies
- public health and wellness representatives
- public ports
- public sector
- regional government agencies
- renter/tenant advocacy organizations
- representatives of public transportation employees
- representatives of the disabled
- representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities
- representatives of users of public transit
- state agencies
- students and youth
- tourism interests
- transit agencies
- transportation and transit advocates
- transportation commissions
- tribal governments and Indigenous communities

# Chapter 6 — Tribal Government Consultation and Engagement with Native American Tribes

MTC acknowledges that the land that makes up the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area has been home to diverse groups of Indigenous peoples with unique cultures and deeply rooted relationships to the land for over 10,000 years. MTC acknowledges these diverse groups of Indigenous peoples as the traditional caretakers of the land that makes up the Bay Area. We honor their connection to the land and the deep respect they hold for this region.

MTC is committed to furthering meaningful partnerships with the tribes of this region and consulting with tribal governments prior to making decisions, taking actions, or implementing programs that may impact their communities. MTC's work strives to ensure programs and activities avoid or minimize adverse impacts to cultural and other important tribal resources.

## Federally Recognized Tribes

There are six federally recognized Native American tribes in the San Francisco Bay Area:

- Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians
- Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians
- The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria
- Koi Nation of Northern California
- Lytton Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

MTC is committed to consulting with the region's tribal governments in our major plans and in projects of priority to tribes. Furthermore, MTC routinely invites and encourages the tribes to request formal government-to-government consultation at any time and on any project, program, action or decision. When requested, MTC commissioners and executive staff will participate in government-to-government consultation with tribal governments

and will conduct consultation and/or engagement activities in locations convenient for tribal governments.

The groundwork for engagement and consultation with our region's tribal governments occurs early in an engagement process and is conducted according to tribal preference. MTC staff is committed to working with tribal leaders and their representatives to co-create engagement activities and present topics of interest to the tribes. Additionally, MTC commits to conducting individual meetings and government-to-government consultation with each tribe, upon request.

## California Native American Tribes

It is important to note that there are many other tribes with connections to the lands that make up the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area, including tribes that are not recognized by the federal government. MTC recognizes these tribes as important stakeholders in the regional planning process that also are affected by MTC's work and decisions. As such, MTC is committed to building relationships with and engaging the many tribes connected to our region, including:

- Amah Mutsun Tribal Band
- Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista
- Big Valley Rancheria/Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community
- Chicken Ranch Rancheria Me-Wuk Indians of California
- Coastanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe
- Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Guidiville Indian Rancheria
- Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan
- Ione Band of Miwok Indians
- Kletsel Dehe Wintun Nation of the Cortina Rancheria
- Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians
- Mishewal-Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley
- Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area
- Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe
- Northern Valley Yokuts Tribe
- Pinoleville Pomo Nation

- Potter Valley Tribe
- Redwood Valley Rancheria
- Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians Rumsen Am:a Tur:ataj Ohlone
- Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians
- Tamien Nation
- The Confederated Villages of Lisjan
- The Ohlone Indian Tribe
- Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians
- Tule River Indian Tribe
- United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
- Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band
- Wilton Rancheria
- Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

Furthermore, MTC provides written notification to all tribes in the region, including federally recognized tribes and all California Native American tribes on the Native American Heritage Commission list with tribal cultural resources in the Bay Area, about the opportunity for engagement in the long-range regional plan update process, as required by Assembly Bill 52.

## Plan Bay Area 2060, TIP and OWP Engagement

For Plan Bay Area 2060, the next update to the region's long-range plan, the 2027 TIP and the OWP, staff will intentionally build on the relationships developed and the lessons learned over the course of the Plan Bay Area 2050+ development process. Tribes will be engaged in these efforts through early notification, opportunities for consultation, and clear opportunities to provide comment.

Staff will begin with early and direct outreach to each tribe, including the region's six federally recognized tribes and the 31 California tribes with cultural affiliations to the region. This means confirming preferred points of contact and how each tribe wants to communicate and engage with MTC. Engagement will not be limited to formal comment periods. The tribes will be invited to participate early and stay engaged throughout the

development of these important documents, and the opportunity for government-to-government consultation will remain an open invitation to all tribes.

Staff also will focus on ensuring tribal input informs outcomes, not just process. Tribal feedback will help inform staff's understanding of culturally sensitive areas, ancestral lands and stewardship priorities, and how those considerations can be incorporated into the long-range planning process. The input will be documented and reflected in staff analysis and policy discussions, and when something cannot be incorporated directly, staff will be transparent about how feedback was considered.

MTC's goal is to continue strengthening relationships with the tribes, so tribal perspectives meaningfully inform regional planning and investment decisions.

# Chapter 7 — Revising the Public Participation Plan

MTC's public participation plan is not a static document, but rather an ongoing strategy that is periodically reviewed and updated to reflect changing circumstances and current best practices. Additionally, as part of every public engagement program developed for Plan Bay Area, MTC sets performance measures to gauge the effectiveness of the engagement program. This evaluation serves to inform and improve future engagement programs, including future updates to this public participation plan.

Furthermore, this PPP may be subject to minor changes from time to time. Minor changes will be noticed and posted on the MTC website. For major updates, the PPP will be released for public review and comment for a period of 45 days, as required by federal regulations, and also will include review by the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council, the Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee and approval by the Commission. MTC will extend the public comment period by an additional 45 days in instances where major revisions are proposed in response to comments heard.

# Appendix A.

## Public Participation Plan

## Statutory Requirements

**DRAFT**

**June 2026**

# Public Participation Plan — Statutory Requirements

MTC's Public Participation Plan is developed and updated in accordance with guidelines established by federal laws and regulations and state statutes (listed below) that affect the work of metropolitan planning organizations like MTC.

## Federal Requirements

- **Federal Metropolitan Planning Law and Regulations,** 23 USC 134 et seq. and 23 CFR Part 450 et seq.
- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA),** Public Law as passed by Congress and signed by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. on November 15, 2021.
- **Federal Clean Air Act of 1970,** 42 USC 85 and 40 CFR Parts 50-99.
- **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,** prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin in carrying out planning and programming activities.
- **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990,** 42 USC 126 and 49 CFR 27.19.
- **Executive Order 12372 — Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs,** signed July 14, 1982 by President Ronald Reagan.
- **DOT Title VI Order (DOT Order 1000.12C)**, explicitly ties community participation plans to Title VI compliance, especially for federally funded programs.

## State Requirements

- **Assembly Bill 52,** enacted in 2012, amended CEQA to create a separate category for cultural resources and established a notification and consultation process with affected Tribes.
- **Senate Bill 375,** enacted in 2008, requires ABAG and MTC to jointly develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy as part of the Regional Transportation Plan.
- **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA),** passed in 1970, requires public agencies and local governments to evaluate and disclose the environmental impacts

of projects or other major land use decisions, and to limit or avoid those impacts to the extent feasible.

- **California Public Records Act,** adopted in 1968, requires disclosure of records to the public upon request unless otherwise exempt.
- **Ralph M. Brown Act,** passed in 1953, guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies.

# Appendix B.

# Public Participation Procedures for the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program

**DRAFT**

**June 2026**

**This appendix fulfills the requirements under 23 CFR Part 450.**

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# Public Participation Procedures for the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program

The long-range regional transportation plan looks at least 20 years into the future and charts the course for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area, connecting the dots between transportation, housing and environmental resilience. The current plan, known as Plan Bay Area 2050+, serves as both the federally required Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the region's Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), which is required by state law. Plan Bay Area 2050+ identifies a path to make the Bay Area more equitable for all residents and more resilient in the face of unexpected challenges through 35 long-range strategies complemented by 65 near-term implementation actions.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the region's four-year, near-term transportation investment list — it includes the projects and programs the region expects to fund and deliver in the next few years. The TIP implements the priorities of the RTP, and it includes projects and programs with federal transportation funds and other major projects of regional significance. By law, the TIP must be financially realistic — it can only include projects when funding is reasonably expected to be available. The TIP also must meet federal air quality requirements and show how investments help achieve regional performance goals, such as safety and system reliability.

Federal regulations require MTC to engage in a planning process that creates opportunities for public involvement, participation and consultation throughout the development of the RTP and the TIP. Appendix B outlines how to get involved in the development of these two important regional documents.

## Public Participation in the RTP and TIP

Because of its comprehensive, long-term vision, the long-range regional plan, which includes the RTP, provides the earliest and best opportunity for interested persons and public agencies to influence MTC's policy and investment priorities for the Bay Area. It is

during the development of Plan Bay Area that important policy and investment priorities are established, and broad, regional policy decisions are made.

Another opportunity for public participation, but further along in the process, is the TIP, which is a programming document that identifies funding only for those programs and projects that are already included in the RTP and have secured at least partial funding. A mid-point between the RTP and TIP is the project selection process. Interested residents can become versed in how a transportation project moves from an idea to implementation with the TIP Fact Sheet that is available on MTC's website: mtc.ca.gov/funding/transportation-improvement-program-tip.

An easy way to get involved in the development of Plan Bay Area and the TIP is to sign up to receive updates from MTC: mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/public-participation/get-involved. MTC also has a dedicated mailing list for Plan Bay Area available at planbayarea.org/get-involved/mailing-list. To receive updates about the TIP, contact MTC's Public Information Office at info@bayareametro.gov or (415) 778-6757 and request to be added to the TIP email distribution list.

## A. Regional Transportation Plan

The long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) explains how transportation in the Bay Area will be planned and improved over the next 20 years or more. It lays out the region's main goals and priorities for transportation, including which projects and policies should come first. The plan also explains how much money the region expects to have and how that funding should be spent to meet the most important transportation needs. Federal law requires the RTP to be updated at least every four years, so it reflects current priorities, realities and estimates of future transportation funding and transportation needs.

Under California Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg, Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008) the RTP must include a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for achieving a state-mandated target for reducing per-capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from cars and light trucks and identify specific areas in the nine-county Bay Area to accommodate all the region's projected population growth, including all income groups, for at least the next 25 years. The law requires MTC and ABAG to jointly develop the SCS to integrate planning for growth and housing with transportation. These two statutory planning requirements are fulfilled as part of the broader regional plan, known as Plan Bay Area. The current plan, adopted in March 2026, is called Plan Bay Area 2050+ (planbayarea.org/finalplan). The next major

update of the RTP/SCS will be known as Plan Bay Area 2060. SB 375 calls for a separate Public Participation Plan for development of the Regional Transportation Plan and the Sustainable Communities Strategy, and therefore Appendix C of this Public Participation Plan describes the Public Participation Plan for Plan Bay Area 2060.

MTC prepares several technical companion documents for Plan Bay Area updates. These include transportation air quality conformity analyses (to ensure clean air mandates are met) per federal Clean Air Act requirements, among others. If state law requires it, a program-level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would also be prepared. Certain revisions or updates to Plan Bay Area may warrant a revision or update to these technical documents. The process for preparing and conducting interagency consultation on the conformity analysis is described in MTC Resolution No. 3757, Revised.

MTC also prepares an equity analysis of Plan Bay Area to determine whether historically underserved populations in the Bay Area share equitably in the benefits of the long-range regional plan without bearing a disproportionate share of the burdens. As an assessment of the region's long-range transportation investments, this analysis is conducted at a regional, program-level scale. This assessment of the long-range plan is intended to satisfy federal requirements under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. For each update of Plan Bay Area, Appendix C will provide more information on how the equity analysis will be conducted throughout that update of the RTP.

## *Updating and Revising the Regional Transportation Plan*

An update of an existing RTP/SCS (Plan Bay Area) is required at least every four years, and MTC alternates between major (more comprehensive) and minor (more limited and focused) updates from cycle to cycle.

### Major and Minor Updates

Plan Bay Area updates include extensive public consultation and engagement involving thousands of Bay Area residents; local and partner agency officials and staff; private sector stakeholders; community-based and advocacy organizations; and other interested party over many months. The MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council (see Chapter 3 of the Draft 2026 Public Participation Plan for more information on the Council) also plays a key role in providing feedback on the strategies contained in the plan, which are public policies and investments that can be implemented in the Bay Area at the city, county, regional or state level. Local and Tribal governments, transit operators, and other federal, state and regional agencies also actively participate in the development of the Plan Bay Area update via existing and ad hoc forums.

For each Plan Bay Area update, MTC will prepare a multi-faceted public outreach and engagement program to ensure that all those with a stake in the outcome are actively involved in its preparation. See Appendix C for specific information on public engagement for Plan Bay Area 2060, the next update to the long-range regional plan (RTP/SCS) that is slated to be completed by 2030.

**Public Participation Process for a Plan Bay Area Update (Major and Minor Updates)**

1. Prepare and release a public participation plan for a 45-day comment period and notify the public about opportunities to comment.
2. Review public participation plan with the public and advisory groups and adopt updated plan.
3. Implement public outreach and engagement program, which may include:
   A. Numerous targeted in-person and/or virtual workshops/meetings with local governments, partner agencies, advisory groups (including MTC's Policy Advisory Council), and the general public.
   B. Opportunities to participate online and/or by phone, such as web- and text-based surveys, webinars, statistically valid telephone poll, etc.
   C. Posting plan-related documents to the web for public review and comment.
   D. Making documents available for viewing by appointment at the MTC-ABAG library.
4. Notify the public of opportunities to participate in the plan development process using e-mail announcements and newsletters, mailers, press releases, web postings, MTC's social media channels, etc.
5. Conduct intergovernmental consultation, as required and as appropriate.
6. Conduct interagency consultation, as appropriate, based on Air Quality Conformity Protocol (MTC Resolution No. 3757, Revised).
7. Post draft plan to the Plan Bay Area website and release for public review:
   A. Hold public hearing(s) as required by law.
   B. Make all relevant update documents available for viewing by appointment at the MTC-ABAG library.
   C. Respond to comments.
   D. Provide an additional review and comment opportunity if the final Plan Bay Area differs significantly from the draft plan and raises new material issues.
8. Adoption by the Commission and ABAG Executive Board at public meetings of each body.
9. Post final Plan Bay Area Update to the planbayarea.org website.
10. Notify the public about the Commission and ABAG Executive Board action via electronic mailings.

### Other Plan Revisions

Plan Bay Area also may be revised in between updates under certain circumstances, as described below:

#### Plan Bay Area (RTP/SCS) Amendment

An amendment is a major revision to the long-range regional plan. An amendment may be needed for sizable changes to land use (e.g., new master-planned communities) or for changes to a transportation project that affect how the project is described or assumed to operate in the plan, and thereby evaluated under federal transportation-air quality conformity requirements. Examples may include adding or deleting a transportation project; changes to project timing (e.g., when the expected opening day of operation changes from short-term to long-term or vice versa); and/or changes to a project's design concept and scope (e.g., changing type, location, length, capacity or major operating features of the project). Changes to transportation projects that are included in the RTP only for illustrative purposes (such as in a potential financially unconstrained "vision" element) do not require an amendment.

An amendment requires public review and comment, demonstration that the project can be completed based on expected funding, and/or a finding that the change is consistent with federal transportation air quality conformity requirements. Amendments that require an update to the transportation-air quality conformity analysis will be subject to the conformity and interagency consultation procedures described in MTC Resolution No. 3757, Revised.

#### Public Participation Process for a Plan Bay Area Amendment

1. Release proposed amendment for a 30-day public review period:
   A. Notify the public of opportunities to participate using e-mail announcements/ newsletters, mailers, press releases, web postings and/or MTC's social media channels.
   B. Post amendment on the Plan Bay Area website for public review.
   C. Make amendment available for viewing by appointment at the MTC-ABAG library.
2. Plan Bay Area Amendment reviewed at a public meeting of the Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee.
3. Approval by the Commission and ABAG Executive Board at public meetings.
4. Post approved Plan Bay Area Amendment on the Plan Bay Area website.

5. Notify the public about the Commission and ABAG Executive Board action via electronic mailings.

### Plan Bay Area (RTP/SCS) Administrative Modification

This is a minor revision to the long-range regional plan for changes that do not affect the regional transportation-air quality conformity analysis. These may include minor changes to how a transportation project is described in the plan, as well as changes to project costs or timing. An administrative modification (also referred to as an "admin mod") does not require public review and comment, demonstration that the transportation project can be completed based on expected funding, nor a finding that the change is consistent with federal transportation conformity requirements. As with a Plan Bay Area amendment, changes to transportation projects that are included in an RTP's potential financially unconstrained "vision" element may be changed without going through this process.

#### Public Participation Process for a Plan Bay Area Administrative Modification

1. No formal public review
2. Approval by MTC Executive Director
3. Plan Bay Area Administrative Modification posted on the Plan Bay Area website following approval

## *Other Federal and State Requirements*

### Countywide Transportation Plans

Bay Area counties are authorized by state law to develop Countywide Transportation Plans (CTP) on a voluntary basis approximately once every four years. MTC; however, is required to develop guidelines for the development of CTPs by the County Transportation Agencies (CTAs). The intent of these guidelines is to achieve compatibility between CTPs and the RTP through a common planning framework, even though the plans differ in scope.

CTPs assess transportation needs and guide transportation priorities and funding decisions for a county over a 25- to 30-year horizon. These countywide plans inform the transportation projects, programs and strategies that may be forwarded to MTC for potential inclusion in the RTP. Information on the CTP process is available here: mtc.ca.gov/planning/long-range-planning/countywide-transportation-plans.

### Congestion Management Process

Under federal regulations, MTC is required to carry out a congestion management process (CMP) for the Bay Area that provides, "accurate, up-to-date information on transportation system performance and assesses alternative strategies for congestion management that meet state and local needs."

State congestion management legislation establishes a similar county-level process by requiring each urbanized county to prepare a congestion management program on a two-year cycle. Like the federal CMP, countywide congestion management programs monitor transportation system performance, identify strategies to address congestion, support multimodal solutions, and help integrate transportation and land use planning. These countywide programs inform local planning efforts, such as CTPs, and help identify projects, programs and strategies for consideration in the RTP.

Generally, MTC's Planning Committee adopts guidelines every two years to guide the preparation of countywide congestion management programs and promote consistency with the adopted RTP. Those interested in this planning effort may obtain copies of the relevant memoranda via MTC's website, or by requesting to be added to the Planning Committee's mailing list at info@bayareametro.gov.

### Other Local Planning

In addition to CTPs and countywide congestion management programs, other local and county-level planning efforts inform MTC's decisions on program and investment priorities, including the RTP. These efforts may include county corridor studies, sales tax investment plans, modal plans, among others. Together, they provide additional information on transportation conditions, needs and community priorities.

## B. Transportation Improvement Program

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) helps implement the region's policy and investment priorities and adopted by MTC in Plan Bay Area. The TIP covers at least a four-year timeframe, and all projects included in the TIP must be consistent with Plan Bay Area. The TIP is a comprehensive listing of Bay Area surface transportation projects — including transit, highway, local roadway, bicycle and pedestrian investments — that:

- receive federal surface transportation funding, or
- are subject to a federally required action, or
- are regionally significant, for federal air quality conformity purposes.

The TIP does not contain all funds, projects or programs identified in Plan Bay Area. In fact, the *majority* of revenues identified in the plan are never included in the TIP. These include local and state funds used to operate and maintain the transportation network that do not meet the criteria listed above. The TIP itself does not *implement* the plan, but rather is a subset of projects that contribute to the achievement of the plan's goals.

The TIP includes a financial plan that demonstrates there are sufficient revenues to ensure that the funds committed (or "programmed") to the projects are in fact available to implement the projects or project phases. Adoption of the TIP also requires a finding of conformity with federal air quality standards.

Individual project listings may be viewed through MTC's web-based TIP database, which can be accessed at https://mtc.ca.gov/funding/transportation-improvement-program-tiphttps://fms.bayareametro.gov/search. As part of MTC's commitment to public engagement, many projects in the TIP are mapped to present a visual location of the project. Individuals without access to the internet may view a printed copy of the project listings in the MTC-ABAG library by scheduling an appointment by calling (415) 778-5236 or emailing library@bayareametro.gov.

In addition to a Transportation Improvement Program that is accessible online at mtc.ca.gov/funding/transportation-improvement-program-tip, MTC maintains a subscription-based e-mail distribution list to inform interested individuals, transportation officials and staff of changes and actions related to the TIP. Through this list, individuals may be alerted  regarding the development and approval of a new TIP a TIP update or notice and approval of TIP amendments. These notifications facilitate public review and comments as well as coordination with transportation and other public agencies. Sign up for the service by contacting MTC at info@bayareametro.gov.

To further assist in the public assessment of the TIP, and specifically to analyze the equity implications of the proposed TIP investments, MTC conducts an analysis for the TIP with a focus on specific populations, including historically disadvantaged and low-income communities.

### *Updating and Revising the TIP*

Federal regulations require that the TIP be updated at least once every four years. State statute requires that the TIP be updated every two years. MTC may update the TIP between scheduled updates, such as to add a new project. MTC will consider such an update when the circumstances prompting the change are compelling. The change must be financially

feasible, consistent with Plan Bay Area and  be consistent with ("conform to") the federal air quality plan known as the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

In addition to a TIP update, the TIP is regularly revised through amendments, administrative modifications, or technical corrections. The criteria for administrative modifications and amendments are defined in federal regulations, specifically Title 23, CFR part 450.104.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) have developed amendment and administrative modification procedures for the TIP. These procedures are posted online at: mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/TIP Revision Procedures.pdf. Further explanation about TIP updates and how different types of revisions are processed are described below.

### TIP Update

This is a complete update of the existing TIP to reflect new or revised transportation investment strategies and priorities. State law requires a TIP update more frequently than the federally required four-year update cycle, for which MTC may perform a limited and less robust update and outreach effort by simply updating project information using prior TIP reports, analysis and methodologies. In such circumstances, significant modification of analytical approaches and additional features to the TIP will be made on the federal four-year update cycle, and more in-line with the four-year update cycle of Plan Bay Area. **It is important to note that because all projects included in the TIP are consistent with Plan Bay Area (RTP/SCS), MTC's extensive public outreach for development of Plan Bay Area is reflected in the TIP as well.** The TIP supports implementation, in the short-term, of the financially constrained element of Plan Bay Area and is responsive to comments received during the development of Plan Bay Area. TIP updates will be subject to the conformity and interagency consultation procedures described in MTC Resolution No. 3757, Revised.

### TIP Amendment

This is a revision that involves a significant change to the TIP, such as the addition or deletion of a project; a significant change in project cost or schedule; or a change in project scope (e.g., changing project termini or the number of through traffic lanes). An amendment is a revision that requires public review and comment, re-demonstration of fiscal constraint, and may require an air quality conformity determination. Amendments requiring a transportation air quality conformity analysis will be subject to the conformity and interagency consultation procedures described in MTC Resolution No. 3757, Revised.

### TIP Administrative Modification

An administrative modification includes minor changes to a project's costs or to the cost of a project phase; minor changes to funding sources of previously included projects; and minor changes to the initiation date of a project or project phase. An administrative modification does not require public review and comment, re-demonstration of fiscal constraint or a conformity determination.

### TIP Technical Correction

Technical corrections may be made by MTC staff as necessary. Such corrections are not subject to an administrative modification or an amendment, and may include: changes to information and projects that are included only for illustrative purposes; changes to information outside of the TIP period; changes to information not required to be included in the TIP per federal regulations; use of toll credits; identification of Advance Construction (AC) or conversion of AC for funds already in the TIP; changes to the informational expanded project description, if such change does not change the TIP-required project description; changes to funding in prior years (if outside the TIP period); changes to a project phase following federal authorization to proceed for that phase of work; or changes to correct simple errors or omissions including data entry errors. By definition, these technical corrections do not significantly impact the cost, scope or schedule within the TIP period. Accordingly, they are not subject to a public review and comment process, re-demonstration of fiscal constraint or a conformity determination.

## Public Participation Process for Updating and Revising the Transportation Improvement Program

| Update | Amendment | Administrative Modification | Technical Correction |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** Leverage input received during the development of Plan Bay Area<br>**2.** Notify the public, interested parties and the Bay Area Partnership technical committees and/or working groups of opportunities to participate using e-mail notifications/ announcements and/or e-newsletters<br>**3.** Conduct intergovernmental review and consultation, as appropriate<br>**4.** Release Draft TIP for public review and comment as required by the air quality conformity consultation process[1]:<br>A. Post on MTC's website<br>B. Make available for viewing by appointment at the MTC-ABAG library<br>**5.** Respond to significant material comments pertinent to the TIP; include MTC's response in an appendix in the final TIP<br>**6.** Provide additional review and comment opportunity of five days if the final TIP differs significantly from the Draft TIP and raises new material issues<br>**7.** Review by MTC's Programming & Allocations Committee at a public meeting; refer to Commission for final adoption<br>**8.** Adoption by the Commission at a public meeting<br>**9.** Approval by Caltrans<br>**10.** Approval by FHWA and FTA | **1.** Notify the public, interested parties and the Bay Area Partnership technical committees and/or working groups of opportunities to participate using e-mail notifications/ announcements and/or e-newsletters<br>**2.** Post on MTC's website for public review and make available for viewing by appointment at the MTC-ABAG library<br>→ Amendments deleting, adding and/or changing a project subject to a new air quality conformity analysis:<br>A. Public review and comment period, as required by the air quality conformity consultation process<br>B. Review by an MTC committee at a public meeting<br>C. Approval by the Commission at a public meeting<br>→ Amendments deleting or adding a project not subject to an air quality conformity analysis (such as a roadway rehabilitation):<br>A. Review and approval by an MTC committee or the Commission at a public meeting<br>→ Amendments changing an existing project that is not subject to an air quality conformity analysis; or changing an existing grouped project listing (such as the highway bridge program); or bringing a previously listed project or phase back into the TIP for financial purposes; or changing TIP funding revenues:<br>A. Approval by the MTC Executive Director or designee, following a 5-day notice on MTC's website; or<br>B. Review and approval by an MTC committee or the full Commission at a public meeting<br>**3.** Approval by Caltrans<br>**4.** Approval by FHWA and FTA | **1.** No public review<br>**2.** Approval by MTC Executive Director or designee by delegated authority (authority is delegated by the Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Administration), or Caltrans | **1.** No public review<br>**2.** Technical corrections by staff<br>**3.** No approval required |
| **After approval...** | **After approval...** | **After approval...** | **After approval...** |
| **1.** Post on MTC website<br>**2.** Make available for viewing by appointment at the MTC-ABAG library<br>**3.** Notify the public, interested parties and the Bay Area Partnership technical committees and/or working groups about the Commission's action | **4.** Post on MTC website<br>**5.** Make available for viewing by appointment at the MTC-ABAG library<br>**6.** Notify the public, interested parties and the Bay Area Partnership technical committees and/or working groups about the Executive Director's or the Commission's action | **7.** Post on MTC website<br>**8.** Make available for viewing by appointment at the MTC-ABAG library | N/A |

[1] MTC staff may make minor, technical edits to the Draft TIP during the review and comment period. In these instances, staff will post the technical edits on MTC's website and notify interested parties via e-mail notification.

## *Other Federal Requirements*

### Federal Transit Administration Program of Projects (POP) Public Participation Requirements

Federal transit law and joint Federal Highway Administration-Federal Transit Administration (FHWA-FTA) planning regulations governing the metropolitan planning process require a metropolitan planning organization to include the public and to solicit comment when it develops its metropolitan long-range transportation plan and its metropolitan TIP. FTA has determined that when a recipient follows the procedures of the public involvement process outlined in the FHWA-FTA planning regulations, the recipient satisfies the public participation requirements associated with development of the Program of Projects (POP) that recipients of Section 5307, Section 5337 and Section 5339 funds must meet.

This Public Participation Plan is being used by the recipients listed below to satisfy their public participation process for the POP. This PPP follows the procedures for public involvement associated with TIP development and therefore satisfies public participation requirements for the POP. All public notices of public involvement activities and times established for public review and comment on the TIP will state that they satisfy the POP requirements for applicable funds.

Recipients using MTC's PPP to satisfy their public participation process for the POP include:

1. AC Transit (Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District)
2. ACE (Altamont Corridor Express)
3. BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit District)
4. Caltrain (Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board)
5. County Connection (Central Contra Costa Transit Authority)
6. FAST (Fairfield/Suisun Transit System)
7. Golden Gate Transit (Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District)
8. LAVTA (Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority/ Wheels)
9. Marin Transit (Marin County Transit District)
10. Petaluma Transit
11. SamTrans (San Mateo County Transit District)
12. San Francisco Bay Ferry (WETA/Water Emergency Transportation Authority)
13. Santa Rosa CityBus

14. SFMTA (San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency)
15. SMART (Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit)
16. SolTrans (Solano County Transit)
17. Sonoma County Transit
18. Tri Delta Transit (Eastern Contra Costa Transit Authority)
19. Union City Transit
20. Vacaville City Coach
21. VINE (Napa Valley Transportation Authority)
22. VTA (Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority)
23. WestCAT (Western Contra Costa Transit Authority)

### Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

By federal requirement, MTC at the end of each calendar year publishes an annual listing of obligated projects, which is a record of federally funded transportation projects that have been delivered the previous federal fiscal year. The annual list is developed cooperatively by MTC, Caltrans, transit operators, county transportation agencies, and local project sponsors. The listing is intended to increase public awareness of government spending on transportation projects. Copies of this annual listing may be obtained from MTC's website: mtc.ca.gov/funding/federal-funding/project-delivery or by contacting MTC's Public Information Office at (415) 778-6757 or info@bayareametro.gov.

# Interagency and Tribal Government Consultation Procedures for the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program

## A. Public Agency Consultation

MTC is required to consult with officials responsible for other types of planning activities that are affected by transportation in the area, be that conservation and historic preservation or local planned growth and land use management during the planning process.

Like the public, the most effective time to involve governmental agencies in the planning and programming process is as early as possible. As such, the development of the RTP

(Plan Bay Area), with its long-range timeframe, is the ideal opportunity for the interagency consultation process. It is at this stage where funding priorities and major projects' planning-level design concepts and scopes are introduced, prioritized and considered for implementation. Furthermore, MTC's funding programs and any projects flowing from them are derived directly from the policies and transportation investments contained in Plan Bay Area. Because Plan Bay Area governs the selection and programming of projects in the TIP, MTC considers the agency consultation process as a continuum starting with the regional transportation plan. Plan Bay Area is the key decision point for policy decisions regarding project and program priorities that address mobility, congestion, air quality and other planning factors. The TIP is a short-term programming document detailing the funding for investments identified in the adopted RTP.

MTC will use the following approaches to coordinate and consult with affected agencies in the development of the RTP and the TIP. Throughout the process, consultation will be based on the agency's needs and interests. At a minimum, all agencies will be provided an opportunity to comment on the RTP and TIP updates.

### *Regional Transportation Plan (Plan Bay Area)*

If required by law, the environmental review process under CEQA serves as a framework to consult on the development of Plan Bay Area with federal, state and local resource agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protections, conservation and historic preservation, as appropriate. This consultation will include other agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities in the MTC region that are affected by transportation to the maximum extent practicable.

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) stating that MTC and ABAG, as the lead agencies, will prepare a program-level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Plan Bay Area is the first step in the environmental process. The NOP gives federal, state and local agencies, as well as the public, an opportunity to identify areas of concern to be addressed in the EIR and to submit them in writing to MTC and ABAG. Further, MTC and ABAG also hold a public scoping meeting (see Appendix C for complete details on the Plan Bay Area EIR process) to explain the environmental process and solicit early input on areas of concern. During the development of the Draft EIR, MTC consults with the relevant agencies on resource maps and inventories for use in the EIR analysis.

MTC and ABAG consider all issues raised during the NOP period and scoping meeting during preparation of the EIR. Subsequently, as soon as the Draft EIR is completed, MTC

and ABAG file a Notice of Completion (NOC) with the State Clearinghouse and release the Draft EIR for a 45-day public review period soliciting written comments from agencies and the public on the environmental effects and mitigation measures identified in the Draft EIR. During the comment period, MTC and ABAG may consult directly with any agency or person with respect to any environmental impact or mitigation measure. MTC and ABAG respond to written comments received prior to the close of the comment period and technical corrections to the Draft EIR where necessary. The Commission certifies the Final EIR, and MTC and ABAG file a Notice of Determination (NOD) within five days of Commission certification.

Note that while the RTP is not subject to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), MTC and ABAG will consult with federal agencies as appropriate during the preparation of the CEQA environmental document, if such document is required by law. Additionally, the involvement of federal agencies in Plan Bay Area can link the transportation planning process with the federal NEPA process. As the projects in Plan Bay Area and TIP continue down the pipeline toward construction or implementation, most must comply with NEPA to address individual project impacts.

### *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*

All agencies will be provided with an opportunity to review and comment on the TIP. Project sponsors — including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), local jurisdictions, transit operators and county transportation agencies (CTAs) — review and consult with MTC on each of their respective projects in the TIP. These agencies (and any other interested agency) are involved in the establishment of MTC funding programs and policies, selection of projects and inclusion of projects in the TIP.

## B. Federal Land Management Agencies Consultation

Federal Land Management Agencies (FLMAs) include federal agencies that manage public lands and facilities in the Bay Area, such as the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other federal land managers. Because transportation investments can affect access to and stewardship of these lands, MTC will consult with FLMAs during the development of Plan Bay Area (RTP/SCS), the TIP and the project selection activities that connect the two.

MTC's FLMA consultation procedures are designed to:

1. coordinate transportation investments that improve safe and reliable access to federal lands;
2. identify and address FLMA priorities and concerns early in the planning and programming process; and
3. support public land stewardship goals, including resource protection, visitor mobility and climate resilience.

### *Key Stages for FLMA Engagement*

1. **Early plan development:** MTC will notify FLMAs of major plan milestones and invite input on access needs, land management objectives and relevant planned projects or policies.
2. **Draft plan and environmental review (as applicable):** MTC will inform FLMAs about opportunities to review and comment on draft plan materials and program-level environmental analysis.
3. **Project selection and prioritization:** MTC will inform FLMAs about the opportunity to provide input, and when requested by the FLMAs, coordinate discussion meetings when projects and/or policies affecting federal lands are being considered, so FLMA priorities and concerns can be addressed before decisions are finalized.
4. **TIP development and revisions:** MTC will inform FLMAs of opportunities to review and comment on TIP updates and applicable amendments. As requested by FLMA staff, MTC staff will coordinate meetings to discuss project phasing and funding plans for projects that affect federal lands or access routes.

### *Participation Opportunities for FLMAs*

MTC will engage FLMAs using a combination of methods, based on the stage of work and FLMA preferences, including email notifications of key milestones, invitations to relevant technical meetings, targeted briefings or coordination meetings, and standard public review and comment periods for draft documents. MTC will provide FLMA partners with opportunities to discuss project/policy alignment with federal lands' access needs and public land stewardship goals.

During the development of Plan Bay Area and the TIP, MTC will, to the extent practicable, use the following framework to consult with FLMA partners:

1. **Notification:** MTC will make information about opportunities for participation and engagement on Plan Bay Area and the TIP available through MTC's established

notices and distribution channels. FLMAs are encouraged to monitor these notices and participate as needed, and to raise priorities or concerns related to federal lands early enough to be considered before decisions are finalized.

2. **Targeted outreach:** MTC will provide early notice to FLMAs and invite them to share priorities, constraints and concerns related to access, operations, safety, environmental resources and visitor mobility.
3. **Consultation meeting(s):** When requested by FLMA staff, MTC will offer consultation touchpoints (virtual or in-person), as needed, including the ability for FLMAs to discuss alignment with federal land access needs and public land stewardship goals.
4. **Documentation and response:** MTC will document FLMA input received, share it with relevant decision-makers as appropriate (e.g., staff working groups or committees), and describe how input was considered in staff recommendations.
5. **Ongoing coordination:** MTC will encourage continued coordination between FLMAs and project sponsors during scoping, environmental review and delivery, recognizing that detailed design and permitting decisions occur later in the project development process independent of MTC.

## C. Other Protocols for Working with Public Agencies

### *The Bay Area Partnership Board Review and Coordination*

MTC established the Bay Area Partnership Board to collaboratively assist the Commission in fashioning consensus among its federal, state, regional and local public agency partners regarding the policies, plans and programs to be adopted and implemented by the Commission. More recently, that focus has shifted to advising the Commission on specific transportation investment policies and matters related to Plan Bay Area. Membership includes a chief staff officer from all public agencies representing the following transportation interests:

- Transit operations
- Transportation facilities
- Congestion management agencies
- Public works agencies
- Airports and seaports
- Regional, state and federal transportation, environmental, and land use agencies

The Partnership Board and its Partnership Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) and working group(s) consider and weigh in on the ongoing and more technical aspects of transportation funding. The Partnership Board and PTAC meetings are open to the public. The Partnership Board's meetings are webcast live and later archived on MTC's website. Offsite Board meetings and all PTAC meetings are recorded, and recordings may be requested by contacting the MTC Public Information Office at (415) 778-6757 or info@bayareametro.gov. The status of TIP revisions is provided to the Partnership through email notifications. For TIP updates, PTAC and working group(s) will be kept informed and consulted throughout the process by e-mail notifications or presentations as appropriate.

### *Air Quality Conformity and Interagency Consultation*

A dialogue between agencies over transportation air quality conformity considerations must take place in certain instances prior to MTC's adoption of its RTP or TIP. These consultations are conducted through the Air Quality Conformity Task Force, which includes representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, FHWA, FTA, the California Air Resources Board (CARB), Caltrans, the Bay Area Air District and other state and local transportation agencies. These agencies review updates and, in certain instances, amendments to Plan Bay Area and the TIP to ensure they conform to federal transportation air quality conformity regulations.

In accordance with Transportation Air Quality Conformity and Interagency Consultation Protocol procedures (MTC Resolution No. 3757, Revised), MTC must implement the interagency consultation process for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area before making a transportation conformity determination on Plan Bay Area or the TIP. In developing an update to Plan Bay Area/TIP, MTC will bring important issues to the Partnership Board or its technical committees/working groups for discussion and feedback. All materials that are relevant to interagency consultation, such as the Plan Bay Area/TIP schedule, important Plan Bay Area/TIP-related issues and the draft Plan Bay Area/TIP, will also be transmitted to the Conformity Task Force for discussion and feedback. Similar consultation will occur for Plan Bay Area/TIP amendments requiring an air quality conformity analysis.

### *Intergovernmental Review via State Clearinghouse*

The intent of intergovernmental review, per Executive Order 12372, is to ensure that federally funded or assisted projects do not inadvertently interfere with state and local plans and priorities. Applicants in the Bay Area with programs/projects for

intergovernmental review are required to submit documentation to the State Clearinghouse, a division of the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation, which is the Single Point of Contact for the intergovernmental review of federal grant proposals and other activities. In this capacity, it is also the function of the clearinghouse to coordinate state and local review of federal financial assistance applications, federally required state plans, direct federal development activities and federal environmental documents. The purpose of the clearinghouse is to facilitate state and local participation in federal activities occurring within California. The Executive Order does not replace public participation, comment or review requirements of other federal laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), but rather gives states an additional mechanism to ensure federal agency responsiveness to state and local concerns.

The clearinghouse also receives and distributes environmental documents prepared pursuant to CEQA and coordinates the state-level environmental review process. The RTP is subject to CEQA and therefore is reviewed through the clearinghouse.

## D. Tribal Government Consultation

MTC also consults with the region's Native American Tribal governments. There are six federally recognized Native American tribes in the San Francisco Bay Area:

- Cloverdale Rancheria of Pomo Indians
- Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians
- The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria
- Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria
- Lower Lake Rancheria Koi Nation
- Lytton Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians

The groundwork for consultation with the region's tribal governments occurs early in the process of developing Plan Bay Area/the TIP. Engagement activities with the tribes will be conducted according to tribal preferences. As required, MTC and ABAG also will invite and encourage tribal leaders and their representatives to request government-to-government consultation at any time during the development of Plan Bay Area/the TIP. Tribal Summits will be scheduled as appropriate to offer Tribes the ability to collaborate with MTC and ABAG and several of their partners. MTC and ABAG will also conduct individual meetings at each tribe's request in a forum that is convenient for them.

As required by Assembly Bill 52, MTC and ABAG will provide written notification to all tribes in the region, including federally recognized tribes and all California Native American tribes on the Native American Heritage Commission list with tribal cultural resources in the Bay Area, about the opportunity for engagement in the Plan Bay Area process. Additionally, MTC and ABAG will be available for consultation at a tribe's request.

# Appendix C.

# Public Participation Plan for Plan Bay Area 2060

**DRAFT**

**June 2026**

**This appendix fulfills the requirements under California Senate Bill 375.**

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# I. Introduction

Plan Bay Area 2060 is the Bay Area's next long-range regional plan that will guide decisions about transportation, housing and the environment over the coming decades.

Developed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), Plan Bay Area 2060 is a new, comprehensive planning effort that will establish a forward-looking framework to respond to the region's evolving needs. As the Bay Area continues to experience changes in how people live, work and travel, the plan will consider a range of factors, including housing affordability, climate impacts, evolving travel patterns, technological change and demographic shifts.

Under federal and state law, MTC and ABAG are jointly responsible for preparing the Bay Area's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg, Statutes of 2008) further requires that the plan integrate land use and transportation strategies in a way that supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles, consistent with targets established by the state.

This Public Participation Plan outlines how the public, partner agencies and other stakeholders can take part in shaping Plan Bay Area 2060. The planning process, anticipated to occur between 2026 and 2030, will include multiple opportunities for engagement at key milestones, along with ongoing ways to stay informed and provide input.

This plan is intended to serve as a flexible framework to guide engagement throughout the process. Specific strategies and activities may be refined over time in response to evolving conditions, input received and opportunities to improve how the public is engaged.

Participation is a critical part of this effort. The perspectives, experiences and ideas shared by residents, partners and stakeholders will help inform the development of the plan and the decisions that shape the region's future. We invite all who are interested to participate in this process and help guide the development of Plan Bay Area 2060.

## Building on Prior Engagement Efforts

MTC and ABAG developed the proposed Plan Bay Area 2060 engagement approach based in part on lessons learned through prior regional planning efforts, including Plan Bay Area 2050 and Plan Bay Area 2050+. These lessons were informed by feedback received over multiple years through public comment processes, engagement activities, advisory body discussions, peer agency coordination and staff reflection on previous engagement efforts.

Input from advisory bodies, including the former MTC Policy Advisory Council and current MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council, highlighted the importance of maintaining stronger connections with communities between major engagement milestones and providing more accessible and relatable ways for the public to engage with complex regional planning topics. Similar feedback also emerged through public comments, stakeholder discussions and engagement activities conducted throughout prior Plan Bay Area efforts.

Feedback from community members, community-based organization (CBO) partners and advisory bodies also underscored the importance of reducing public engagement fatigue by improving coordination across engagement activities and creating more consistent and meaningful opportunities for participation. Participants also expressed interest in better understanding how public input informed decision-making, including greater transparency around how feedback was incorporated into the planning process. In addition, discussions with advisory bodies and community partners highlighted the importance of strengthening engagement with younger audiences and exploring engagement approaches that are more responsive to how younger generations access information and participate in civic processes.

Additional lessons learned emerged through staff evaluation of previous engagement approaches, coordination with peer metropolitan planning organizations and other public agencies, and work related to the Plan Bay Area website redesign and communications efforts. These discussions reinforced the importance of expanding public education, improving digital accessibility, strengthening ongoing partnerships with CBOs and creating more continuous opportunities for public participation throughout the planning process.

The updated Public Participation Plan reflects these observations and recommendations through expanded public education and storytelling approaches, a continuous engagement model, enhanced coordination efforts and a more collaborative community partnership framework intended to support ongoing dialogue and feedback throughout plan development. Additional evaluation and assessment of engagement outcomes will continue as Plan Bay Area 2060 advances.

# II. Developing Plan Bay Area 2060

## a. Process and Schedule

### Developing the Plan and Schedule

Plan Bay Area 2060 represents the next major update to the Bay Area's long-range regional plan, building upon prior versions of Plan Bay Area while advancing a new generation of strategies, analyses and engagement approaches. As a comprehensive plan addressing transportation, housing and the environment, Plan Bay Area 2060 will reflect current conditions, emerging trends and the evolving needs of the region over the coming decades.

The development of Plan Bay Area 2060 will include a multi-year process of technical analysis, policy development and public engagement. This process will consider a range of pressing regional and external factors shaping the Bay Area today and into the future, including the availability of state and federal funding, the impacts of sea level rise, changing commute patterns, housing affordability challenges, ongoing demographic shifts and the emergence of new technologies, such as autonomous vehicles and artificial intelligence. These factors will help inform the development and evaluation of strategies that will guide future development to ensure the plan remains responsive to changing conditions and future uncertainties.

The plan development process will incorporate a range of analytical tools and scenario exploration to evaluate how different strategies and investments may shape future outcomes for the region. Through this work, Plan Bay Area 2060 will establish an integrated and forward-looking framework to guide decision-making over the next several decades.

Public participation will be a central component of the plan's development. Plan Bay Area 2060 will include multiple opportunities for residents, partner agencies, CBOs and other stakeholders to provide input at key milestones throughout the process. This will include regionwide engagement activities, as well as community-based organization partnership efforts that support engagement in locally relevant and accessible formats.

Engagement activities will be designed to provide meaningful opportunities for input and may include webinars, hybrid workshops, pop-up events, office hours and asynchronous opportunities to participate. These efforts will be supported by coordinated communications, including digital outreach, email updates and regular updates to the Plan Bay Area website. The website will serve as a central hub for information about the plan, including key milestones, engagement opportunities and materials for public review.

The plan development process will remain flexible and responsive to input received from the public, partner agencies and other stakeholders. As the process evolves, updates to

the schedule, engagement approach or key milestones will be communicated through the Plan Bay Area website, email notifications and other channels to ensure transparency and continued opportunities for participation. Plan Bay Area 2060 will be developed starting in 2026 and continue through 2030.

## b. Summary of Key Milestones

| | Phase | Timeframe | Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | **Foundations** | 2026–2027 | Take stock of where the Bay Area is today and review what's working, what's not and where the current plan may need to evolve. |
| **2.** | **Outlook** | 2026–2027 | Explore future trends and uncertainties and test different scenarios to understand potential trade-offs and outcomes. |
| **3.** | **Blueprint** | 2027–2029 | Develop and refine the plan's core components, including strategies, land use framework and projects, and evaluate how they perform. |
| **4.** | **Final Plan** | 2029–2030 | Bring everything together into a final plan, including supporting analysis, reports and an implementation roadmap. |

### Plan Bay Area 2060 Phase 1: Foundations

The Foundations phase will establish an understanding of where the Bay Area is today (2026), reaffirm the plan's vision and critically evaluate the existing strategies and land use framework. This phase will consist of three primary tracks of work: existing conditions, strategy evaluation, and land use framework evaluation.

Plan Bay Area 2060 will begin by assessing the current state of the Bay Area, establishing a clear, data-informed understanding of existing conditions and issues faces by residents across the region. Concurrently, the strategies and land use framework adopted through Plan Bay Area 2050+, the most recent iteration of the plan, will be evaluated against today's best practices, emerging trends, reflections on past efforts and a revisited vision and guiding principles for the long-range plan.

Through this combined level-setting and evaluation process, Phase 1 will establish a strong analytical and policy foundation for subsequent phases of Plan Bay Area 2060.

- **Opportunities for Input:**
    - Early public engagement to inform and validate the work of Phase 1 may include surveys, webinars and asynchronous opportunities to participate,

focused on gathering input from the public on current conditions and whether the existing vision and guiding principles for the long-range plan continue to serve and reflect lived experiences across the region.
    - A community-based organization collaborative working group (CBO Collaborative Group) will provide input on initial findings and framing, drawing on their knowledge of community perspectives and priorities to help ground the foundational work of the plan.
    - Broad stakeholder engagement, which may include webinars, hybrid workshops, asynchronous opportunities to participate, office hours and expanded outreach to meet with stakeholders in their own professional forums.
- **Decision-Making Roles:** Direction and possible approval from the MTC Planning Committee, the ABAG Administrative Committee, the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission.
- **Significance:** Input gathered during this phase will help validate whether the plan is grounded in current conditions and regional trends, ensuring that subsequent phases of Plan Bay Area 2060 are built on a credible and well-informed foundation. This early feedback will directly inform the concurrent work on updated planning assumptions, forecasts, and scenario planning, and lead to informed development of the core strategies and land use framework of the Blueprint.
- **Timeframe:** 2026-2027

## Plan Bay Area 2060 Phase 2: Outlook

The Outlook phase will deeply research and contend with the uncertainty of external forces, while preparing scenarios to evaluate tradeoffs through forecasts and planning assumptions. This early phase, largely overlapping with the Foundations phase, will consist of scenario planning, updating the regional growth forecast, and analyzing external forces, financial needs and revenue.

Scenario planning will compare different assumptions about the future to help illustrate trade-offs and how they may affect plan strategies and outcomes. The regional growth forecast will examine factors that could shape population and job growth in the Bay Area through 2060. This work will help inform scenario planning, policy choices and modeling for the long-range plan. Staff will also analyze outside trends — such as economic, environmental or technological changes — that could affect plan outcomes. A financial needs and revenue analysis will estimate the cost of implementing the plan and identify potential future funding sources through 2060.

In combination, Phase 1 and Phase 2 will set the stage to update the plan's strategies, land use and projects through development of the Blueprint in Phase 3.

- **Opportunities for Input:**
    - Broad stakeholder engagement, which may include webinars, hybrid workshops, asynchronous opportunities to participate, office hours, and expanded outreach to meet with stakeholders in their own professional forums.
    - Opportunities for public input through meetings of the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council, MTC Planning Committee, the ABAG Administrative Committee, the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission.
    - Additional input through the CBO Collaborative Group, for example on the community-specific impacts of various external forces, growth trajectories, and future scenarios that will be explored through this phase of work.
- **Decision-Making Roles:** Direction from the MTC Planning Committee and the ABAG Administrative Committee; direction and adoption of Regional Growth Forecast Methodology by ABAG Executive Board; possible direction and approval from the Commission.
- **Significance:** This phase establishes the analytical outlook for Plan Bay Area 2060 by ensuring that key assumptions and forecasts reflect the best available planning inputs, and by using scenarios to explore strategic decisions and compare trade-offs.
- **Timeframe:** 2026-2027

## Plan Bay Area 2060 Phase 3: Blueprint

The Blueprint phase will include iteratively updating plan components, assembling strategies, land use framework and projects into a Draft and Final Blueprint, while analyzing performance and forecasted outcomes.

### *Develop Draft Blueprint*

Building on the work completed in Phases 1 and 2, Plan Bay Area 2060 will advance to the development of a Draft Blueprint, which will consist of updated strategies and a land use framework ready for analyzing performance and outcomes.

Performance analyses will be conducted during this phase to evaluate how proposed strategies advance the Plan's Vision and Guiding Principles. These analyses will help inform tradeoffs and support the development of a Final Blueprint that reflects a balanced and forward-looking approach to regional planning.

- **Opportunities for Input:**
    - Strategies under consideration for inclusion in the Draft Blueprint will be presented for public review and input through a range of engagement activities. These may include webinars, hybrid workshops, asynchronous opportunities to participate and other engagement methods designed to support broad and meaningful participation. Engagement will be supplemented with coordinated digital promotion and outreach.
    - CBO partners will conduct engagement with their communities using approaches that are locally relevant and appropriate, supported by ongoing coordination through the CBO Collaborative Group. These activities will provide opportunities for community members to share input in trusted settings and will inform the development of the Draft Blueprint.
    - Additional public input opportunities through meetings of the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council, MTC Planning Committee, the ABAG Administrative Committee, the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission.
    - Broad stakeholder engagement, which may include webinars, hybrid workshops, asynchronous opportunities to participate, office hours, and expanded outreach to meet with stakeholders in their own professional forums.
- **Decision-Making Roles:** Direction and possible adoption by the MTC Planning Committee and the ABAG Administrative Committee; possible adoption by the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission.
- **Significance:** The Draft Blueprint will demonstrate how integrated strategies can advance the Plan's Vision and Guiding Principles.
- **Timeframe:** 2027-2028

### *Refine and Adopt Final Blueprint*

Following the development and analysis of the Draft Blueprint, Plan Bay Area 2060 will advance a set of strategies for further refinement and consideration by decision-makers. This phase will incorporate feedback received during earlier engagement, as well as findings from technical analyses, to define a Final Blueprint that reflects regional priorities and constraints.

The Final Blueprint will integrate the land use framework, strategies and projects in a manner that is fiscally responsible and responsive to the region's needs. This document will serve as the basis for subsequent environmental analysis (if required by state law) and plan development.

- Opportunities for Input:
    - The Final Blueprint will be presented for public review and input through a range of engagement activities, including webinars, hybrid workshops, asynchronous opportunities to participate and other formats designed to support meaningful participation. Engagement will be supplemented with coordinated digital outreach.
    - Through the CBO Collaborative Group, CBO partners will continue to engage their communities and share feedback gathered through their outreach efforts, ensuring that perspectives from across the region are reflected in the refinement of the Final Blueprint.
    - Additional public input opportunities through meetings of the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council, MTC Planning Committee, the ABAG Administrative Committee, the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission.
    - Broad stakeholder engagement, which may include webinars, hybrid workshops, asynchronous opportunities to participate, office hours, and expanded outreach to meet with stakeholders in their own professional forums.
- **Decision-Making Roles:** Direction from the MTC Planning Committee and the ABAG Administrative Committee; adoption by the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission
- **Significance:** The Final Blueprint will refine and finalize how integrated strategies can advance a more affordable, connected, diverse, healthy, and vibrant San Francisco Bay Area for all.
- **Timeframe:** 2028-2029

## Plan Bay Area 2060 Phase 4: Final Plan

The fourth and final phase of Plan Bay Area 2060 will consist of synthesizing and delivering the Final Blueprint into a Final Plan, with associated environmental review if required by state law, supplemental reports and implementation plan.

### *Draft and Final Plan Development*

Building on the Final Blueprint, staff will prepare draft and final versions of the long-range plan. The final package will include an implementation roadmap and other reports required under federal and state rules.

The implementation plan will focus on practical, achievable steps that can be pursued in the years immediately following plan adoption, helping to translate high-level strategies into coordinated action. It will identify actions that can be advanced by MTC and ABAG in coordination with partner agencies, CBOs, non-profit organizations and the private sector.

The implementation plan will also emphasize prioritization, feasibility and impact by identifying actions that are both achievable in the near term and aligned with the region's long-range goals. Through this process, Plan Bay Area 2060 will establish a clear and transparent pathway from planning to implementation.

Consistent with federal guidance in effect during plan development, Plan Bay Area 2060 will evaluate how the plan's strategies may distribute benefits and potential burdens across communities. The analysis may consider factors such as access to transportation, housing outcomes and environmental conditions, and will be conducted in accordance with applicable federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI.

The Final Plan will also be supported by performance reports and technical analyses that evaluate how the final strategies and investments are expected to perform. These analyses assess potential outcomes across transportation, housing and environmental systems and help inform key decisions throughout the planning process. These reports also help meet applicable state and federal planning requirements and provide a structured way to evaluate trade-offs, forecast impacts and measure progress toward regional goals.

- **Opportunities for Input:**
    - Implementation priorities and actions will be developed with input from the public through a range of engagement activities, which may include webinars, hybrid workshops, asynchronous opportunities to participate and other engagement methods designed to support meaningful participation. Engagement may be supplemented with coordinated digital outreach.
    - Through the CBO Collaborative Group, CBO partners will engage their communities to help identify near-term priorities and actions, providing community context and perspectives to help inform implementation priorities and support strategies that reflect local needs and experiences. Additional public input opportunities through meetings of the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council, MTC Planning Committee, the ABAG Administrative Committee, the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission.
    - Broad stakeholder engagement, which may include webinars, hybrid workshops, asynchronous opportunities to participate, office hours, and expanded outreach to meet with stakeholders in their own professional forums.
- **Decision-Making Roles:** Direction from the MTC Planning Committee and the ABAG Administrative Committee; approval from the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission.
- **Significance:** The implementation plan identifies near-term actions that will advance the plan's long-term vision, translating strategies into concrete steps that can be

pursued in partnership with public, non-profit and private sector partners. It ensures that Plan Bay Area 2060 is not only forward-looking but also actionable, with a clear path toward implementation. Impact analyses and supplemental reports support compliance with federal planning requirements and civil rights law and provide important information on how the plan's strategies and investments may affect communities across the region, helping to inform final decision-making.

- **Timeframe:** 2029-2030

### *Environmental Review*

A programmatic environmental impact report (EIR) may be prepared to evaluate the environmental impacts of the proposed long-range plan, including the Final Blueprint and a reasonable range of alternatives, if required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

If required by state law, a Draft EIR may be released for public review and comment and shared with responsible and trustee agencies, followed by preparation of a Final EIR that incorporates responses to comments received during the public comment period.

- **Opportunities for Input:**
    - If required by state law, a Notice of Preparation will be issued at the outset of the environmental review process, followed by a public scoping meeting to provide an overview of the environmental analysis and solicit early input on areas of concern. A recording of the scoping meeting will be made available on the Plan Bay Area website to support asynchronous participation.
    - If required by state law, the Draft EIR will be made available for public review during a statutorily required public comment period, during which written and oral comments will be accepted. Public hearings will be held to provide opportunities for input, with hybrid participation options provided to maximize accessibility.
    - Through the CBO Collaborative Group, CBO partners may facilitate opportunities for community members to provide input on the Draft EIR, including gathering feedback and perspectives related to the potential environmental impacts identified through the environmental review process.
    - If required by state law, additional opportunities for public input will be provided through meetings of the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council, MTC Planning Committee, the ABAG Administrative Committee, the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission.

    - If required by state law, technical stakeholders will be engaged through targeted meetings, which may include webinars, hybrid workshops and office hours to review environmental analysis and provide feedback.
- **Decision-Making Roles (if required by state law):** Direction from the MTC Planning Committee and the ABAG Administrative Committee; certification of the Final EIR and adoption of Plan Bay Area 2060 by the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission.
- **Significance:** The environmental review process evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed plan and alternatives at a programmatic level, ensuring compliance with CEQA and supporting informed decision-making. This phase integrates technical analysis and public input to refine the plan prior to final adoption.
- **Timeframe (if required by state law):** 2028-2030

### *Air Quality Conformity Analysis*

Plan Bay Area 2060 will include an air quality conformity analysis to demonstrate that the region's transportation investments are consistent with federal air quality standards. This analysis will assess whether the transportation projects included in the plan, taken together, would not cause new air quality violations, worsen existing conditions or delay timely attainment of applicable standards.

The analysis will be conducted in accordance with the latest U.S. Environmental Protection Agency transportation conformity regulations and applicable regional conformity protocols.

- **Opportunities for Input:**
    - Technical analysis will be discussed with relevant regional and interagency partners.
    - Additional public input opportunities through meetings of the MTC Planning Committee and the Commission.
    - A 30-day public review and comment period will be provided upon release of the draft air quality conformity analysis report.
- **Decision-Making Roles:** Direction from MTC's Planning Committee; approval from the Commission.
- **Significance:** The air quality conformity analysis demonstrates that Plan Bay Area 2060 is consistent with federal air quality requirements and supports the region's progress toward meeting applicable standards.
- **Timeframe:** 2028-2030

# III. Related Work

## a. Tracking Performance

MTC-ABAG, in coordination with its partners, maintains a comprehensive approach to tracking regional performance and monitoring progress toward the goals of Plan Bay Area 2060. This approach includes a combination of publicly accessible tools, ongoing reporting and technical analysis to support transparency, accountability and informed decision-making.

### *Vital Signs*

A central component of regional performance tracking is the Vital Signs initiative, which monitors key trends related to transportation, land use, housing and the environment. The Vital Signs platform compiles a wide range of indicators that help assess regional progress and identify areas for improvement, including measures aligned with federal transportation planning requirements.

Information is presented through interactive visualizations that allow users to explore trends over time, compare conditions across jurisdictions and understand how the Bay Area compares to other metropolitan regions.

The Vital Signs website is available at: vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov.

### *Implementation Plan Monitoring*

As with past iterations, Plan Bay Area 2060 will include an Implementation Plan, a roadmap that identifies near-term actions to advance the plan's strategies. Progress toward these actions will be tracked and reported on a regular basis.

Implementation monitoring provides updates on the status of actions, highlight completed and ongoing efforts and identify areas where additional focus may be needed. These updates support accountability and help ensure that the plan moves from strategy to action over time.

Information on Plan Bay Area implementation and progress updates is available at: planbayarea.org/implementation.

### *Supporting Data Tools and Regional Datasets*

MTC-ABAG maintains a range of supporting data tools and datasets that contribute to performance tracking and analysis. These resources provide access to information on transportation systems, housing, environmental conditions and other regional indicators.

These tools support both internal planning efforts and public transparency by allowing users to explore data, understand trends and access information that informs Plan Bay Area 2060.

Additional data tools and resources are available at: mtc.ca.gov/tools-resources.

### b. Countywide Transportation Plans

Bay Area counties are authorized by state law to develop Countywide Transportation Plans (CTPs) on a voluntary basis. These plans will help to inform the Transportation Element of Plan Bay Area 2060. MTC-ABAG and County Transportation Agencies coordinate on an ongoing basis to maximize alignment, to the extent possible, between these plans.

As long-range planning and policy documents, Countywide Transportation Plans assess transportation needs and guide priorities and funding decisions within each county over a 20- to 25-year horizon. These plans are developed by County Transportation Agencies and reflect local conditions, priorities and investment strategies. However, unlike Plan Bay Area 2060, they are usually fiscally-unconstrained, meaning they can include plans that exceed reasonably-anticipated funding.

Adopted Countywide Transportation Plans in the Bay Area are available at the links below. MTC's guidelines for the development of Countywide Transportation Plans can be found at: mtc.ca.gov/planning/long-range-planning/countywide-transportation-plans.

- **Alameda County:** Alameda County Transportation Commission, alamedactc.org/planning/countywidetransportationplan
- **Contra Costa County:** Contra Costa Transportation Authority, ccta.net/planning/countywide-transportation-plan
- **Marin County:** Transportation Authority of Marin, https://www.tam.ca.gov/ctp/
- **Napa County:** Napa Valley Transportation Authority, https://nvta.ca.gov/planning-and-projects/planning/regional/countywide-transportation-plan/
- **San Francisco City & County:** San Francisco County Transportation Authority, sfcta.org/projects/san-francisco-transportation-plan
- **San Mateo County:** City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County, ccag.ca.gov/programs/countywide-transportation-plan
- **Santa Clara County:** Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, vta.org/projects/valley-transportation-plan-vtp-2050
- **Solano County:** Solano Transportation Authority, sta.ca.gov/documents_and_report/solano-comprehensive-transportation-plan-ctp

- **Sonoma County:** Sonoma County Transportation Authority, scta.ca.gov/planning/comprehensive-transportation-plan

### c. Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)

The Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) is a state-mandated process that identifies the number of housing units each jurisdiction in the Bay Area must plan for over a specified period. The RHNA process is conducted by ABAG in coordination with local jurisdictions and the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

The next RHNA cycle will occur concurrently with the development of Plan Bay Area 2060. While RHNA and Plan Bay Area 2060 are separate planning processes with different requirements and outcomes, both address housing and land use, and involve overlapping topics and timelines.

MTC and ABAG will coordinate across these efforts, as appropriate, to ensure consistency in data, assumptions and communication, while maintaining the integrity of each process. Public engagement activities will be designed to clearly distinguish between these efforts while providing opportunities for participants to understand how they relate to one another.

Information about the RHNA process is available at: abag.ca.gov/our-work/housing/rhna-regional-housing-needs-allocation.

## IV. Public Engagement

### a. General Public

In addition to engagement activities planned for each key milestone (see Section II.B. Summary of Key Milestones above), the public will have multiple ongoing opportunities to participate in the development of Plan Bay Area 2060. These avenues are designed to provide accessible, continuous ways for residents, partners and other stakeholders to stay informed and share input throughout the planning process.

**Email Updates and Direct Communication**

Members of the public can sign up to receive regular updates on Plan Bay Area 2060 through the Plan Bay Area website, planbayarea.org. These email updates and periodic announcements provide timely information on upcoming engagement opportunities, key milestones, decision points, meetings and overall process updates.

Email updates are a primary way for interested parties to stay informed and engaged throughout the development of the plan — info@planbayarea.org is the dedicated email

address available for members of the public to submit questions, comments and requests for information related to Plan Bay Area 2060.

**Policy Committee and Board Meetings**

MTC and ABAG policy committee and board meetings provide ongoing opportunities for the public to follow and inform the development of Plan Bay Area 2060. Plan updates will be presented regularly to key decision-making bodies, including:

- MTC Planning Committee
- ABAG Administrative Committee
- ABAG Executive Board
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Occasionally, Plan Bay Area 2060 updates may also be presented at other policy or advisory bodies, such as the ABAG General Assembly.

These meetings are open to the public and provide opportunities for public comment. To stay involved in individual policy committees, members of the public may contact the MTC Public Information Office at info@bayareametro.gov or (415) 778-6757 to be added to a committee mailing list.

Calendars of meetings and events are available online (see "Meetings and Events Online Calendars" below) and are also posted at the entrance to MTC and ABAG offices at 375 Beale Street, San Francisco.

**Advisory Bodies**

The MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council will play an important role in the development of Plan Bay Area 2060 by providing ongoing feedback on planning assumptions, strategies and implementation priorities. The Council will serve as a forum for discussion and input at key points throughout the planning process.

Plan Bay Area 2060 updates will be presented to the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council on a regular basis for discussion and comment. These meetings are open to the public and provide an additional opportunity for community perspectives to inform plan development.

**Public Events**

Plan Bay Area 2060 will consist of sustained, responsive engagement aligned with key milestones in the planning process. Public events will be designed to inform, gather input and support dialogue on plan development.

Engagement activities may include webinars, workshops, pop-up events, office hours and other formats tailored to reach a broad range of participants. As appropriate, MTC and ABAG will coordinate with cities, counties, regional agencies and other partners to connect regional planning efforts with local priorities and initiatives.

**Plan Bay Area Website**

The Plan Bay Area website, planbayarea.org, will serve as the central hub for information about Plan Bay Area 2060. The website will include updates on the planning process, upcoming engagement opportunities, key documents and materials for public review.

The website will also provide opportunities for online participation, including surveys, interactive tools and other asynchronous engagement options.

**Digital Engagement and Social Media**

Digital engagement and social media will play an important role in expanding awareness of Plan Bay Area 2060 and increasing opportunities for participation. MTC and ABAG will use digital channels to share information, promote engagement opportunities and provide updates throughout the planning process.

These efforts may include social media outreach, targeted digital communications and online engagement tools designed to reach a wide and diverse audience. Digital engagement will complement in-person and hybrid activities by providing flexible and accessible ways for the public to stay informed and participate.

**Telephone Participation**

Members of the public may also participate in the Plan Bay Area 2060 process by phone. A listening line will be available for individuals to provide verbal comments, which will be documented as part of the public record.

Information about available languages and how to access the listening line will be provided on the Plan Bay Area website.

**Meetings and Events Online Calendars**

Information about upcoming meetings and events will be available through online calendars, including:

- MTC website
- ABAG website
- Plan Bay Area website

These calendars provide up-to-date information on opportunities to participate in the development of Plan Bay Area 2060.

**Comment Submission and Public Record Management**

Plan Bay Area 2060 is committed to providing multiple, accessible ways for the public to submit comments and participate in the planning process. Public input may be submitted through a variety of methods, including online tools, email, mail, telephone and in-person engagement activities, consistent with applicable accessibility requirements.

To support meaningful participation while ensuring that public input can be effectively reviewed and considered, MTC-ABAG will apply consistent practices for organizing, analyzing and documenting comments received throughout the planning process.

- **Multiple avenues for participation:** Comments may be submitted through a range of methods to accommodate different preferences, access needs and levels of familiarity with the planning process.
- **Optional participant information:** Participants may choose to provide general information, such as name and city or ZIP code, to support understanding of regional participation patterns and help organize input.
- **Structured and unstructured input:** Engagement tools may include both open-ended comment opportunities and structured questions to support clear and efficient analysis of input across key topic areas.
- **Organization and summarization of comments:** Comments may be grouped, categorized and summarized to identify key themes, areas of agreement or concern and the range of perspectives received. Submissions that are substantially similar may be documented collectively, including the number of comments received, to support efficient review while ensuring representation in the public record.
- **Integrity of the public record:** MTC-ABAG will maintain procedures to support the integrity and usability of the public comment record. This may include identifying duplicate or non-substantive submissions, organizing comments by topic and ensuring that the record reflects meaningful input received during designated comment periods.
- **Timely review and consideration:** All comments received during established comment periods will be reviewed and considered. Due to the potential volume of submissions, comments may be analyzed using a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to support timely and effective decision-making.

- **Transparency in reporting:** Summaries of public input will be shared through the Plan Bay Area website and other materials, including information on key themes and how input informed the planning process.

### b. Local Governments and Partner Agencies

Collaboration with local governments and partner agencies will be a critical component of developing Plan Bay Area 2060. This includes engagement with elected officials, city and county staff, planning and public works directors, transit operators and county transportation agencies.

Local partners provide important context on community priorities, implementation considerations and how regional strategies align with local plans and investments. Their input will ensure that Plan Bay Area 2060 reflects local conditions and supports coordinated action across jurisdictions.

Plan Bay Area 2060 will include ongoing technical stakeholder engagement with local governments and partner agencies, which may include webinars, hybrid workshops, asynchronous opportunities to participate, office hours, among others. In addition, MTC and ABAG staff will be available to meet with elected officials and local government staff throughout the region.

County Transportation Agencies will continue to serve as an important forum for discussion and coordination on issues related to the plan.

### c. Additional Statutorily Required Outreach

#### Federal, State and Other Government Agencies

In addition to local governments, Plan Bay Area 2060 will include coordination with federal, state and regional agencies responsible for planning activities that intersect with the long-range regional plan. This includes agencies involved in land use, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, historic preservation, transportation and air quality planning.

Consultation will be tailored to each agency's interests and responsibilities. At a minimum, agencies will be informed about the plan development process and provided opportunities to participate and provide input.

#### Federal Land Management Agency Coordination

MTC and ABAG will coordinate with federal land management agencies (FLMAs) throughout the development of Plan Bay Area 2060, consistent with federal planning requirements.

FLMAs, including agencies such as the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other relevant federal partners, manage lands within and adjacent to the Bay Area and have a vested interest in transportation access, environmental stewardship and visitor experience.

Coordination with FLMAs will occur through multiple avenues, including:

- **Targeted outreach and consultation:** FLMAs will be notified of key milestones and provided opportunities to review and comment on plan materials, including the Draft and Final Blueprint, as well as the Draft Plan and associated analyses.
- **Interagency coordination:** FLMAs will be invited to participate in interagency coordination efforts alongside state, regional and local partners to ensure alignment on issues such as access, climate resilience and environmental protection.
- **Technical engagement:** As appropriate, FLMAs may be engaged through technical meetings or topic-specific discussions related to transportation access to federally managed lands, natural resource considerations and related planning issues.
- **Environmental review coordination:** If environmental review is required under state law, FLMAs will be consulted during the environmental review process to ensure consideration of potential impacts to federally managed lands and resources, consistent with applicable requirements.

Through this coordination, MTC and ABAG will seek to ensure that Plan Bay Area 2060 reflects the unique considerations associated with federally managed lands and supports ongoing collaboration with federal partners.

## Native American Tribal Governments

Consultation with Native American Tribal governments will be an important component of Plan Bay Area 2060. Engagement with Tribes will begin early in the planning process and will be conducted in a manner that respects Tribal sovereignty and each Tribe's preferences for consultation.

Plan Bay Area 2060 will include outreach to federally recognized Tribes in the San Francisco Bay Area, as well as to California Native American Tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission as having tribal cultural resources in the region.

MTC and ABAG will provide written notification to Tribal governments regarding opportunities to participate in the plan development process and will remain available for consultation at the request of Tribal leadership. Tribes will be invited to request government-to-government consultation at any time during development of the plan.

Engagement activities may include government-to-government consultation meetings and other formats determined in coordination with Tribal representatives. These efforts are intended to support meaningful dialogue and collaboration throughout the planning process.

### Presentations to Local Governments

Consistent with SB 375 requirements, Plan Bay Area 2060 will include at least one informational meeting in each county for elected officials to review and discuss the Draft Plan and provide input and recommendations.

Notice about these meetings will be provided to each clerk of the respective elected bodies. A single informational meeting may satisfy this requirement if attendance includes representatives of a majority of cities representing a majority of the population in the incorporated areas of the county.

# V. Public Engagement Strategies

Development of Plan Bay Area 2060 will be a multi-year effort. Public engagement strategies and activities for each phase of the planning process will be shared in advance with the MTC Planning Committee and the ABAG Administrative Committee and posted on the Plan Bay Area website (planbayarea.org).

Throughout the planning process, engagement efforts will be guided by MTC's 2026 Public Participation Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area and will incorporate a range of tools and techniques designed to support meaningful participation from a broad set of partners and residents across the region.

## a. Hybrid Engagement

Plan Bay Area 2060 will build on lessons learned from prior planning efforts and continue to advance a hybrid approach to public engagement. Hybrid engagement includes in-person and remote participation options, allowing individuals to participate in ways that are most convenient and accessible to them.

This approach reflects evolving expectations for public participation and recognizes that flexible engagement options can help expand participation across the region. By offering multiple ways to engage, Plan Bay Area 2060 will aim to reach a broader range of residents, including those who may face barriers to participating in traditional in-person meetings.

Engagement activities may include webinars, workshops, pop-up events, office hours and asynchronous opportunities to participate. These formats are designed to provide

meaningful opportunities for input while accommodating a variety of schedules, access needs and levels of familiarity with the planning process.

While certain engagement activities may be required as part of the planning process, Plan Bay Area 2060 will prioritize approaches that are inclusive, adaptable and responsive to participant needs. This includes continuing to meet people where they are and using a range of tools and techniques to support ongoing participation throughout the development of the plan.

### b. CBO Partnerships

MTC-ABAG recognize that effective regional planning depends on meaningful collaboration with organizations that are deeply connected to the communities they serve. CBOs play a critical role in facilitating participation by residents who may not otherwise engage in regional planning processes due to barriers related to time, resources, language, or familiarity with government processes.

For Plan Bay Area 2060, MTC-ABAG will build on prior approaches by establishing a more continuous and collaborative partnership model with CBO partners. Through a competitive solicitation process, MTC-ABAG will contract with a diverse set of CBOs from across the region to support engagement activities throughout the plan's development.

**CBO Partnership Approach**

Rather than engaging CBOs on a limited or transactional basis, MTC-ABAG will work with partners as ongoing collaborators in the design and implementation of engagement activities. This approach reflects an understanding that CBO partners bring essential expertise, including strong relationships with community members, cultural and linguistic knowledge, and experience facilitating dialogue in ways that are locally relevant and accessible.

To support this model, MTC-ABAG will convene a CBO Collaborative Group composed of contracted partners from each Bay Area county that represent a wide range of community interests. The Collaborative will serve as a forum for regular coordination and shared learning and will play a vital role in shaping engagement strategies for Plan Bay Area 2060. Through this structure, CBO partners will:

- Co-design engagement priorities, strategies and materials
- Advise on approaches that are most appropriate and effective for their communities
- Identify opportunities to connect regional planning topics to locally relevant concerns

- Support the development of messaging and materials that are clear and accessible

The Collaborative will meet on a regular basis throughout key phases of the planning process to ensure that engagement strategies remain responsive and informed by on-the-ground perspectives.

**Community-Led Engagement**

CBO partners will lead engagement activities within their communities using approaches that are best suited to their audiences. These activities may include workshops, small group discussions, surveys, or other formats designed to facilitate meaningful participation.

This model allows engagement to be conducted in settings that are familiar and accessible, and through trusted relationships that encourage open and candid input. By supporting community-led engagement, MTC-ABAG aim to broaden participation and ensure that a wide range of perspectives are reflected in the plan.

staff will coordinate closely with CBO partners and, where appropriate, participate in engagement activities to provide context, answer questions and support dialogue. This coordinated approach helps ensure that community input is both informed and effectively incorporated into the planning process.

**Integration of Community Input**

Input gathered through CBO-led engagement will be documented and incorporated into the broader engagement program for Plan Bay Area 2060. Feedback will be considered alongside input received through other engagement channels and will help inform key decisions throughout the development of the plan.

By working in partnership with CBOs throughout the planning process, MTC-ABAG aim to strengthen the connection between regional planning efforts and the day-to-day experiences of residents across the Bay Area, ensuring that the plan reflects a broad and diverse range of perspectives.

## c. Engagement Activities

In addition to engagement activities aligned with key milestones, Plan Bay Area 2060 will include a range of ongoing engagement activities designed to inform, involve and gather input from the public throughout the planning process.

### i. Advance Notice

- Provide clear information about the planning process and upcoming engagement opportunities in advance of each phase and post updates on the Plan Bay Area website.
- Maintain an up-to-date calendar of meetings and events.
- Share timely notifications through email updates, social media and partner networks.
- Post agendas and meeting materials online in accordance with applicable requirements.
- Maintain a contact database to keep interested parties informed throughout the multi-year process.
- Provide public review periods for key plan materials prior to adoption, consistent with applicable requirements.
- Issue press releases and coordinate with media outlets to increase public awareness.

### ii. Virtual, Asynchronous and In-Person Events

- Provide opportunities for participation across all counties on key topics related to Plan Bay Area 2060.
- Conduct workshops (in-person, virtual, or a combination), public meetings, open houses and hearings at a range of times, including evenings and weekends, to accommodate varying schedules.
- Host events in accessible and convenient locations and offer remote participation options.
- Use webinars, hybrid workshops and telephone-based participation to expand access.
- Maintain a respectful and inclusive environment that encourages open dialogue and participation.
- Hold public hearings on key plan milestones, consistent with applicable requirements.

### iii. Digital Engagement

- Maintain a comprehensive project website (planbayarea.org) as the central hub for information and participation.
- Use social media and digital outreach to share updates, promote engagement opportunities and expand reach.

- Provide interactive online tools, such as surveys, polls and mapping tools, to gather input.
- Maintain an archive of materials and past engagement activities for public reference.
- Ensure digital content is mobile-friendly and accessible.

### iv. Media Outlets

- Issue press releases to media outlets, including ethnic, foreign-language and community media, to provide updates on plan development and encourage coverage across radio, television, newspapers and online platforms.
- Translate news releases and outreach materials related to public meetings and engagement opportunities in accordance with MTC's Plan for Special Language Services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Populations.

### v. Broadening Participation

Plan Bay Area 2060 recognizes that not all communities have historically had the same opportunity or access to participate in regional planning processes. As a result, engagement for this plan will include intentional strategies to expand participation and ensure that a wide range of perspectives are reflected:

- Design engagement approaches to provide multiple ways for people to participate and reduce common barriers related to time, access, language and familiarity with the planning process.
- Conduct targeted outreach to reach a broad cross-section of Bay Area residents, including communities that may face barriers to participating in traditional engagement processes.
- Partner with CBOs to support outreach and engagement through trusted, locally relevant channels and relationships.
- MTC-ABAG proactively works to reduce barriers to participation by offering language access services and reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities. Members of the public may request interpretation, translation or other accommodations by contacting the MTC Public Information Office at (415) 778-6757 or info@bayareametro.gov. Staff request at least three working days' notice whenever feasible.
- Leverage existing community meetings, events and gathering spaces to connect with participants in familiar and accessible settings.

- Consider the needs of a wide range of participants, including older adults, individuals with varying levels of access to technology and those with limited availability during traditional meeting times.

### vi. Innovative Educational Content

- Develop clear, accessible materials to explain complex planning topics and support informed participation.
- Use visual storytelling, graphics and simplified summaries to make key concepts easier to understand, which may include story maps, scroll-activated interactive web design ("scrollytelling") and other innovative web designs.
- Incorporate interactive tools and activities to help illustrate trade-offs, scenarios and potential outcomes.
- Explore the use of participatory games to reach new audiences and increase familiarity with complex dynamics of regionwide long-range planning through simulation and play.
- Explain abstract or convoluted issues through relatable stories and highlight human-scale impacts and connections to everyday concerns through personal accounts and profiles.
- Provide content in a range of formats, including mobile-friendly design, to support different learning styles and levels of familiarity with regional planning.

### vii. Digital Video Assets

- Expand the use of video as a core communication and engagement tool to convey complex ideas in a concise and engaging format.
- Develop short, plain-language explainer videos, animations and recorded presentations to introduce key topics, processes and planning concepts.
- Share video content across multiple platforms to support outreach and ongoing engagement throughout the planning process.
- Use video to provide updates, highlight engagement activities and expand engagement beyond traditional written materials to reach a broader range of audiences.

### viii. Youth Engagement

- Develop targeted strategies to engage youth in the planning process and provide opportunities for meaningful participation.
- Partner with schools, academic programs and nonprofit organizations to connect with youth across the region.
- Explore opportunities to establish youth-focused advisory groups or incorporate youth perspectives into existing engagement structures.
- Coordinate with existing programs, such as youth academies or internship initiatives, to support learning and participation.
- Design engagement activities that are relevant, accessible and responsive to the interests and experiences of younger audiences.

### ix. Other Strategies

- Develop a style guide for public presentations that encourages clear, easy-to-read slides using plain language, visuals and relatable examples whenever possible.
- Use paid digital promotion to increase awareness and participation.
- Conduct pop-up outreach at community events and public gathering spaces.
- Use data visualization tools such as maps, graphics and simulations to communicate planning concepts.
- Conduct surveys or statistically valid polling, as appropriate.
- Provide summaries of public input through the Plan Bay Area website.
- Communicate how public input has informed planning decisions and outcomes.

# VI. Public Participation Goals

People who take the time to participate in the planning process should feel their contributions are valued and meaningful. Plan Bay Area 2060 is guided by the following public participation goals, which will inform engagement strategies, communications approaches and ongoing evaluation of the public participation program throughout the planning process.

## Promote transparency and provide clear, accessible information

Plan Bay Area 2060 will support meaningful public participation by providing timely, accurate and easy-to-understand information about the planning process, key milestones, opportunities for engagement and decision-making activities.

Objectives and Approaches:

- Provide early and ongoing notice of engagement opportunities and decision points.
- Develop materials using clear, plain language and accessible formats.
- Maintain a central, up-to-date source of information through the Plan Bay Area website and related communication channels.
- Incorporate storytelling, visual materials, digital tools and video content to help explain complex planning topics and connect them to everyday experiences.

## Expand participation and reduce barriers to engagement

Plan Bay Area 2060 will provide multiple ways for people to participate and will use flexible and inclusive approaches designed to reduce barriers to participation across the region.

Objectives and Approaches:

- Offer a range of engagement formats, including webinars, hybrid workshops and asynchronous participation opportunities.

- Partner with community-based organizations (CBOs) and local partners to support outreach and participation.
- Provide language access and accommodations for people with disabilities upon request.
- Use flexible approaches to reach participants across different communities, schedules, geographies and access needs.
- Incorporate digital engagement and emerging tools to expand participation opportunities.

## Support meaningful participation and help inform decision-making

Plan Bay Area 2060 will provide opportunities for public input to meaningfully inform planning discussions and decision-making throughout the development of the plan.

Objectives and Approaches:

- Provide participants with clear information about how and when input can influence the process.
- Share public feedback and input with decision-makers in a timely and accessible manner.
- Communicate how public input was considered and incorporated into the planning process.
- Support ongoing dialogue with communities and partners throughout the development of the plan.

## Build public understanding and capacity around regional planning issues

Plan Bay Area 2060 will support public understanding of regional planning topics and help participants engage with complex issues related to transportation, housing, the environment and long-range planning.

Objectives and Approaches:

- Incorporate educational content throughout each phase of engagement.
  Use visual materials, digital content, videos and other tools to explain key planning concepts.
- Provide context on trade-offs, scenarios and potential outcomes to support informed participation.
- Connect planning concepts and strategies to real-world projects, policies, investments and community experiences.

### Use responsive and evolving engagement approaches

Plan Bay Area 2060 will continue to adapt engagement strategies over time based on participation trends, public feedback, lessons learned and changing conditions throughout the planning process.

Objectives and Approaches:

- Monitor participation and engagement outcomes throughout the process. Adjust strategies and tools as needed to improve accessibility, effectiveness and participation.
- Incorporate new approaches and technologies, including digital tools and video content, where appropriate.
- Coordinate engagement activities internally and externally, where feasible, to support consistency and help reduce engagement fatigue.

## Measuring Progress

Plan Bay Area 2060 may evaluate progress toward these public participation goals using a range of qualitative and quantitative indicators. Performance measures may be refined over time as engagement strategies evolve throughout the planning process.

Examples of indicators that may be used to evaluate engagement efforts include:

- Participation levels across engagement activities, formats and platforms.
- Geographic distribution of engagement activities and participants.
- Participation in multilingual, accessible and digital engagement opportunities.
- Participation and engagement supported through CBO partnerships and community collaborations.
- Public engagement with educational materials, videos, digital content and storytelling efforts.
- Website, email and digital engagement analytics, including participation trends and content engagement.
- Participant feedback regarding accessibility, usefulness and clarity of engagement materials and opportunities.
- Public understanding of how input informed planning discussions and decision-making.
- Participation in continuous engagement activities between major plan milestones.
- Adjustments made to engagement approaches in response to feedback, participation trends or identified gaps.