

Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
Community Advisory Council

August 7, 2026

Agenda Item 5a-26-0387

**Community-Based Transportation Planning (CBTP) Program Overview, Evaluation and
Draft Guidelines**

Subject:

Overview of MTC's Community-Based Transportation Planning (CBTP) program — an initiative that funds community-led transportation planning in Equity Priority Communities (EPCs) — including recent evaluation findings and draft guidelines for the upcoming CBTP program cycle.

CBTP Background:

Community-Based Transportation Plans, or CBTPs, are locally led plans that identify transportation needs and solutions in communities that face equity-related barriers. The program is intended to help local communities shape transportation priorities that improve access, mobility and safety in EPCs.

The CBTP program was launched in 2002 as an equity-focused implementation action following the adoption of the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). While the program has been refined over time, its central purpose has remained the same: to engage with local communities to identify prioritized neighborhood solutions that respond to residents' mobility needs.

Following a program evaluation, MTC adopted Resolution No. 4514 in April 2022 to guide the 2022-2026 CBTP cycle. The updated guidelines introduced new plan requirements, strengthened provisions to support project implementation and alignment with regional priorities and doubled program funding to \$3 million through OBAG Cycle 3, using the same population-based allocation formula. The program continues to support regional priorities by supporting implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050+ Strategy T8: Advance Other Regional Programs and Local Priorities, which focuses on implementing local priority projects to address community transportation needs particularly in EPCs.

MTC, county transportation agencies (CTAs), and staff from cities, transit agencies, and community-based organizations (CBOs) all have distinct roles in CBTPs. MTC provides funding for CBTPs and establishes guidelines. CTAs lead and oversee the CBTP project selection, including initiating CBTP work in eligible areas. City staff are involved in CBTPs in a variety of ways, ranging from serving on advisory committees to full project management authority delegated by the CTA. Transit agency staff serve on advisory committees and are consulted about service within the CBTP geography. CBO staff also serve on advisory committees and often actively participate in the CBTP process by facilitating engagement with community members or collecting data. The CBTP guidelines encourage CBO and resident compensation for their efforts.

Each CBTP process results in a planning document that summarizes local transportation needs, recommended solutions, potential funding sources for implementation and the public engagement process. The plan can vary in scale. Some focus on a single corridor or neighborhood, while others address multiple communities across a county.

To date, 42 communities have completed the CBTP process, including eight that have revised their plans within the last five years. Seven CBTPs were completed in 2024 and 2025: two countywide plans in Marin and Napa counties, two plans in Sonoma County, two in Solano County and one in Santa Clara County. Four additional CBTPs are currently underway in Hayward, San Leandro, Contra Costa County, and San Francisco's Mission/Alemany neighborhood, with a Marin City CBTP update set to begin work soon.

While CBTPs have been effective in identifying community transportation priorities, advancing those projects to implementation has remained a challenge. To help address this gap, MTC developed the Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) program, which was previously presented to the Council in April 2026. CARE provides a continuum of support for community-prioritized projects through capacity building for community-based organizations (CBOs) and local governments, funding for project development, and support for project implementation. Together, these efforts provide dedicated resources to advance CBTP projects from concept to delivery.

The draft guidelines for the upcoming CBTP cycle (Attachment C), which are being considered today, are intended to continue the queue of community-prioritized projects to be considered for future funding and implementation.

CBTP Program Evaluation:

MTC staff initiated the CBTP program evaluation in April 2026. The evaluation was guided by two primary objectives:

Understand the outcomes of the CBTP program under the 2022-2026 guidelines

Staff surveyed CTAs to identify key outcomes and challenges from CBTP efforts conducted under the updated guidelines.

Evaluate strengths and gaps in the CBTP program related to CBO partnerships

Staff conducted interviews with six CBOs to better understand their experience participating in the CBTP process. The aim was to identify challenges, success factors, and opportunities to strengthen collaboration.

The CBTP program evaluation concluded in June 2026, with findings informing proposed revisions to the program guidelines. CTA staff reported that the 2022 Guidelines have strengthened program outcomes, while emphasizing the importance of maintaining current funding levels and expanding technical assistance to support effective implementation. CBOs noted that clearer guidance and additional onboarding support can foster more meaningful participation.

Draft CBTP Program Guidelines:

Attachments A and B summarize proposed revisions to the CBTP program guidelines for the upcoming cycle. These updates are informed by the program evaluation and are intended to improve clarity, strengthen alignment with agency accessibility goals, and enhance engagement with CBOs. Attachment C provides the full draft of the revised guidelines.

Staff will present updated guidelines for Commission approval in fall 2026 to support the 2027–2031 CBTP funding cycle. Any CBTPs conducted in this future cycle will be required to align

with updated guidelines informed by the program evaluation. The 2027–2031 CBTP cycle will be funded through the CARE Participatory Budgeting and Implementation (PBI) Program.

Questions for the Council:

- What elements should the CBTP guidelines emphasize to ensure local plans are community-centered and actionable?
- What types of capacity-building or technical assistance have you seen be most effective in facilitating engagement and partnerships with CBOs that have not traditionally been involved in transportation planning?

Recommended Action:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Presentation
- Attachment B: CBTP Program Guidelines Change Summary
- Attachment C: Draft CBTP Program Guidelines
- Attachment D: Map of Community-Based Transportation Plans

Reviewed:



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