

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments  
Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee**

November 4, 2022

Agenda Item 3b

**MTC Resolution No. 4550 - Guidelines for Countywide Transportation Plans**

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**Subject:**

Adoption of revised guidelines for Countywide Transportation Plans completed by County Transportation Agencies (CTA).

**Background:**

In 1988, the State legislature authorized Bay Area counties to, on a voluntary basis, develop Countywide Transportation Plans (CTPs) (California Government Code 66531). The state statute also directed MTC to develop guidelines to assist counties in the preparation of their respective CTPs. MTC adopted the original guidelines in 1989 as MTC Resolution No. 2120, now superseded by MTC Resolution No. 4550. In 2014, MTC adopted a major update to the guidelines after the adoption of *Plan Bay Area* (2013), which was the Bay Area's first Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to incorporate a state-mandated Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks.

**CTPs and the Regional Planning Process:**

Led by CTAs, the CTP development process is a collaborative effort with cities, transit operators, and other stakeholders to reflect local policies and priorities. State law created an inter-dependent relationship between CTPs and the Bay Area's RTP (commonly referred to as "Plan Bay Area"). While CTPs must consider the most recently adopted RTP, they also serve as a basis for the development of each RTP. The CTP guidelines must be consistent with the Commission's preparation of the RTP, which is guided by state (Government Code Section 65080) and federal (§ 450.324) requirements for the preparation and content of RTPs. The intent of the CTP guidelines is to achieve compatibility between CTPs and the RTP through a common planning framework, even though the plans may differ in scope.

**Revisions to the CTP Guidelines:**

The revised guidelines aim to strengthen compatibility between CTPs and the preparation and content of Plan Bay Area by focusing on the most important components of the RTP development and preparation. Staff began the revision process by reviewing CTPs and meeting with CTA staff to discuss various CTP components and linkages to local planning efforts. As a result, staff incorporated best practices from the Bay Area's CTPs that support and strengthen the planning framework with Plan Bay Area. Staff also refined the guidelines approach to equity by weaving equity throughout the recommendations. Noteworthy revisions include recommendations to:

- Summarize forecasted outcomes of implementing the investments and policies in the CTP;
- Document and explain how investments and policies are consistent with and support implementation of the regional growth framework and other regional growth policies;
- Prioritize a set of investments and policies that can be implemented within a 10-year period and identify near-term implementation actions; and,
- Integrate equity throughout the CTP development process, including, but not limited to, lowering participation barriers of hard-to-reach populations, incorporating equity into the CTP performance framework, prioritizing strategies that advance equity, and incorporating investments and policies that advance priorities identified in Community Based Transportation Plans.

**Next Steps:**

Approval of the revised CTP guidelines will guide the next iterations of CTPs across the region. Completed CTPs will serve as inputs into the next major update of Plan Bay Area, expected to begin in 2026 and be completed in 2029. Staff recommends that the revised CTP guidelines take effect for CTPs started after November 1, 2022. The updated guidelines encourage counties to collaborate with MTC during the scoping phase of their next CTP to ensure coordination early in the planning process.

**Issues:**

None identified.

**Recommendations:**

Refer MTC Resolution No. 4550 to the Commission for approval.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A: MTC Resolution No. 4550



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