

Public Participation Plan Update Approach



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

Policy Advisory Council
November 9, 2022

Background

- In accordance with 23 CFR 450.316, **MTC is required to engage in a planning process that creates opportunities for public involvement, participation and consultation throughout the development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**
- SB 375 also requires MTC to develop a separate engagement plan for the development of the RTP and Sustainable Communities Strategy — the region’s long-range plan, known as Plan Bay Area 2050.

Current Public Participation Plan

- Details the process for updating, amending and modifying MTC's long-range plan and the TIP
- Explains methods for providing continuous engagement, including the role of advisory groups as well as the Commission's own committees.
- Summarizes various methods for public engagement
- Describes how MTC consults with Tribal governments and other public agencies
- Discusses the process for evaluating and updating the PP
- Details the process and schedule for public engagement goals and opportunities relating to the next update to the region's long-range plan (Plan Bay Area 2050 Pls), including information about regional forecasting, the preferred land use and investment strategy process, and issuance of the draft and final plan.

Guiding Principles

- Public participation is a dynamic activity that requires teamwork and commitment at all levels of the MTC organization.
- One size does not fit all — input from diverse perspectives enhances the process.
- Effective public outreach and involvement requires relationship building with local governments, stakeholders and advisory groups.
- Engaging interested persons in ‘regional’ transportation issues is challenging, yet possible, by making it relevant, removing barriers to participation, and communicating in clear, compelling language and visuals.
- 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).

Five Engagement Strategies

1. Early engagement is best
2. Access to all
3. Response to written comments
4. Inform Commissioners and the public of areas of agreement and disagreement
5. Notify the public of proposed or final actions

Proposed Approach

- ***New!*** Provide the public with an overview of how they can get involved in other agency projects and activities with opportunities for input and engagement beyond PBA and the TIP
- ***New!*** Incorporate Equity Platform into the plan
- Update **Guiding Principles** and **Engagement Strategies** to help guide all agency public engagement activities
- Incorporate current best practices for engagement methods

Five Phases

- **Research:**
 - Guiding Principles
 - Engagement Strategies
 - Engagement Methods
- **Development:**
 - Incorporate Equity Platform
 - Develop Draft PPP
 - Develop Appendix A
- **Engagement:**
 - Late January release
 - 45-day comment period
- **Revision:**
 - Revise Draft PPP
 - Incorporate public feedback
- **Adoption:**
 - Release revised Draft PPP
 - May 2023 Adoption

Timeline

- Research: October–November 2022
- Develop Draft PPP: December 2022–January 2023
- Release Draft PPP: Late January 2023
- Close of comment period: mid-March 2023
- Revise PPP and incorporate public feedback: mid-March–early May
- Release revised Draft PPP: early May
- Adoption: late May 2023

Next Steps

- Continue research phase
- Seeking feedback on the PPP's Guiding Principles and Engagement Strategies
- Small-group Council member discussion interviews
- Draft PPP release in late January 2023

Staff Contact

Leslie Lara-Enríquez

Assistant Director, Public Engagement

Legislation and Public Affairs

llara-enriquez@bayareametro.gov