

Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee

November 14, 2025

Agenda Item 4a

Draft 2026 MTC and ABAG Legislative Advocacy Program

Subject:

Draft 2026 Joint Advocacy Program for MTC and ABAG, expressing the agencies' state and federal legislative priorities.

Background:

MTC and ABAG each year adopt a joint advocacy program that guides the agencies' state and federal advocacy. Staff throughout the fall seek input on advocacy program priorities from agency issue area experts, stakeholders and other key partners (including MTC's Partnership Legislative Committee – a forum for local transportation agency staff and key stakeholders to share information - the Policy Advisory Council, key housing partners, and Bay Area state and federal delegation staff). We will return to the Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee in December with a proposed final advocacy program for Commission and ABAG Executive Board adoption that month.

Proposed 2026 Legislative Priorities:

Staff anticipates MTC and ABAG's top 2026 state advocacy priority will be modernizing California's regional transportation and land use planning framework – the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) – to better support progress toward the suite of state and regional environmental, housing, and transportation-related goals, including, but not limited to, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. This will include pursuing legislation in 2026 and participating in the California State Transportation Association-led task force focused on regulatory, budgetary, and post-2026 legislative initiatives that could support SCS implementation. Other anticipated priorities include:

- Maintaining existing state transportation resources, including protecting against cuts to prior-year state funding commitments to transit (i.e., SB 125) and seeking to avoid a reduction in State Transit Assistance (STA) funds for Bay Area transit agencies.

- Pursuing funding from the Cap and Trade reauthorization's proposed \$125 million Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)-funded "transit pass" set-aside to expand BayPass access for Bay Area community college students, which could significantly improve mobility and grow transit ridership.
- Sustaining federal investment in Bay Area transportation by protecting current funding for California and the Bay Area in the reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program, which is set to expire on October 1, 2026;
- Continuing to engage with regional partners and state leaders to position the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) and a future regional housing measure for success;
- Supporting continuation of MTC and ABAG programs, including the regional housing technical assistance program and BAHFA programs, and other local technical assistance to advance housing, transportation, and climate goals by securing resources from the state budget.

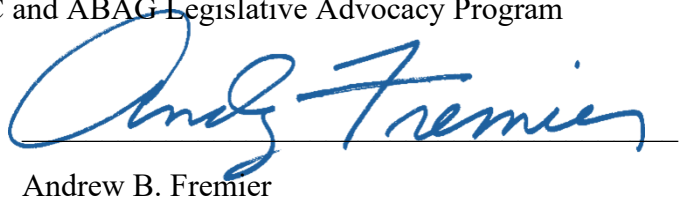
Other state focus areas, such as supporting funding and policies aligned with Plan Bay Area 2050, transportation system effectiveness, transportation project delivery, along with climate, resilience, and environment, remain largely consistent with last year's advocacy program. Similarly, proposed federal advocacy goals track closely with those from 2025, which focused largely on protecting the Bay Area's access to federal resources and MTC's federal surface transportation reauthorization platform.

Recommendation:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Draft 2026 MTC and ABAG Legislative Advocacy Program



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