

Regional Network Management Council

August 24, 2026

Agenda Item 7a 26–0679

Regional Network Management Council Work Plan (Fiscal Years 2026-27 and 2027-28) and Transit Transformation Action Plan Progress Update

Subject:

Request approval of the Regional Network Management (RNM) Council Work Plan for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2026-27 and 2027-28 and progress update on the 2021 Transit Transformation Action Plan (TAP).

Background:

The Transit Transformation Action Plan (TAP) was adopted in 2021 and aimed to re-shape the region's transit system into a more connected, more efficient, and more user-focused mobility network, resulting in increased ridership and reduced growth in vehicle miles traveled. The TAP established a set of 27 near-term actions intended to improve the transit rider customer experience through regional coordination in five areas: fares and payment; customer information; transit priority; network management; accessibility; and funding.

The TAP is the foundation for Regional Network Management (RNM) and anchors the RNM Council's Work Plan, guiding collective efforts to deliver tangible customer benefits. Staff presented a proposed Two-Year Work Plan for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2026-27 and 2027-28 to the RNM Council at the June 1, 2026, meeting and subsequently to the RNM Committee at their August 2026 meeting for additional discussion and feedback. Staff have incorporated feedback received from both bodies and made minor refinements to work plan activities and milestone dates.

This item also includes a progress update on the TAP to provide context for the RNM Council's consideration and approval of the revised Two-Year Work Plan.

Transit Transformation Action Plan: Implementation Progress

The 27 actions in the TAP represent initial milestones within a broader program effort. Significant progress has been made, with most actions either completed or substantively underway. However, continued implementation and focus will be necessary to achieve the long-term outcomes envisioned in the TAP.

Key accomplishments include:

- **Fares and Payment:** Adopted the Fare Policy Vision Statement; launched Clipper BayPass; rollout of free and discounted interagency transfers through the Clipper transition
- **Customer Information:** Installed test prototypes at El Cerrito del Norte Station and Santa Rosa Transit Mall and SMART station; RNM Council approval of regional mapping and wayfinding design guides
- **Transit Priority:** Funded near-term transit priority projects through BusAID and IDEA TSP programs; adopted the Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways
- **Transit Network Planning & Governance:** Established the RNM governance framework; completed Transit 2050+
- **Accessibility:** Identified standardized paratransit eligibility practices; identified and funded regional one-seat ride paratransit pilots

The completed actions have advanced several initiatives from planning to implementation and have resulted in pilot programs and policy frameworks that continue to shape ongoing work, guided by the RNM bodies. Several actions have not yet been completed but are actively underway, while a small number of actions are on hold pending future policy direction, resource availability or consideration as part of a future update to the TAP.

Attachment B provides a comprehensive progress update on all 27 TAP actions, including accomplishments to date, implementation status, revised schedules where applicable and key dependencies affecting remaining work. The progress update is intended to inform future discussions regarding a potential amendment to the TAP beginning in early 2027, including consideration of new priorities and recommendations identified through the recent RNM Framework Review.

As a part of the programming of federal COVID relief funding in 2021 the Commission approved – with the support of transit agencies and County Transportation Agencies – one-time funding of \$85 million to support near-term implementation of the TAP. In addition, MTC has leveraged additional funding from a variety of other sources, including federal OBAG 2 and 3

grants and state REAP 2 funds, to support TAP initiatives and other RNM activities. To date, the majority of available funding has been allocated to implementation activities that translate TAP priorities into tangible improvements for riders and provide operational benefits to transit agencies.

Attachment C provides an overview of the funding identified to date for implementation of TAP actions and RNM Council priorities.

FYs 2026-27 and 2027-28 Work Plan

Each year, the RNM Council adopts a two-year Work Plan to guide activities for that period. Staff developed the draft RNM Council Two-Year Work Plan based on progress on the current Work Plan, in consultation with transit agency partners. The draft Work Plan is focused on the following: 1) advancing and delivering results for activities that are already underway; 2) incorporating select findings and recommendations from the Two-Year RNM Framework Review; and, 3) providing adjusted timelines based on capacity, resources, and dependencies. The draft Work Plan was presented to the RNM Council in June, and subsequently to the RNM Committee at its August meeting for additional discussion and feedback. RNM Committee members supported using the Work Plan to advance recommendations from the RNM Framework Review and in convening a joint meeting of the RNM bodies. Committee members also expressed interest in exploring the next steps for regional fare programs, advancing connected network planning and opportunities to expand the Work Plan to address topics such as access to transit and MTC's Transit Oriented Communities Policy. Staff propose addressing these topics through forthcoming discussions in 2027 under the update to the TAP. No major revisions were made to the draft Work Plan in response to RNM Committee feedback. However, an additional work plan item was included to explore working towards integrating the Clipper Executive Board into the RNM Council. Additionally, staff have refined several timelines based on project progress and more accurate assessments of the time required to complete key activities.

For each work plan item, Attachment D summarizes: current status (including recent activities and key achievements), funding status and source(s), proposed upcoming and future activities, and the next anticipated update or action by the RNM Council.

In addition to the projects and programs formally included in the draft Work Plan, staff will continue to coordinate with agency partners to bring updates on related activities that would benefit from discussion at a regional forum, and will also engage the RNM Council to advance other recommendations from the RNM Framework Review as appropriate.

Next Steps:

Staff will present quarterly progress reports to the RNM Council and initiate discussions to update the TAP in 2027.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Approval of the RNM Council Work Plan for FYs 2026-27 and 2027-28.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Presentation
- Attachment B: 2021 Transit Transformation Action Plan Implementation Progress Update
- Attachment C: Transit Transformation Action Plan Funding Overview
- Attachment D: RNM Council Work Plan for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2026-27 and 2027-28