
Horizon: Transformative Projects Winning Submission

Subject: Announcement of the winning Transformative Project submission from Horizon, based upon its relative cost-effectiveness, alignment with Guiding Principles, and advancement of equitable outcomes.

Background: As part of the Horizon initiative – which leveraged robust scenario planning and project evaluation to prepare for Plan Bay Area 2050 – MTC and ABAG solicited new ideas for transformative transportation improvements. Going beyond traditional public agencies, members of the public, as well as non-profits and businesses, were eligible to submit their ideas into the long-range planning process for the first time.

Twelve finalists were identified in 2018 by a jury of transportation experts, out of more than 400 submissions overall. Each of the finalists was evaluated through the Horizon Project Performance Assessment, alongside investments proposed by public agencies such as interchange improvements or new BART lines. Final Project Performance Findings were released publicly in recent days, which integrated analysis of these twelve finalists by MTC/ABAG staff. Ultimately, the Transformative Project that rose to the top was an **Integrated Transit Fare System**. Finalists who submitted integrated transit fare system projects included members of the public Eddy Ionescu and Jason Lee, as well as non-profits Seamless Bay Area and SPUR.

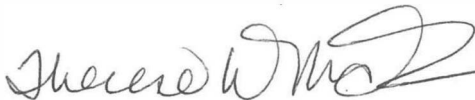
Final Project Performance Findings, including those for an Integrated Transit Fare System, can be found online at: <https://mtc.ca.gov/our-work/plans-projects/horizon/project-performance-assessment>. This includes newly-released performance results for a Regional Express Bus Network, SMART to Richmond, and Demand-Based Tolling on All Highways, among others.

An integrated fare system, with seamless connections between the region’s numerous transit operators, not only outperformed the eleven other Transformative Projects but also ranked one of the highest-performing projects overall. It proved cost-effective in multiple Futures, advanced equity by yielding disproportionately high benefits for lower-income residents, and supported all five Guiding Principles adopted for Horizon/Plan Bay Area 2050. This project has been incorporated into the proposed shortlist of strategies for MTC and ABAG to consider advancing into the Draft Blueprint, the next phase of Plan Bay Area 2050. In a parallel effort, MTC and the transit operators are conducting an Integrated Fare Study Business Case. This effort could lead to near-term implementation recommendations.

Issues: None identified.

Recommendation: Information

Attachments: None


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