

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
MTC Planning Committee

April 11, 2025

Agenda Item 3b

MTC Resolution No. 3000, Revised – Congestion Management Program Policy

Subject:

Overview of MTC’s Congestion Management Program (CMP) Policy and its role in ensuring consistency between county CMPs and Plan Bay Area 2050, the currently-adopted long-range regional plan. The policy update provides guidance to Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs), also known as County Transportation Agencies (CTAs), on how MTC will evaluate consistency as part of the 2025 CMP review process.

Background:

CMPs were established in 1990 as part of Proposition 111, which increased the state gas tax and required urban counties to develop CMPs to qualify for certain transportation funds. The program was designed to ensure coordinated transportation planning, integration of land use and transportation decisions, and system performance monitoring.

Each county’s CMA prepares a biennial CMP, traditionally using Level of Service (LOS) ratings (A–F) to measure roadway congestion. However, state law allows counties to opt out of the CMP requirement if a majority of local governments representing a majority of the population approve the decision, as authorized by Assembly Bill 2419 (1996). Marin, Napa, and Sonoma counties have opted out of the CMP process and instead rely on Countywide Transportation Plans (CTPs) to guide their transportation priorities.

Over the past several CMP update cycles, MTC has encouraged local consideration of the opt-out process, recognizing that state policy has increasingly emphasized reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) over LOS. Current law, including Senate Bill 375 (2008) and Senate Bill 743 (2013), now emphasizes reducing GHG and VMT, respectively. These legislative changes have reinforced a more holistic approach to transportation planning, moving beyond traditional congestion measures to strategies that encourage multimodal travel, emissions reduction, and improved accessibility. Given this shift, MTC has supported counties in focusing on CTPs as a more effective tool for long-term planning and local investment decisions.

MTC's Responsibility:

MTC plays a review and coordination role in the CMP process. For counties that prepare CMPs, MTC is responsible for: (1) ensuring consistency between each CMP and Plan Bay Area 2050; (2) reviewing regional alignment of CMPs to ensure compatibility across counties; and (3) incorporating CMP projects into the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) for funding consideration.

For counties that opt out of CMPs, MTC works directly with the CTA to reflect local priorities from an adopted Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and ensure they are consistent with Plan Bay Area 2050 for RTIP funding.

Revisions to the CMP Policy:

There are no proposed changes to MTC's Congestion Management Program Policy for 2025. The policy was last updated in 2023 to align with Plan Bay Area 2050 and reflect updates to MTC's Guidance for Model Consistency, Collaboration, and Transparency, as well as MTC's Transit-Oriented Communities Policy. Revisions to the CMP Policy may occur as part of the next cycle, including aligning with Plan Bay Area 2050+ after its proposed adoption next year.

Next Steps:

In fall 2025, CMAs will submit their 2025 CMPs and project priorities for inclusion in the 2027 TIP. MTC will then review CMP consistency before submitting the final 2026 RTIP priorities to the California Transportation Commission by December 15, 2025. See Table 1 for a summary of the 2025 CMP review process.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

MTC Resolution No. 3000, Revised, delegates to this Committee the responsibility for approving revisions to the CMP Guidance (MTC Resolution No. 3000, Revised). Staff recommends that the Planning Committee approve Attachments A and B of MTC Resolution No. 3000, Revised, to provide guidance for developing the 2025 CMPs consistent with Plan Bay Area 2050, the currently-adopted long-range plan.

Attachment:

- Attachment A: Table 1. 2025 CMP Review Process and Schedule
- Attachment B: MTC Resolution No. 3000, Revised



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Table 1. 2025 CMP Review Process and Schedule

Date	Activity	Responsible Party
October 2025	CTAs submit 2025 CMP (for counties that prepare CMPs), RTIP projects summary listings and identification of projects requiring project-level performance measure analysis to MTC. Deadline to submit Complete Streets Checklist for new projects.	CTAs
October 2025	Consistency review of submitted 2025 CMPs with Plan Bay Area 2050 and compatibility of prepared CMPs in the Bay Area.	MTC Staff
November 2025	Final Project Programming Request (PPR) forms due to MTC. Final RTIP project listing and performance measure analysis due to MTC. Final Project Study Report (or PSR equivalent), Resolution of Local Support, and Certification of Assurances due to MTC (final complete applications due).	CTAs
December 10, 2025	Programming & Allocations Committee (PAC) scheduled a review of RTIP and referral to Commission for approval.	MTC PAC
December 15, 2025	2026 RTIP due to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) (including PAC-approved project list).	MTC Staff
December 15, 2025	MTC's scheduled Consistency Findings on 2025 CMPs and scheduled approval of the 2026 RTIP.	MTC Commission