

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Programming and Allocations Committee**

September 10, 2025

Agenda Item 4a-25-1091

MTC Resolution No. 4728. Policies and Procedures for the 2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

Subject:

Adoption of the Policies and Procedures for the 2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

Background:

The Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) is the Bay Area's share of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), California's five-year transportation investment plan that programs state and federal transportation funds for roadway, rail, and public transportation improvements. MTC is responsible for developing the RTIP to reflect the region's priorities and submitting it to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for inclusion in the STIP.

The STIP is funded primarily through the state excise tax on gasoline and is updated every two years with new programming. By statute, 75 percent of STIP funds are programmed by regional agencies through their RTIPs, while the remaining 25 percent is programmed at the statewide level through the Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) prepared by Caltrans. Together, the RTIPs and ITIP make up California's five-year investment plan for state transportation dollars.

Resolution No. 4728 establishes MTC's policies, procedures, project criteria, schedule, and funding targets for the 2026 RTIP, and will be amended in December to include the program of projects due to the CTC by December 15, 2025. The 2026 STIP covers fiscal years 2026-27 through 2030-31.

The 2026 RTIP provides \$95 million in new programming capacity to the nine-county MTC region. In addition to the new programming capacity in the 2026 RTIP, sponsors have the opportunity to update existing project funding plans and schedules. Below is a summary of the proposed schedule:

- October 31, 2025: Bay Area County Transportation Agencies (CTAs) submit final project nominations to MTC.
- December 10, 2025: This Committee will review the proposed RTIP project listing.
- December 17, 2025: The Commission will consider adoption of the final 2026 RTIP.

The 2026 guidance includes the latest updates to the CTC STIP Guidelines adopted on August 14, 2025 (see Attachment A). Staff met with the region's CTAs in July to solicit input on the proposed policies and procedures.

Staff recommends minor changes to the 2026 RTIP Policies and Procedures for the 2026 RTIP. A full summary of the proposed changes to the regional guidance is included in Attachment B.

Regional Set-aside Programming Update

The Regional Set-aside Programming section of the 2026 RTIP Policies and Procedures outlines the status of MTC's commitment of \$46 million in regional set-aside funds to support the Housing Incentive Pool Program. For the 2026 RTIP, staff propose that retaining this existing programming be the highest priority for funding, following certain other categories such as Planning funding, before new projects are considered. More information is provided in Attachment B.

New Transit Extensions – Additional Requirements

Consistent with other regional discretionary programs such as Regional Measure 3 (RM3), new transit extension projects must comply with MTC Resolution No. 4530, MTC's Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) Policy. The TOC Policy supports the region's transit investments by creating communities around transit stations and along transit corridors. The draft 2026 RTIP Policies and Procedures includes language to reflect the latest TOC Policy implementation work. Specifically, to the extent that projects in the RTIP qualify as transit extensions as defined by the TOC Policy, project sponsors must satisfy relevant TOC Policy requirements before seeking MTC's concurrence for a STIP funding allocation. Further discussion about the TOC Policy is included in Attachment B to this memo.

Issues:

Fund Capacity

The 2026 STIP Fund Estimate reflects lower than anticipated programming capacity. The limited capacity for the 2026 STIP is a result of declining gas tax revenues, project advancements, and supplemental allocations for cost increases on existing STIP projects. As a result, new funding is available only in the fiscal years 2029-30 and 2030-31. Existing commitments can be met in the early years, but counties seeking additional funds or advancing existing projects must propose delaying another project within the same fiscal year.

County Commitments

As shown in the Regional Policies section of the 2026 RTIP Policies and Procedures and highlighted in Attachment B under "Regional Set-aside Summary," MTC has set aside \$34.4 million for regional priority projects from outstanding county commitments affecting San Francisco County (\$31 million) and Sonoma County (\$3.4 million). In both cases, the region can program regional priority projects using those counties' shares. MTC staff are working to identify projects to use this capacity, and will return to this Committee in December with the finalized approach to these set-asides.

Recommendations:

Refer MTC Resolution No. 4728 to the Commission for approval.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Highlights of CTC 2026 STIP Guidelines
- Attachment B: MTC Highlights and Changes to the 2026 RTIP Policies and Procedures
- MTC Resolution No. 4728
 - Attachments A - C



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