

Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Program Update

Power-Building and Engagement (Pb+E)
Project Development to Advance Projects in
Community Based Transportation Plans (CBTP)
Participatory Budgeting (PB)

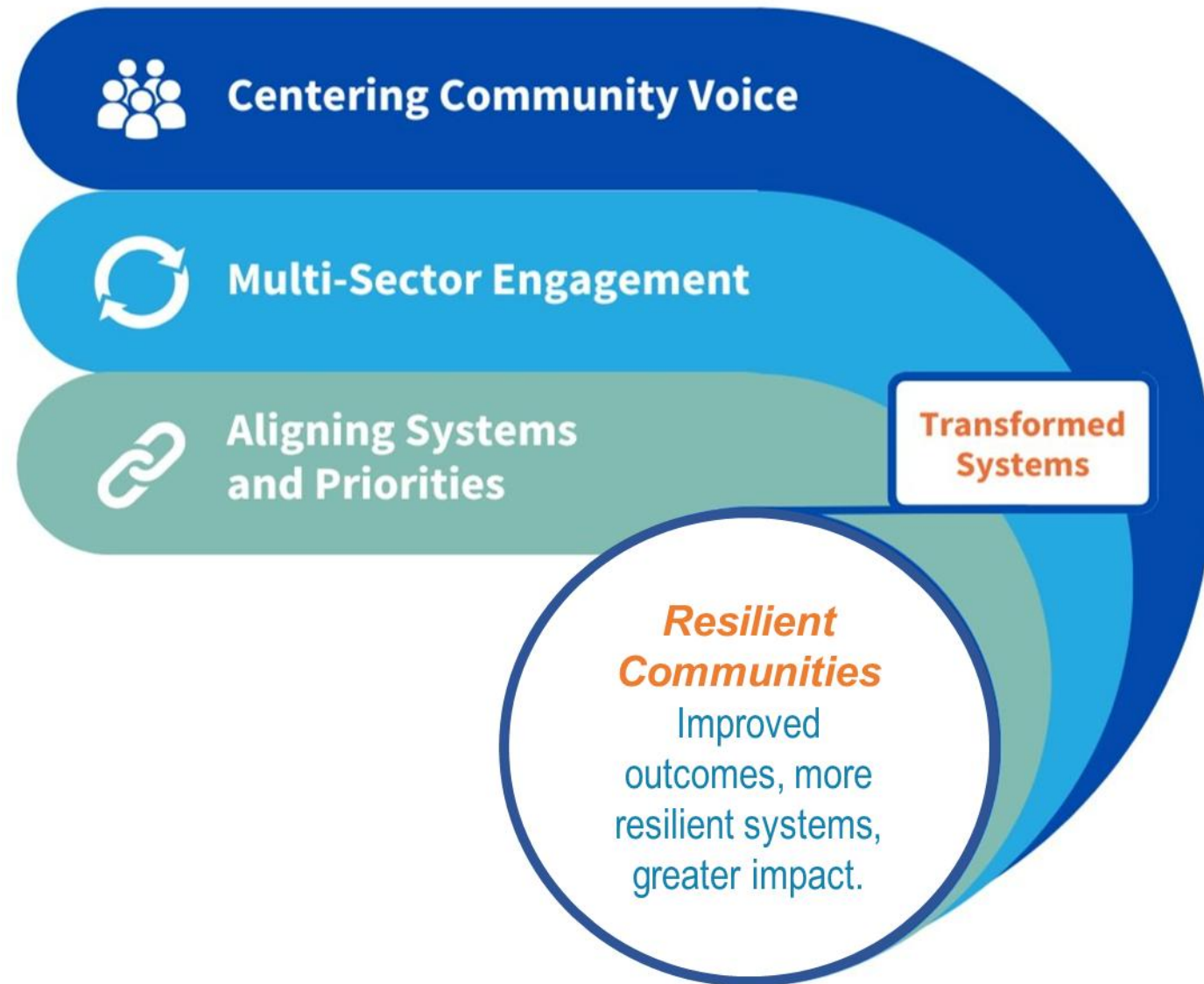
Policy Advisory Council
November 18, 2025



ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CARE Approach

- CARE is advancing a shift in how transit/transportation systems, community organizations, residents and multiple sectors collaborate to improve mobility, climate, and housing.



CARE Program Components

CARE is a competitive funding, grant, and implementation program, providing state and federal funds across three program components.



COMMUNITY POWER-BUILDING AND ENGAGEMENT (Pb+E)

- **Total Funding:** \$3.5 million
- **Objective:** Provide technical assistance and capacity building for/from/with community-based organizations and local government.
- **Timeline:** Fall 2025 – Winter 2026



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CBTP PROJECTS

- **Total Funding:** \$12 million
- **Objective:** Advance CBTP concepts to construction-ready projects.
- **Timeline:** Early 2026 – Winter 2026



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING (PB)

- **Total Funding:** ~\$10 million
- **Objective:** Implement high-priority neighborhood projects identified from Participatory Budgeting processes or similar.
- **Timeline:** Winter 2027 - Onward

Power-building + Engagement (Pb+E) Program Design

GOALS:

- Build Community Leadership and Capacity-building in Transportation and Housing
- Facilitate Inclusive Multi-Sector Partnerships and Collaboration Development
- Implement Resilient Community Solutions

STRATEGY:

- Grant Program
- Support: Technical Assistance, Peer Learning, Cohort Convenings, Expert Coaching
- Learning Action Lab

LIFELINE 1.0



LIFELINE 2.0



CARE



Unifying and mobilizing the network with a collective identity and shared purpose for transit/transportation/housing/climate systems transformation.

Pb+E Update

- From November 12 Programming and Allocations Committee (PAC): Adoption of CARE Pb+E Project List - Programming of \$1.5 million to 16 projects.

Category (Pb+E)	Number of Projects	Amount
Capacity Building	7	\$350,000
Multi-Sector Partnerships	4	\$400,000
Community Projects	5	\$750,000
TOTAL	16	\$1,500,000

- Return to PAC: Program up to an additional **\$1 million** to fund more projects, given demand.

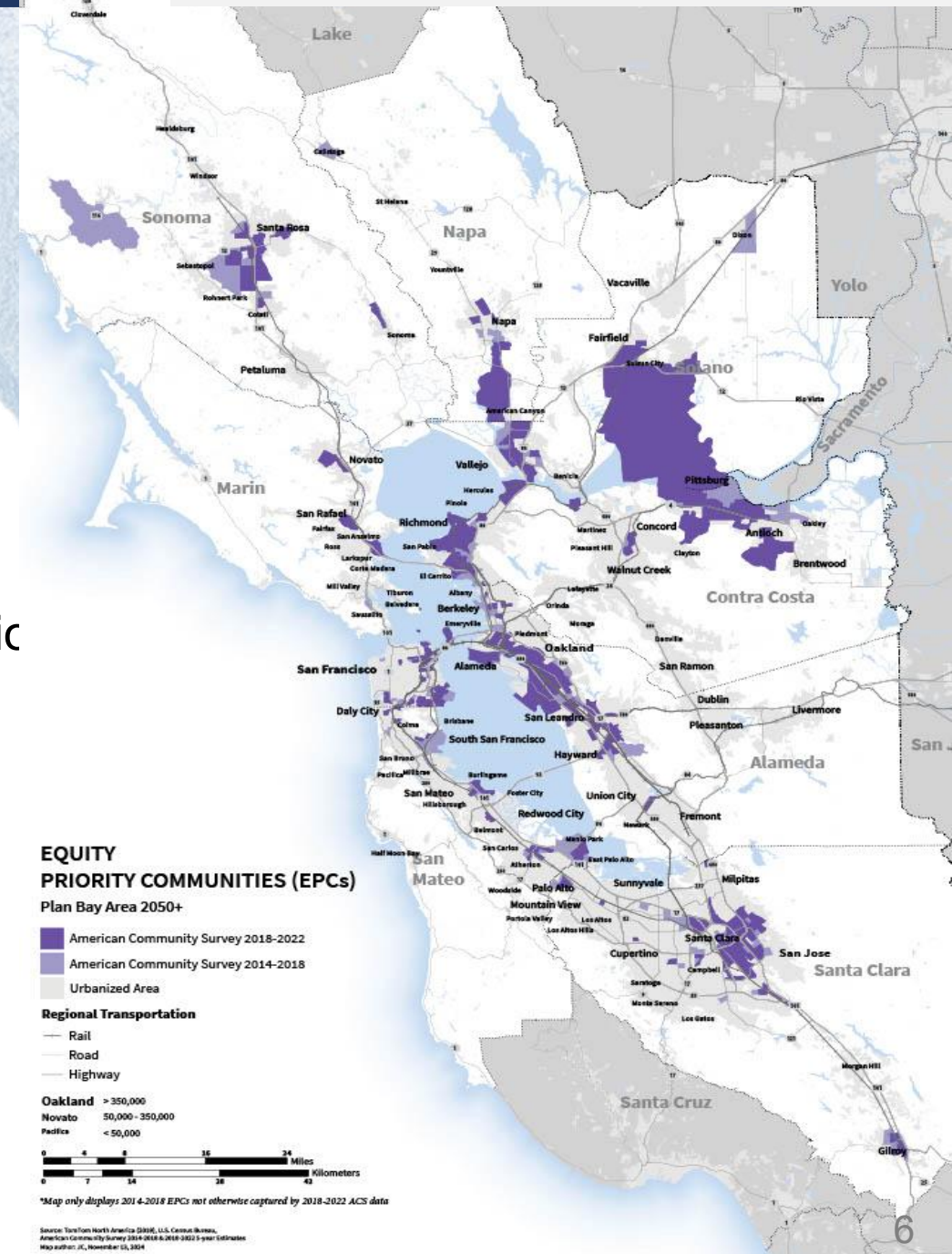


CBTP Overview

- Established in 2002.
- Funds planning in MTC-designated Equity Priority Communities (EPCs).
- Emphasizes meaningful community outreach and engagement.
- Identifies projects/programs that improve access and mobility for residents of EPCs.
- Funded by MTC; Administered by County Transportation Authorities (CTAs).

The program has funded plans in over **40 communities**, with **\$6.9 million** in grants.

There are 7 active CBTPs in Hayward, San Leandro, San Bruno, Rio Vista, Santa Rosa/Central Rohnert Park, Contra Costa (countywide) and Napa (countywide).



CBTP TA Approach



- **Underlying Need**
 - Significant support for CBTP planning, but limited funding for implementation.
- **Program Objective**
 - Deliver community-identified projects by advancing construction readiness.
- **Funding**
 - **\$12 million** for project development/design.
- **Eligible Activities**
 - Technical assistance to move projects from early to final design stages, and construction-readiness, including public and stakeholder engagement.

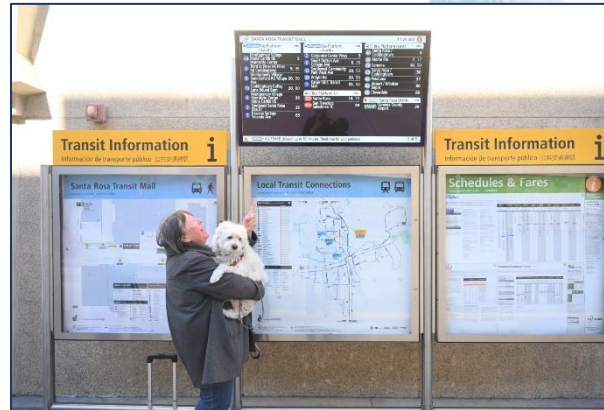


Photo Credit: Karl Nielsen; Noah Berger

CBTP TA Program Delivery

Approach

Staff plan to deliver CBTP TA through a streamlined process that ensures timely delivery while advancing high-priority community projects.

Program Delivery Framework

- **Fund Exchange:** Convert \$12M in federal funds to non-federal funds.
- **MTC Role:** Establish county funding targets and program guidelines.
- **CTA Role:** Conduct a Call for Projects in coordination with the OBAG 4 county process.
- **Eligibility:** Projects should have benefits to underserved communities and must demonstrate meaningful community support. Sponsors will have flexible pathways to demonstrate support.

Participatory Budgeting (PB)

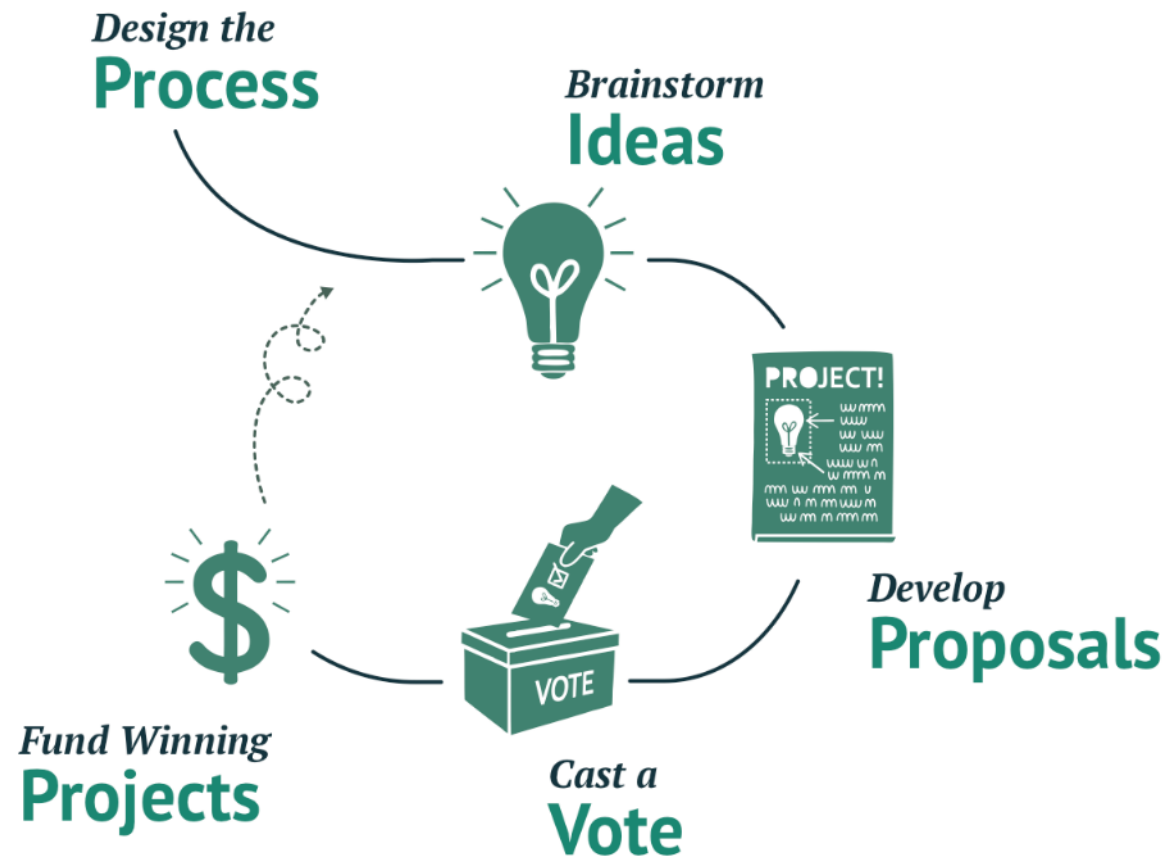


Image Credit ParticipatoryBudgeting.org

What is PB?

- A formal community-driven process where residents and community champions help spend part of a public budget by developing and voting for project ideas to benefit their community.
- Local jurisdictions implement “winning” projects.

2018 Participatory Budgeting Pilots



- SFCTA, SFMTA and Bayview CBTP
- \$600K funded community priorities: enhanced bus service, crosswalk improvements, bus shelters

- STA, SolTrans, City of Vallejo and Vallejo CBTP
- \$400K funded community priorities: bus wayfinding, lighting, shelters, crosswalk and sidewalk improvements

Proposed Delivery Framework

Objective: Fund and construct neighborhood projects that have been prioritized through a robust community-driven process.

Program Component	Proposal
Eligible Activities	Construction of community supported projects developed through the CBTP TA category or derived from an eligible PB / community-driven process.
Funding	• ~\$10M in a combination of federal and non-federal funds*; • County funding targets based on county's proportional share of Bay Area poverty population (former Lifeline county share formula); • Additional funding available for PB process implementation
MTC Role	• Establish county funding targets and program guidelines; • Facilitate PB process implementation as needed • Evaluate and approve projects
CTA Role	• Propose project team (city, community, CTA letter of support) • Nominate projects

*Dependent on final OBAG 4 program funding level. May include re-directed, unallocated State Transit Assistance Lifeline funding

Proposed CARE Timeline

