



May 23, 2025

Dear MTC Commissioners,

We are writing to comment on the Implementation Plan for Bay Area 2050+, which identifies the concrete near-term (next 5 years) steps needed to bring the vision of Plan Bay Area into existence. Plan Bay Area 2050+ has important goals of a more resilient and equitable Bay Area. It assigns over \$1.5 trillion dollars over the next 30 years to maintaining and enhancing our transit network, preserving and creating affordable housing opportunities, and driving economic mobility and climate resilience investments. The goals will only be accomplished by the actions we take in the short term to get on the path to success.

We are currently in an unprecedented moment of uncertainty and risk.

The Trump administration's actions are pushing the economy into a recession and threatening federal funding that the region relies on, especially for climate and environmental justice. We expect California's ability to regulate electric vehicle and truck technology to be greatly diminished and necessitate that we make even more progress in reducing driving to achieve our climate goals, a policy area that is entirely within state and local government control.

Our transit agencies face large budget deficits and the current plan to address those deficits include multiple ballot measures that may not all pass at the ballot.

Climate change creates uncertainty in our weather patterns and increases the likelihood of devastating fires, floods, and costly and fatal disasters.

The current PBA2050+ implementation planning process is missing the moment.

We need a better direction for the Bay Area's transportation future. Even without changes in federal funding, we have serious concerns about the final blueprint's ability to meet the California Air Resources Board's mandated target of 19% reduction in its greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions from passenger vehicles by 2035.

Remaining rigidly locked into the existing priorities, and failing to adapt to a changing funding landscape, will fail to meet the transportation, housing, climate, and economic opportunity needs outlined in Plan Bay Area 2050+. We urge you to take bold action at this critical moment to accelerate the shift in transportation priorities toward greater investment in public transit, active transportation, and affordable infill housing and away from highway expansion.

To ensure Plan Bay Area 2050+ achieves our regional goals and is resilient to changing circumstances, we recommend that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission takes the following actions:

1. Create a contingency plan that identifies what funding that MTC controls is flexible for transit operations and what can be used to backfill lost federal funding for climate and equity projects.
2. Develop a waterfall funding strategy that prioritizes maintaining transit service, emission reduction programs, and climate resilience that protect both climate vulnerable transportation infrastructure and the people that use it.
3. Start shifting available funding to transit operations immediately (before the outcome of ballot measures) to prevent short-term service cuts and make transit more attractive to voters.
4. Allow the public and commissioners to evaluate Plan Bay Area Implementation Plan processes across strategies. The ongoing survey and outreach process only allows for the public to engage on priorities within each strategy. This is problematic since it assumes that each strategy will be given equal weight and attention, undercutting opportunities for the public and Commission to accurately direct limited staff time and resources toward the region's most timely processes. Not allowing the public or Commission to engage across strategies makes the implementation plan less resilient to changing needs.

We cannot continue on autopilot assuming no lasting impacts of the current crisis we are in¹. It takes a long time to make changes in our transportation funding programs, this isn't the

¹ Many transit agencies were just recovering ridership lost from the 2008-2009 crisis when the pandemic started. AC Transit and Muni are still operating at reduced service compared to 2019. Any reductions in service levels will have a long lasting impact on ridership and our ability to meet climate goals.

time for a wait and see approach. It is the time to accelerate our efforts to implement Sustainable Community Strategies. MTC needs to plan now for the worst-case scenario while we all work together to prevent that scenario from happening. We welcome the opportunity to partner with you to realize the vision of SB 375 and make even greater progress toward our climate, equity, quality of life, and affordability goals for the Bay Area over the next five years.

Sincerely,

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