

Plan Bay Area 2050: Final Phase - Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Beyond

Subject: Highlights of the latest Plan Bay Area 2050 schedule, noting upcoming milestones related to the Final Blueprint and kicking off the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and Implementation Plan.

Background: Following approval of the Plan Bay Area 2050 Draft Blueprint Strategies and Growth Geographies for analysis in February 2020 by the MTC and ABAG boards, staff have been conducting modeling and analysis in preparation of the release of the Draft Blueprint this summer. Following robust engagement with the public, key stakeholders, and elected officials, there will be an opportunity to further refine the Growth Geographies and Strategies for the Final Blueprint, with action anticipated in September 2020. This refinement opportunity will include the consideration of recommendations from the Blue-Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force, which has been convened by MTC to lead the re-emergence of stronger, more connected, and more resilient transit in the wake of COVID-19.

However, approval of the Final Blueprint does not mark the end of the long-range planning process for Plan Bay Area 2050. The final phase of the planning process will stretch from fall 2020 to fall 2021 and will include the development of the **Environmental Impact Report**, the **Implementation Plan**, and the **Plan Document**. The remainder of this memorandum describes these upcoming deliverables, highlighting the primary purpose and timeline associated with each.

EIR

The purpose of the Plan Bay Area 2050 EIR will be to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as well as other applicable provisions of state and federal law. The EIR will inform decision-makers, responsible and trustee agencies, and the public of the potential environmental impacts of implementing the transportation, housing, economic and environmental strategies proposed in the Final Blueprint. The EIR will also identify feasible mitigation measures and evaluate a range of plan alternatives to minimize the significant adverse impacts that are identified. While MTC/ABAG staff are anticipated to take on a more comprehensive role than in prior long-range plans, staff anticipates bringing a consultant contract for environmental analysis services to the MTC Administration Committee for approval this summer.

The EIR process will kick off in early fall 2020 with the Notice of Preparation (NOP) and associated public scoping meetings. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines, the NOP informs the public of the lead agency's intent to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) and seeks comments about the scope and content of the EIR. As a related action, scoping meetings are held to provide the public and public agencies with the opportunity to learn more about Plan Bay Area 2050 and provide another venue to submit comments regarding the issues that should be addressed in the EIR. In light of ongoing anticipated impacts from COVID-19, public outreach and engagement staff are evaluating how EIR scoping meetings can be conducted in accordance with both CEQA and public health guidelines.

Subsequent to scoping, the analysis phase of the EIR is anticipated to run through early 2021; later milestones involving Executive Board and Commission review and approval include the release of the Draft EIR in spring 2021 and release of the Final EIR in fall 2021.

Implementation Plan


In Plan Bay Area 2040, MTC and ABAG pioneered an “Action Plan” to focus on areas where the plan’s performance was moving in the wrong direction and to address emerging policy issues. For Plan Bay Area 2050, staff are proposing an Implementation Plan that will focus on short-term, tangible actions that ABAG, MTC, and their partners can take to implement adopted strategies across the four core elements of the Plan. By working to maximize the viability of the Plan’s strategies, the Implementation plan will play a key role in getting the region “back on track” as it recovers from a likely economic recession caused by impacts from COVID-19 over the next one-to-five years.

The Implementation Plan process will engage Bay Area residents, local governments, civic organizations, non-profits, and other stakeholders to identify and tackle these shared challenges through 2025. The Implementation Plan will kick off in late summer.

Plan Document

The Plan Document is the primary outward, public-facing deliverable of Plan Bay Area 2050, distilling the Plan’s vision, assumptions, requirements, strategies and implementation actions into a single, accessible document. Staff are currently exploring document design and content organization concepts, as well as determining how federal and state statutory requirements can best be addressed in the Plan Document and its associated supplemental reports. The Draft Plan Document will be released in spring 2021 and the Final Plan Document will be released in fall 2021; both will require Commission and Executive Board review and approval.

- Issues:** Staff will continue monitoring the COVID-19 situation as relates to potential impacts to planned public outreach and engagement, as well as the overall process and schedule for Final Phase elements.
- Next Steps:** Staff will move forward with all Final Phase elements and keep the Commission and Executive Board apprised of relevant developments.
- Recommendation:** Information
- Attachments:** Attachment A: Horizon and Plan Bay Area 2050: Key Milestones


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Horizon and Plan Bay Area 2050: Key Milestones

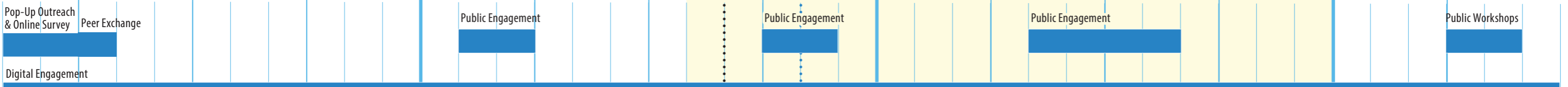
(Dates are tentative and subject to change.)



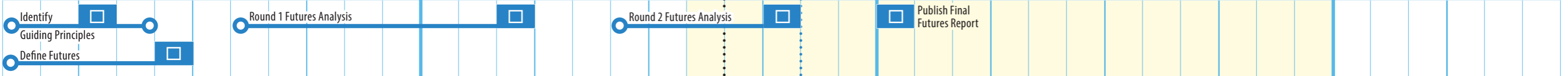
2018 Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 2019 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 2020 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec 2021 Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun

Horizon

Public and Stakeholder Engagement



Futures Planning



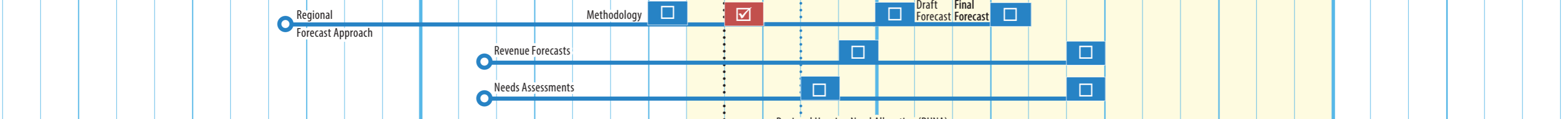
Perspective Papers



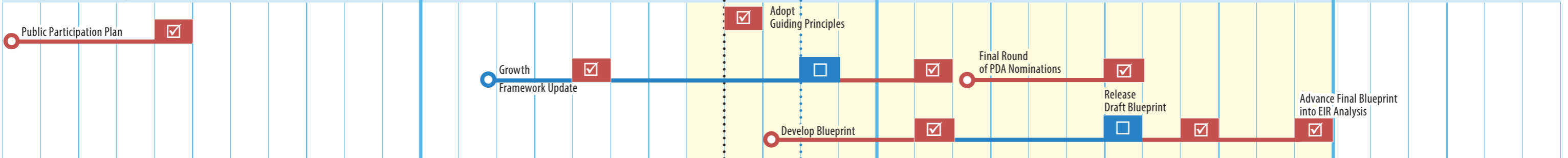
Project Performance



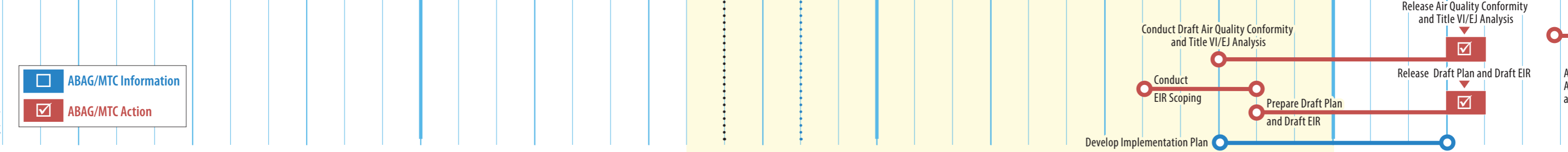
Regional Forecasting



Blueprint Development



Plan Document, EIR, and Implementaion



ABAG/MTC Information
 ABAG/MTC Action

mtc.graphics.pb - 05.18.2020

Adopt RHNA
December 2021

September 2021
Adopt Plan, EIR, Air Quality Conformity and Title VI/EJ Analysis

Refer to Detailed Blueprint Schedule