

MTC–ABAG Community Advisory Council

Proposed 2026-2027 Work Plan

Introduction

The MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council (Council) provides community-grounded advice to both the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments. This work plan — proposed to extend from now through June 2027 — is intended to guide Council agendas, in line with both MTC and ABAG’s ¹,² and reflecting the Council’s broader role in transportation, housing, land use, equity, and environment. Its purpose is to ensure that the Council’s time is focused on issues where community input can meaningfully influence major regional decisions.

The Council serves as a bridge between community perspectives and regional policymaking, offering insight into how transportation systems, housing needs, and land-use decisions affect the daily lives of residents across the nine-county Bay Area. Because MTC and ABAG oversee different, but related, responsibilities, the Council has a critical role to play in providing feedback on how the agencies’ plans and policies affect the broader regional goals of mobility, housing stability, economic opportunity, and environmental sustainability.

Staff will rely on the Council work plan to identify and propose topics to Council leadership for Council meeting agendas. The plan also provides a framework for responding to requests for new topics that may arise during the year.

Focus Areas

Plan Bay Area 2060

A central area of work for the coming year will be Plan Bay Area 2060, the region’s long-range plan that integrates transportation, housing, economic development, and climate strategies. The Council will follow and comment on the early development of planning scenarios, the evaluation of equity impacts, approaches to climate adaptation, and the relationship between new housing and high-quality transit. The plan’s emphasis on long-term affordability and the financial health of public agencies will also benefit from community feedback.

¹ [MTC's mission](#) is to advance shared local and regional priorities for transportation, housing and the environment. [ABAG](#) helps local governments absorb growth and adapt to change while addressing sustainability, resilience and equity issues.

Public Participation Plan

The update to MTC's Public Participation Plan will give the Council another opportunity to advise on how MTC engages with the public. This includes helping shape approaches to language access, digital and in-person outreach, and partnerships with community-based organizations. Ensuring that engagement reaches communities who have historically been overlooked remains a core part of this work.

Equity Priorities Communities and Affordability

This year, MTC and ABAG are embarking on an update to how we define Equity Priority Communities also known as EPCs. Staff will provide the Council multiple opportunities to inform this process, which affects where agency-controlled funding is prioritized. The Council's lived experience and on-the-ground knowledge will be important to this work.

In addition, housing and transportation affordability will continue to shape daily life in the Bay Area. The Council will have opportunities to provide input on affordable housing policy decisions as well as program decisions regarding low-income discounts across a wide array of programs, from bikeshare to transit to express lanes. Discussions related to the design of Bay Area Housing Finance Authority programs and policies will remain under the purview of the BAHFA Advisory Committee, whose meetings are open to the public.

Mobility Program Development

MTC manages various programs to help people use the Bay Area's multimodal transportation system more safely, efficiently, and sustainably while also improving day-to-day system operations and climate outcomes. The Council could review potential changes to mobility programs by offering focused, community-grounded feedback reflecting lived experiences on a variety of programs, including but not limited to: transportation electrification, bikeshare, active transportation infrastructure, transportation demand management programs, and real-time traveler information, with particular attention to affordability, safety, and ease of use. The Council can help identify barriers to accessing these programs, highlight opportunities for improvement, and ensure that mobility investments deliver effective and equitable options across the region. (Items focused on improving the transit customer experience will remain under the purview of the Regional Network Management Customer Advisory Group, whose meetings are also open to the public.)

Legislative Advocacy to Secure Additional Transportation, Housing and Climate Adaptation Funding for the Bay Area

The region's transit agencies face major budget gaps, and MTC has been a major champion in seeking new resources. Likewise, our housing and climate adaptation needs require additional investment from all levels of government. As new opportunities and

risks arise, whether at the state or federal levels, staff can keep the Council informed and seek feedback on our advocacy strategy.

Cross Cutting Themes

In addition to advancing accessibility and social equity, environmental resilience is an important topic to MTC-ABAG. Recognizing that other regional agencies have a more direct role overseeing the Bay Area's environment and sustainability concerns (including the Bay Area Air District, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, the SF Bay Restoration Authority and the SF Estuary Partnership), the Council will have an opportunity to provide feedback on major MTC-ABAG initiatives related to climate adaptation and renewable energy/energy efficiency, including how climate-related risks should be incorporated into major land-use and transportation decisions, and how investments in resilience and energy efficiency should be prioritized.

Implementation of Council Workplan

The above topics cover a lot of ground. If councilmembers request agenda items that fall outside these topic areas, staff will make a determination as to whether they can be accommodated in consultation with Council leadership. Key factors affecting that decision will be the extent to which a topic aligns with overall agency priorities and the time available on the Council's agenda.

Topics that fall outside the Council's mandate or are already addressed by other advisory bodies should not be added to Council agendas. As referenced earlier, this includes the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority, which is supported by its own advisory committee, and Regional Network Management, which has its own advisory process (and has five Council members appointed to serve on it as well). The Council will also not focus on matters outside MTC and ABAG's jurisdiction, such as operations decisions by individual transit operators, local zoning or permitting, or issues pertaining to other policy matters, such as education or public safety.

The work plan will be implemented through ongoing coordination between Council leadership and staff. Meeting agendas will reflect the priority areas described above, subject to annual review and updates. The goal is to ensure that the Council's time is used effectively and that its input continues to inform major regional decisions.