

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee**

June 9, 2023

Agenda Item 2c

MTC Resolution No. 4590: Revised Draft 2023 MTC Public Participation Plan

Subject:

Summary of what we heard during the 45-day public comment period for MTC's Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan (PPP), what changed and recommendation for approval.

Background:

Federal regulations require MTC to adopt a PPP to inform the public and our partners about how they can participate in the development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). State statutes further require metropolitan planning organizations, like MTC, to develop an engagement plan for the development of the RTP and the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), which is the region's long-range plan known as Plan Bay Area. Due to the nature of the specific federal and state requirements, the PPP has historically been focused exclusively on the long-range plan and the TIP; however, the latest iteration of the PPP informs members of the public of the various other opportunities to get involved in MTC's work. The current update provided a timely opportunity to incorporate MTC's Equity Platform into the PPP, as well as update our Guiding Principles and Engagement Strategies.

What We Heard:

On February 24, 2023, MTC released the Draft PPP for a 45-day public comment period. Multiple e-mail blasts, a direct mailer to Equity Priority Communities, a press release and a digital promotion campaign encouraged the Bay Area public to read and comment on the PPP. Additionally, MTC staff conducted a new round of engagement with leaders from community-based organizations to solicit input on the document's proposed engagement methods, especially those aimed at engaging historically underrepresented and hard-to-reach populations (see Attachment B). The public comment period closed on April 10, 2023.

In addition to the input received from CBO leaders, the public comment period yielded 124 comments in the form of emails, comments submitted via the web and written correspondence

from members of the public as well as our partners. The following are the key takeaways from engagement on the Draft PPP:

- Prioritize online engagement and quick opportunities to provide input (e.g., surveys, questionnaires).
- When conducting in-person engagement, go to where the people are and offer incentives to increase participation.
- Increase education and raise the public's awareness about who MTC is and its work, especially regarding Plan Bay Area.
- *Broadly* promote and advertise upcoming events and engagement opportunities.
- Increase accountability and build trust by reporting back on how the public's feedback influenced the decision-making process.

What Changed:

The Draft PPP was revised to incorporate the feedback and suggestions heard during the 45-day public comment period. Attachment C details the revisions made to the Draft PPP.


Recommendation:

Approve / MTC Commission Approval

MTC staff requests the Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee forward MTC Resolution No. 4590, to the Commission to approve the 2023 Public Participation Plan.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: MTC Resolution No. 4590
- Attachment B: Public Participation Plan CBO Engagement
- Attachment C: Summary of Revisions to the Draft 2023 MTC Public Participation Plan


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