

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

November 16, 2023

Agenda Item 11.a.

Plan Bay Area 2050+: Scope, Schedule, and Progress To-Date

Subject:

Update on scope and schedule for Plan Bay Area 2050+, a minor update to the long-range regional plan which kicked off this summer with public and stakeholder engagement.

Background:

Plan Bay Area is the long-range fiscally constrained regional plan for transportation, housing, the economy, and the environment, updated every four years. Developed in compliance with federal and state regulations and guidelines, it satisfies Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) requirements for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

A joint project of ABAG and MTC, Plan Bay Area is adopted by both the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission, first with the original Plan Bay Area (July 2013), Plan Bay Area 2040 (July 2017), and most recently Plan Bay Area 2050 (October 2021).

Plan Bay Area 2050+ Scope and Schedule:

Plan Bay Area 2050+ is a limited and focused update of Plan Bay Area which kicked off in July, with an anticipated adoption date of fall 2025. Plan Bay Area will be updated in consultation with a wide range of partners, including federal, state, regional, county, local and Tribal governments, as well as community organizations, stakeholders, and the public.

Because it is a limited and focused update that will not require a concurrent Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process, Plan Bay Area 2050+ will leverage the solid foundation of Plan Bay Area 2050, including its adopted vision and guiding principles as well as its overall strategic framework and organization. As such, key priorities for the Plan Bay Area 2050+ process include: (1) enhancing public information efforts surrounding the purpose, strategies, and real-world impact of the long-range plan, (2) leveraging findings from ongoing high-profile implementation efforts to inform targeted refinements to select plan strategies, and (3) updating planning and technical assumptions to help reflect the realities of the post-COVID environment. The expected timeline and key milestones for Plan Bay Area 2050+ are included in Attachment B.

In parallel to Plan Bay Area 2050+, MTC will be advancing Transit 2050+, a comprehensive re-thinking of the six transit-related strategies in Plan Bay Area 2050's Transportation Element, necessitated by the rapid changes in commute patterns brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, significant reductions in anticipated transit revenues through 2050, and the challenges posed by the region's fragmented transit system. The results of the parallel Transit 2050+ planning process will feed directly into the development of the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Final Blueprint in 2024.

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

November 16, 2023

Agenda Item 11.a.

Plan Bay Area 2050+: Scope, Schedule, and Progress To-Date

Round 1 Engagement Activities:

Conducted over the summer and early fall, the first round of public engagement aimed to gather insights on the pandemic's impact on the lives of Bay Area residents. It also sought to identify shifts in priorities and concerns among different partners and stakeholders.

Through activities including pop-up public workshops, an online survey, and partner/stakeholder virtual workshops, MTC/ABAG staff have received and analyzed over 16,000 public comments and engaged hundreds of partners on topics related to the four plan elements:

- The top concerns related to housing included affordability, homelessness and home access, and housing insecurity.
- The top concerns related to the economy focused on the negative impacts of inflation and the high cost of living, low or stagnant wages and the job market, and income inequality.
- The top concerns related to transportation included the need to improve the safety, cleanliness, frequency, and convenience of transit, changes in travel behavior, and the need for bike/pedestrian improvements.
- The top concerns related to the environment focused on cleaner streets/communities, climate mitigation and adaptation, and environmental degradation.

Additional information on the process and main findings of round 1 engagement can be found in Attachment C.

Draft Regional Growth Forecast:

The Regional Growth Forecast estimates how much the Bay Area might grow between the plan baseline year and the plan horizon year, including population, jobs, households, and associated housing units. The forecast also includes key components of the growth, including employment by sector, population by age and ethnic group, and households by income level.

Given that Plan Bay Area 2050+ is a limited and focused update, staff has applied the existing forecast methodology from Plan Bay Area 2050, while integrating more recent data including information from the 2020 Census. The draft Regional Growth Forecast anticipates lower population and household growth between 2020 and 2050 than in Plan Bay Area 2050: the estimated population growth is 1.8 million while household growth is 1.0 million, 23% and 22% lower than the previous forecast, respectively. Meanwhile, estimated jobs growth is 1.4 million, similar to the previous forecast.

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

November 16, 2023

Agenda Item 11.a.

Plan Bay Area 2050+: Scope, Schedule, and Progress To-Date

Draft Needs and Revenue Forecasts:

Needs and Revenue Analyses are financial forecasts that support strategies within the Transportation, Housing and Environment Elements. Draft forecasts conducted for these elements demonstrate a challenging financial environment for the region. Within the Transportation Element, needs are essentially unchanged between Plan Bay Area 2050 and Plan Bay Area 2050+, while revenues are significantly lower. Although additional revenues have been identified to support the Housing Element, these revenues fall far short of identified needs. Within the Environment Element, needs have roughly doubled since the previous plan, with identified revenues meeting only a fraction of these needs. More information can be found in Attachment A.

Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint Strategy Refinements:

For the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint, MTC/ABAG staff propose prioritizing strategy refinements to select transportation and environment strategies while relying on the still-salient strategies for housing and the economy, with targeted updates where necessary. The preliminary refinements reflect Plan Bay Area 2050 implementation progress and the post-pandemic planning context, along with insights gathered during round 1 engagement.

A key focus area for feedback received on transportation relates to the state of the region's transit system, which will be addressed through the parallel Transit 2050+ process. Refinements to non-transit strategies focus on expanding pricing strategies, prioritizing equity considerations, adapting to tighter fiscal constraints, and promoting active transportation and safety. Refinements to environment strategies aim to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and proactively adapt to climate change. Housing and economy strategies largely remain similar to Plan Bay Area 2050, with refinements focused on addressing pressing challenges of housing affordability, the rising cost of living, and homelessness. A refresher on the strategies included within Plan Bay Area 2050, as well as further details on proposed refinements for Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint strategies, can be found in Attachment D.

Next Steps:

Staff will continue refining the Draft Regional Growth Forecast, Draft Needs and Revenue Forecast, and strategy specifics throughout the remainder of 2023; staff will return to the Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee to seek approval on Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint strategies in early 2024. Pending approval, staff will pivot to studying the equity and performance outcomes of the Draft Blueprint. Round 2 engagement activities to inform the development of the Final Blueprint are expected to commence in spring 2024.

Association of Bay Area Governments

Executive Board

November 16, 2023

Agenda Item 11.a.

Plan Bay Area 2050+: Scope, Schedule, and Progress To-Date

Issues:

None identified.

Recommended Action:

Information

Attachment:

- A. Presentation
- B. Plan Bay Area 2050+ Timeline of Key Milestones
- C. Round 1 Engagement Findings
- D. Plan Bay Area 2050 Strategy Refresher and Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint Strategy Refinements

Reviewed:



Alix Bockelman