



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Regional Planning Committee
FR: Executive Director
RE: **Horizon Update**

DATE: May 29, 2018

Summary

MTC and ABAG are entering the fifth month of the *Horizon* initiative, which aims to explore a suite of challenging questions that transcend the traditional framework used for past Plan Bay Area efforts. This item provides an update on some of the major milestones of this process thus far, including guiding principles development, futures creation, perspective papers, and project performance. In mid-2019, the Horizon process will transition to the development of a preferred scenario for Plan Bay Area 2050, due to be adopted in 2021.

MTC and ABAG Committee Involvement

Thus far, staff have been updating multiple MTC and ABAG committees on the *Horizon* process. These include the ABAG Regional Planning Committee, MTC Policy Advisory Council, the Joint MTC Planning and ABAG Administrative Committee, and the Regional Advisory Working Group (RAWG). Generally speaking, the most detailed staff presentations occur at the RAWG, which meets monthly and devotes nearly 100 percent of their time to guide this process. Attendance at the RAWG includes local jurisdictions, transportation agencies, civic organizations, and members of the public. Staff now simulcasts all RAWG meetings via webinar, enabling our partners from across the region to participate remotely. Staff would encourage those with a deep interest in the *Horizon* and *Plan Bay Area* processes to participate in the RAWG meetings, which are typically held the first Tuesday of every month.

Guiding Principles

Staff recently finalized a set of Guiding Principles, concluding four months of public and stakeholder engagement. Thousands of Bay Area residents were engaged through pop-up outreach events and online surveys in February and March; staff also sought feedback on the Principles from the Regional Advisory Working Group, the MTC Policy Advisory Council, and the Joint MTC Planning and ABAG Administrative Committee. The Guiding Principles are intended to reflect the aspirations of the region through 2050 which we should strive for across our long-range planning work. When prioritizing strategies or investments, we should look to align policies with these core values. Ultimately, five Principles were selected for use in *Horizon*: ***Affordable, Connected, Diverse, Healthy, and Vibrant.***

Futures Development

The development of divergent futures (i.e., scenarios) is a central element of the *Horizon* initiative. The first step in this process has focused on “external forces.” These are political, technological, economic, environmental, or cultural shifts – largely outside of the control of Bay Area residents or elected officials – that affect our region’s future. In April, MTC and ABAG held a full-day peer exchange workshop with stakeholders from across the region to “create a future.” This led to the creation of a set of over 10 initial scenarios with a wide divergence of external forces. In July, staff

will present a shortlist of futures to the Joint MTC Planning and ABAG Administrative Committee. This fall, the region will work to collaboratively identify strategies to overcome challenges presented by each future while aligning with the guiding principles.

Perspective Papers

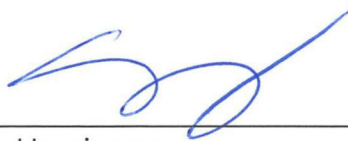
At least five of the seven Perspective Papers are already under development. The first—Automated Vehicles—will be released later this month. The purpose of the Perspective Papers is to showcase a topical area of regional interest, describe opportunities and risks, and ultimately prepare a shortlist of regional strategies that can seize the opportunities or neutralize the risks. In general, the Perspective Papers will incorporate the Guiding Principles as a way to organize the regional strategies. Because each Perspective Paper focuses on a unique topic, the exact application of this requirement will vary from paper to paper, depending on the document structure and flow. However, all papers will include some type of discussion or tabulation showing their alignment with the Guiding Principles.

Project Performance

Similar to past long-range planning cycles, staff proposes to conduct a project performance assessment of major transportation investments for *Horizon* and *Plan Bay Area 2050*. This effort seeks to identify high- and low-performing projects both to understand the efficacy of specific projects under varying external conditions (i.e., futures) and to inform the development of the Preferred Scenario's transportation investment element. Over the next few months, staff will work with stakeholders through the Regional Advisory Working Group to refine the methodology and conduct technical data needed to analyze major investments. A public solicitation for "transformative transportation investments" (generally capital projects greater than \$1 billion) was also announced earlier this week.

Next Steps

As described above, MTC/ABAG staff will be presenting the Perspective Paper on Autonomous Vehicles to the Joint MTC Planning and ABAG Administrative Committee in June. Staff will also be presenting a shortlist of futures, which will guide much of the remainder of the Horizon process, at the July meeting of the Joint MTC Planning and ABAG Administrative Committee. Lastly, staff expects the first cycle of project performance results to be available in early 2019.

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Steve Heminger

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