

M E M O R A N D U M



TO: ABAG Regional Planning Committee

DATE: February 1, 2019

FR: Executive Director

RE: 2019 Roadmap: From *Horizon* to *Plan Bay Area 2050*

Summary

With the *Horizon* long-range planning effort more than halfway complete, staff is beginning to prepare for the official kickoff of *Plan Bay Area 2050* (RTP/SCS) in fall 2019. High-performing strategies and investments from *Horizon* will form the foundation of *Plan Bay Area 2050*, pulling from the Perspective Paper priority strategies, Futures reports, Project Performance results, and Outreach findings. In addition to *Horizon*, staff will begin preparatory work for *Plan Bay Area 2050* over the next six months, working on tasks such as collection of remaining project data, estimation of available revenues, development of official growth forecasts, and modifications to the regional growth framework.

Upcoming Deliverables from *Horizon* (refer to *Attachment A* for project schedule information)

- **Futures - Strategy Discussions and Reports.** In mid-2018, three divergent futures (“what if...?” scenarios) were developed in concert with stakeholders. Staff will produce two reports on how these futures would affect the Bay Area. Due for release in March, the first report considers what would happen if current policies are left in place despite a range of external forces, and the second report will look at how prioritized strategies might improve regional outcomes.
- **Perspective Papers - Four Papers Remaining.** Four more Perspective Papers are currently under development - The Future of Jobs (March), Bay Crossings (April), Governance (June), and Sea Level Rise (September). Each will identify strategies that may be considered for inclusion in *Plan Bay Area 2050*, addressing the specific challenges associated with that topic area.
- **Project Performance Assessment - Results Release.** 93 projects are currently undergoing project performance assessment using the methodology shared with this committee in mid-2018; additional revisions to address stakeholder feedback were finalized in fall 2018. Staff anticipates releasing draft project performance results in September, integrating any additional projects received via the Call for Projects during the summer. The committees will ultimately prioritize projects based on their benefit-cost ratios, Guiding Principles ratings, and equity scores.
- **Outreach - Summaries.** With workshops scheduled for next month, pop-ups planned across the Bay Area this summer, and parallel outreach efforts underway with youth (Y-PLAN) and community-based organizations (CBOs) this spring, staff looks forward to integrating public feedback from *Horizon* into the early decision-making related to *Plan Bay Area 2050* - weighing how strategies perform with public support for including each strategy. Additional public workshops will be held as part of the *Plan Bay Area 2050* process in spring 2020 and winter 2021.

How Will *Horizon* Integrate into *Plan Bay Area 2050*?

Horizon has been focused on identifying strategies to address some of the region's biggest challenges in an era of extreme uncertainty, starting with Perspective Papers to generate new ideas that align with our Guiding Principles. While *Plan Bay Area 2050* will need to address myriad priorities and mandates, our general approach will be to prioritize strategies and investments from *Horizon* that performed well across multiple futures. These strategies and investments are the most resilient to external forces beyond our control, such as shifts in global economic growth or emergence of new technologies. Final reports on futures and project performance will be paired with public outreach findings to form the initial recommendations on which strategies to advance into *Plan Bay Area 2050*.

Listed below are several potential examples of *Horizon* findings that could be integrated into the *Plan*:

- If **investments in high-capacity transit** suggested in Perspective Paper #1 prove transformational in the futures analysis and project performance assessment, staff would likely recommend that these investments would be prioritized for inclusion in the **Transportation element** of the Plan.
- If **building levees to protect high-risk disadvantaged communities** (potentially suggested in Perspective Paper #7) supports the Guiding Principles across most futures, staff would likely recommend that this investment be prioritized in the **Resilience element** of the Plan.
- If **creation of urban reserves** identified in Perspective Paper #3 does not align with the Guiding Principles and results in adverse environmental impacts in the futures analysis, it may be **deprioritized** for consideration in *Plan Bay Area 2050*.

Refer to **Attachment B** for a high-level accounting of the primary *Horizon* deliverables that will feed into each element of *Plan Bay Area 2050* - Transportation, Land Use, Economic Development, and Resilience.

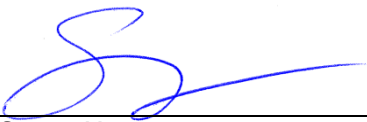
Ongoing Preparatory Activities for *Plan Bay Area 2050*

- **Call for Projects.** Project data for most major transportation investments have already been collected via *Horizon*, which not only updated major projects from *Plan Bay Area 2040* but allowed agencies, organizations, and the public at large to submit new projects with costs exceeding \$1 billion. Sponsors now have an opportunity to submit all remaining projects - which include new capacity-increasing transportation investments with costs less than \$1 billion as well as non-capacity investments via programmatic categories. Similar to past cycles, CTAs will coordinate with local jurisdictions and transit operators and conduct public outreach as they submit their project lists. The Call for Projects will stretch from late February through mid-June; more information is available in **Attachment C**.
- **Revenue & Needs Assessments.** In order to create a more comprehensive regional plan, staff will estimate revenues and needs for transportation, housing, and resilience, expanding beyond traditional transportation silos for *Plan Bay Area 2050*. Needs and revenue estimates will be complete by September 2019 in advance of the Preferred Plan development. For assessments related to transportation, staff will coordinate with county transportation agencies (CTAs), transit agencies, and local jurisdictions as needed, which will include upcoming presentations to appropriate Partnership working groups. Additional information on the Revenue and Needs Assessments can be found in **Attachment D**.
- **Regional Growth Forecast.** While forecasts of population, jobs, and housing (referred to as "control totals" in past Plan cycles) have already been developed for the three futures, staff has now begun meeting with technical experts on the forecasting methodology for *Plan Bay Area 2050* itself. This work will continue over the coming year, with a presentation to these committees and a public hearing on the proposed methodology expected prior to methodology adoption in June (as required by the MTC/ABAG settlement with BIA Bay Area).

- **Growth Framework Update.** As discussed at December committee meetings, staff has begun to discuss potential reforms to the Regional Growth Framework with key stakeholders. Proposed reforms based on the findings of *Horizon* Perspective Paper #3 will come to these committees for approval in the spring, with an opportunity for local jurisdictions to submit new growth areas (PDAs, PCAs, etc.) or modify existing ones through mid-summer. Additional information on the Growth Framework Update is available in **Attachment E**.

Next Steps

After the completion of the *Horizon* planning process this fall, staff will begin development of the Preferred Plan. This will involve adopting *Plan* goals, integrating strategies from *Horizon* to optimize performance, releasing a Draft Preferred Plan by March 2020, and finalizing the Preferred Plan by June 2020. This will enable the CEQA process to be completed by the July 2021 deadline.



Steve Heminger

Attachments

- Attachment A: *Horizon/Plan Bay Area 2050* Schedule
- Attachment B: PowerPoint Presentation
- Attachment C: *Plan Bay Area 2050* - Call for Projects Approach and Overview
- Attachment D: *Plan Bay Area 2050* - Transit Operating Needs Data Request Guidance
- Attachment E: *Plan Bay Area 2050* - Growth Framework Update (Preview)

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