

MEMORANDUM



TO: Joint MTC Planning Committee with the
ABAG Administrative Committee

FR: Executive Director

RE: Horizon Outreach Update

Agenda Item 6a
DATE: April 5, 2019

Summary

Over the past year, MTC/ABAG staff have advanced the *Horizon* initiative, created to explore challenging questions that traditionally have been outside of the regional planning process in the areas of transportation, land use, economic development and environmental resilience. Last month MTC/ABAG staff presented to this committee the next phase of work in the Horizon process, the *Horizon Futures Interim Report: Opportunities and Challenges*. This interim report explores new opportunities and major challenges that the region would face in three Futures - Rising Tides, Falling Fortunes; Clean and Green; and Back to the Future - if no new policies beyond those in *Plan Bay Area 2040* were implemented. In the next phase of analysis, staff will test how well local, regional and state strategies improve regional outcomes in each Future.

Over the past two months, staff have taken a suite of transportation, land use, economic development and resilience strategies to the public, stakeholders and community-based organizations in order to request input on which of the strategies best address the opportunities and challenges posed by the Futures. This memo and corresponding attachment outline the public and stakeholder engagement process, the initial input received on the strategies and the prioritization of strategies for potential inclusion in *Plan Bay Area 2050*.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

During February and March 2019, MTC/ABAG staff engaged stakeholders and members of the public, including members of community-based organizations and youth to prioritize transportation, land use, economic development and resilience strategies. The format varied from a facilitated game activity with stakeholders, to discussions with community group members, to public open house-style workshops and engagement with students. In these sessions, staff asked participants to select strategies that would perform best across the variety of circumstances that each Future presents. Based on the input collected, a set of strategies will be further analyzed by MTC/ABAG staff.



As documented further in **Attachment A**, engagement activities included:

- **Focus group meetings with community-based organizations** - nine community meetings in the month of February
- **Half-day workshop for technical stakeholders** - held on March 11
- **Public workshops for the general public:**
 - March 12 - 6pm-8pm - Oakland
 - March 14 - 6pm-8pm - San Jose
 - March 16 - 10am-12pm - Petaluma
 - March 19 - 6pm-8pm - San Bruno
 - March 20 - 6pm-8pm - Vallejo
 - March 27 - 6pm-8pm - Walnut Creek
- **Youth engagement through the Y-PLAN program** - nine schools over the course of the school year, with one in each county
- **Online engagement via Vital Signs website** - <http://www.vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov/horizon> (available in both March and April)

Prioritization of Horizon Strategies and Preliminary Findings

MTC/ABAG staff will use the feedback from all engagement events to recommend a package of strategies to test in the next round of Futures analysis - which studies how local, regional and state strategies improve outcomes in each Future. At each engagement event, participants were asked to prioritize which strategies they thought would best improve outcomes in each Future. The strategies with the strongest support across all engagement platforms are likely to be advanced to the second phase of Futures Planning. When stakeholders, community based organizations and the public recommend different strategies, staff will match the preferred strategies with the challenges described in the *Opportunities and Challenges Report* to determine which strategies to consider for further study.

Initial analysis of the input from the public and stakeholder engagement events found that there were some areas of strong agreement on strategies across all Futures:

- **Bay Area residents and stakeholders want to prioritize creation of a world-class public transportation system.** There was strong consensus around modernizing and increasing capacity of our existing rail system - especially if there are adequate financial resources.
- **Bay Area residents and stakeholders want to build more housing for those of all income levels, especially near transit.** Allowing new development near rail transit stations and increasing inclusionary requirements were popular ideas to address rising unaffordability.
- **Bay Area residents and stakeholders want to protect our region's environment, regardless of what the future has in store.** Adapting to sea level rise and preserving today's urban growth boundaries were clear priorities for outreach participants.

Over the next month, staff will continue to analyze the data from the events to develop a fiscally constrained package of strategies, which will be presented for consideration to the MTC Planning and ABAG Administrative Committees in May.

Next Steps

Next month, staff will share unique sets of strategies to study in the final phase of Futures analysis. Throughout the summer, staff will then re-run the economic, land use and travel models with these customized strategies applied to understand which strategies are best positioned to improve the region's future. The results of the second round of analysis will be the basis for the *Horizon: Futures Final Report*, which is slated for completion in late summer 2019.


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Attachments:

- Attachment A: Summary of Engagement
- Attachment B: Presentation

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