

MTC – ABAG Governance: Recap and Discussion

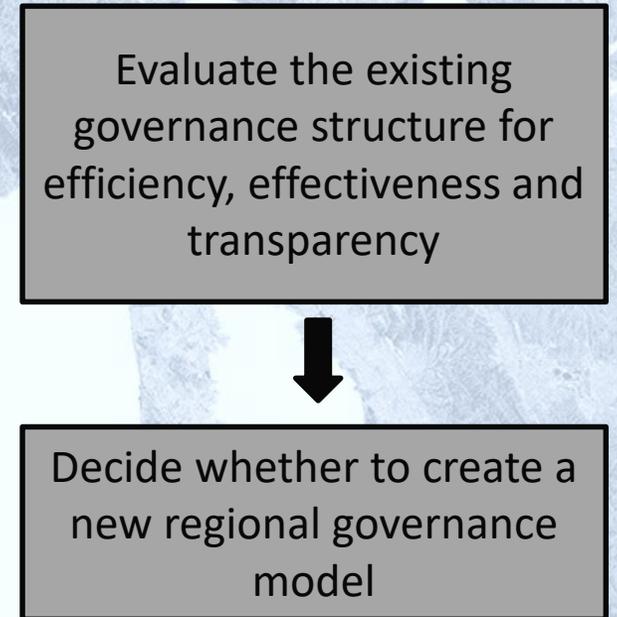
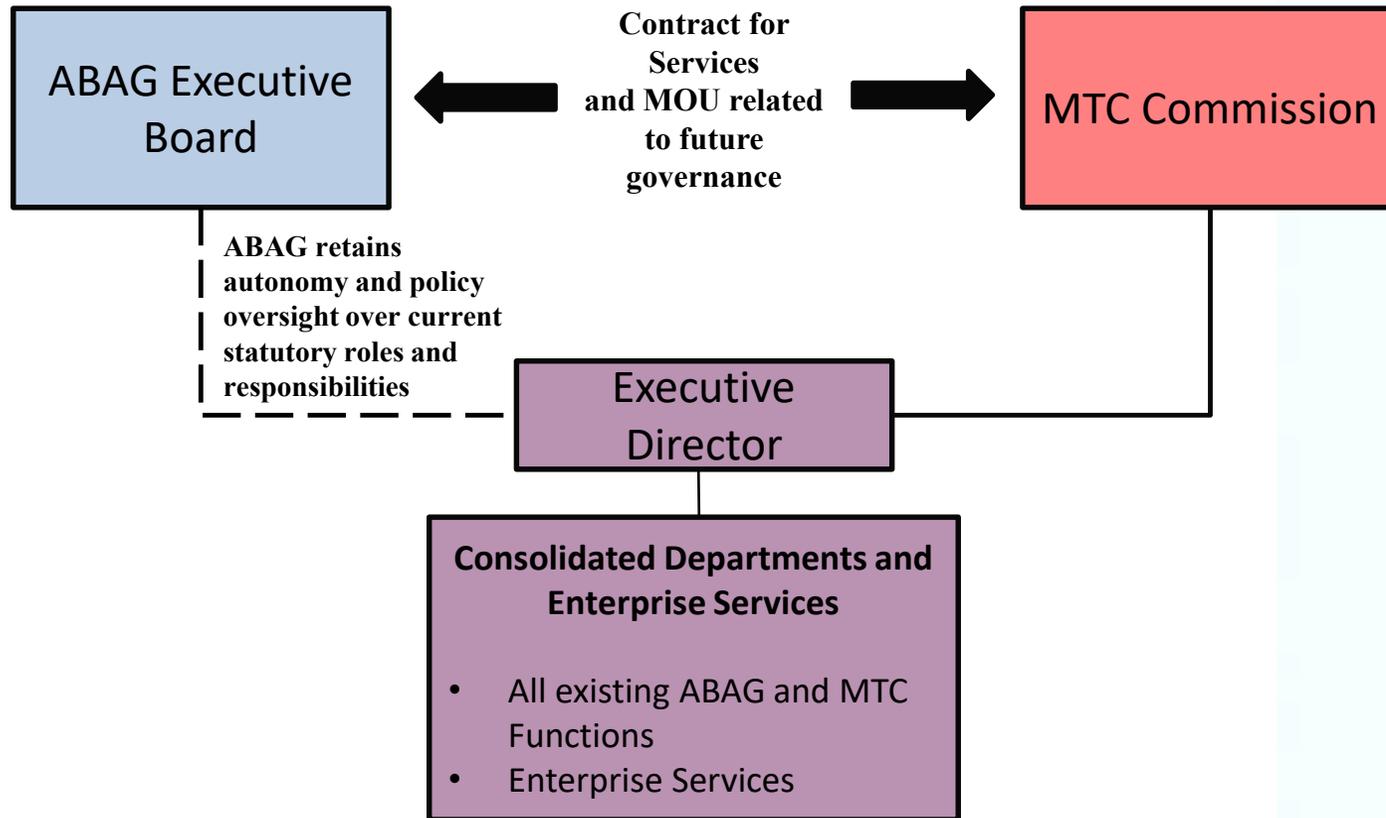
**Joint ABAG MTC Governance Committee
February 26, 2020**

Commitment Language in ABAG - MTC MOU (Dated 5/30/17)

“ABAG and MTC have agreed to pursue the implementation of Option 7 through a mutually agreed upon Contract for Services that governs how ABAG and MTC will share the use of a consolidated staff to carry out their respective missions and statutory powers and responsibilities and a mutually agreed upon memorandum of understanding to jointly pursue with MTC new governance options.”

“No later than July 1, 2019, ABAG and MTC will begin discussions on whether the two agencies should restructure their governing boards to better serve the region and to better utilize the consolidated staff.”

Current Structure of Consolidated Staff and Two Boards



Alternatives for organization governance, structure and staffing to be analyzed.

Portfolio Question –What should Regional Governance address?

- A) Transportation
- B) Land Use
- C) Housing
- D) Economic/Workforce Development
- E) Climate Change/Resilience
- F) Other – TBD



Key: Need to assess capacity to succeed as Leaders or Partners

Evaluation Framework – Factors for Successful Governance

➤ Authority

- The assignment to carry out the responsibilities and attendant tasks involved: most definitively established through Legislation, but can also be achieved (or arise) through other legal means (MOUs, contracts, litigation settlement etc.).

➤ Financial Resources

- Funding in the amounts, and with the requisite control and stability required to carry out responsibilities associated with vested authority.

Evaluation Framework – Factors for Successful Governance (continued)

➤ Technical Capacity

- While often determined in step with financial resources, this is the institutional “wrap around” of knowledge, staffing, process and procedure required to successfully implement the vested authority.

➤ Public and Political Support

- While less quantifiable than the other elements (Authority, Financial Resources, Technical Capacity), this element can be equally determinative of success – and critical prerequisites for accessing the other three.

Where Do We Go From Here – Outstanding Questions

- 1) How does “Governance” (Board Structure) impact “Governing” (delivering outcomes)?

- 2) Does MTC and ABAG continue to pursue a merged Governing model?
 - a) If yes, what more information is needed?
 - b) If no, where do we go from here?

What We Heard: MTC Commission Information Session – January 30th Workshop Session

- Put further merger discussions on pause
- Major initiatives take precedent: PBA 2050;, RHNA; transportation revenue and housing ballot opportunities for November; AB 1487 implementation
- Conduct “field visits” to evaluate alternative regional governance models
- Pursue procedural/administrative efficiencies for current dual board structures
- Consider Committee consolidation/reform to support joint portfolio
- Clearly define ABAG liaison role within Deputy structure
- Assess viability of merger if future circumstances shift substantially

What We Heard: ABAG Executive Board Information Session – February 20th EB meeting

- Continued openness to potential merger
- Regional approach to interconnected issues can benefit from a single governing voice
- Staff consolidation generally successful (mixed reaction)
- Cities must have significant presence under any contemplated restructuring
- ABAG culture of inclusive debate needs to be valued
- Visits to evaluate alternative models encouraged- offered options (Denver, SCAG)
- Dual board structure stresses staff resources; support efficiency efforts

NEXT STEPS: Staff Proposal

- Initial visits – March/April
 - Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)
 - Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)
 - San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
 - Met Council (Twin Cities, MN)
- Develop Board Protocol Alignment proposal for ABAG General Assembly approval/Commission Procedures modifications (June 2020)
- Bring Committee restructuring proposal to Joint Governance Committee (June 2020)