

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

April 22, 2020

Agenda Item 7g

ABAG MTC Governance

Subject: Proposed ABAG MTC Committee Work Integration

Background: On April 10th, the Joint ABAG MTC Governance Committee discussed ways to better integrate ABAG/MTC committee work on shared interests (e.g. legislation, planning). At the outset, Chair Haggerty and President Arreguin stated their hope that after discussion, the committee would endorse, in concept, the consolidation plan laid out in the PowerPoint presentation (Phase 1) and ask staff to come back with a detailed analysis of what it would take administratively to implement consolidation (Phase 2). What follows is a meeting summary.

1. Concept of combined Legislative Committee

No major concerns were flagged absent a review of overall representation on any proposed new committee. A background inventory of the two current committees is underway that will describe current city/county and geographic representation.

2. Concept of combined Planning Committee

Several members questioned whether housing production was too big an issue to be adequately addressed in a consolidated Planning Committee. Others saw this as an opportunity to integrate housing policy with our transportation and resilience work. One possible solution: a subcommittee focused on housing production that could help local jurisdictions in addressing the challenges of RHNA and opportunities offered by REAP and AB1487.

Several members stated that a consolidated Planning Committee combining MTC's Planning Committee with ABAG's Admin Committee ignores the "admin" duties of ABAG's Admin Committee. One solution: Jesse/ABAG Exec Board create an ABAG Planning Committee to consolidate with MTC's Planning Committee and let the Admin Committee retain a focus on acting for the Board between its meetings.

Members discussed ways to integrate BAHFA with the Planning Committee's work. While its governing board is statutorily designated as the MTC Commission, the committee asked staff to look at ways BAHFA and its Advisory Committee could provide input to the new Planning Committee on housing production.

3. Concept of combined Stakeholder Committee

While most members felt that bringing MTC's Policy Advisory Council (PAC) and ABAG's Regional Planning Committee (RPC) together makes sense, some were concerned about reduced stakeholder engagement and wanted to get input from PAC and RPC prior to making any final decision. One solution: have endorsing MTC/ABAG motions instruct staff to

present concept to PAC/RPC and report back their response as part of the Phase 2 due diligence.

4. Role of Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC)

Several people wished to explore ways BARC could contribute to Planning Committee's work, possibly by referring topics to BARC for review and recommendations back to Planning Committee.

5. Other Suggestions from Committee Members

- Explicitly require an assessment/re-evaluation at some defined point;
- Keep open the idea of bringing in other regional issues: homelessness, economic recovery, etc.; and
- Be mindful that consolidation effort will require additional staff and resources, at a time when both are strained—don't set up implementation plan that can't be delivered due to overriding priorities.

Outcome

The Joint ABAG MTC Governance Committee voted unanimously to refer the proposal (Phase 1) to the April 16th ABAG Executive Board and the April 22nd Commission with a recommendation to conceptually approve Phase 1 and ask staff to return with a detailed analysis and set of recommendations regarding what it would take administratively to implement the proposed committee consolidations (Phase 2). At that point, the Governance Committee would discuss further and make recommendations to the ABAG and MTC governing boards.

Recommendation: The Commission is requested to approve conceptually Phase I of the proposed ABAG MTC committee consolidations and to direct staff to return with a detailed analysis and set of recommendations regarding what it would take administratively to implement the proposed committee consolidations in Phase 2, as reported.

Attachments: Presentation


Therese W. McMillan

ABAG MTC Governance: Important Next Steps

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
April 22, 2020**

Where We Left Off

1. Conduct initial Field 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)

❖ STATUS: Defer due to COVID-19 travel restrictions

2. Develop Board Protocol Alignment proposal for ABAG General Assembly and MTC approval in June 2020

❖ STATUS: Recommendations being advanced to ABAG EB and General Assembly

Where We Left Off

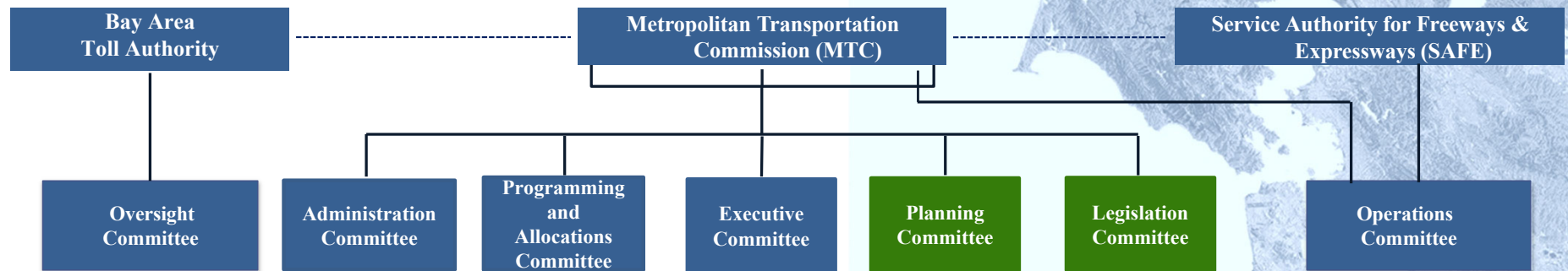
3. Bring Committee restructuring proposal to Joint Governance Committee by June 2020

❖ **STATUS: Current Proposal → Committee Consolidation Framework**

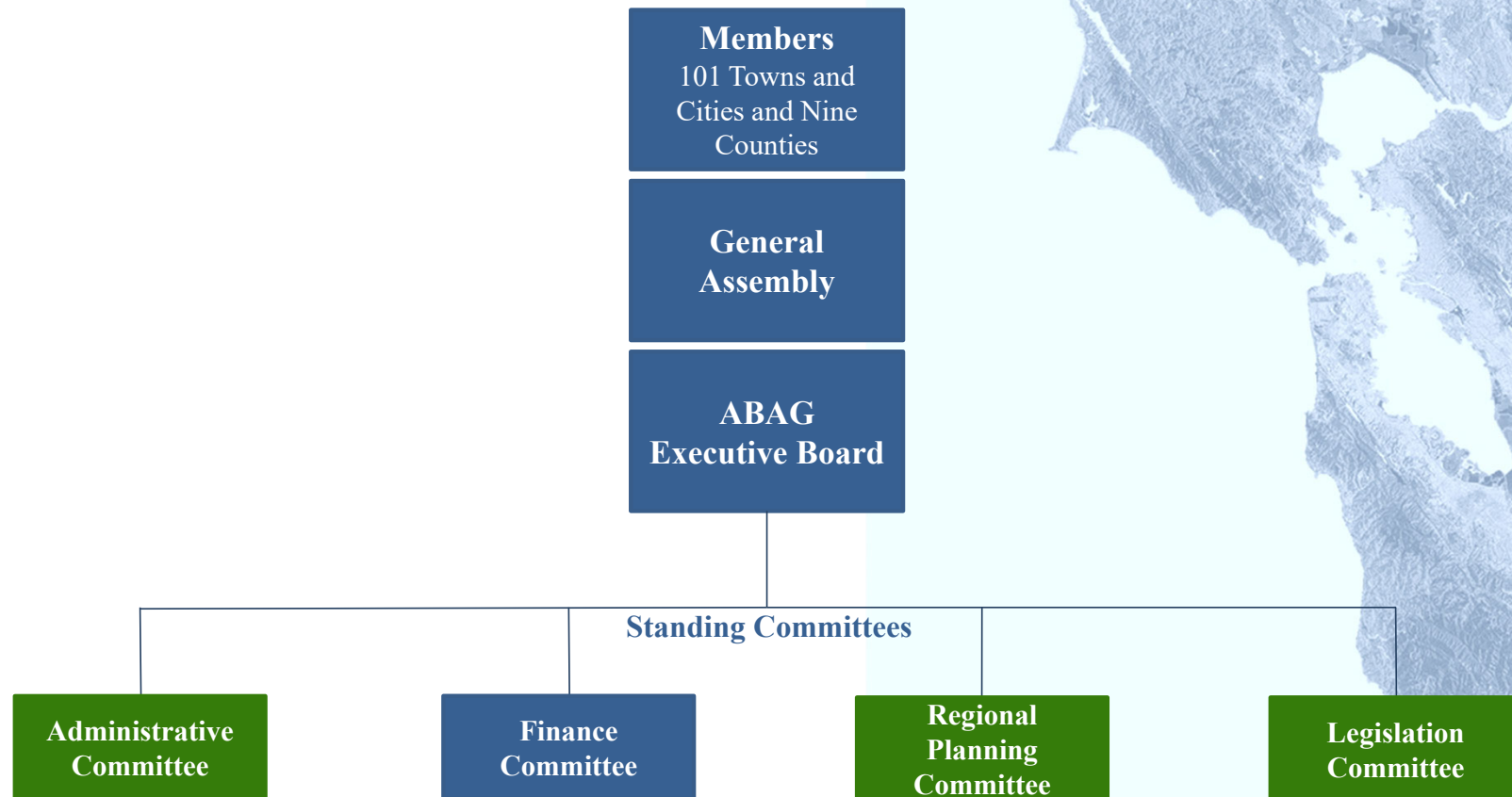
Committee Consolidation Framework: Core Principles

- Existing Standing Committees at MTC and ABAG are building blocks for integrated decision making
- Not all Standing Committees would be tapped; only those with oversight and interest in shared agendas (flagged as green in following charts)
- “Alternative framework combinations” that follow suggest “building block” committees, and potential modifications for consideration

MTC Standing Committees



ABAG Governance and Standing Committees



NEXT STEPS: Committee Consolidation Framework

Premise: Combining similar ABAG and MTC committees could help us better address *shared* decision making in areas of *shared* interest, including:

- **Legislation** focused on transportation, housing, land use and resilience
 - **Planning work** involving PBA, housing, transportation and resilience
 - **Housing** programs/funding (AB 1487) to help alleviate regional housing crisis
 - **Citizen Input** on PBA Blueprint, RHNA, REAP, BAHFA, etc.
- ❖ Objective: Structure a set of consolidated committees to help our agencies and staff provide more effective, efficient regional leadership on these issues.

Example of Committee Consolidation #1

LEGISLATION: Currently operates as separate MTC and ABAG Legislative committees meeting jointly

Areas of Shared Interest:

- Transportation
- Land use
- Housing
- Environment/Climate/Resilience

Alternative Framework Combination

- Current MTC Legislation Committee
- ABAG Legislation Committee with modifications
 - Better represent breadth of interests and geographies on Exec Board

Example of Committee Consolidation #2:

PLANNING: Currently operates as MTC Planning and ABAG Administrative Committees meeting jointly

Areas of Shared Interest

- PBA 2050: Regional planning for transportation, housing, resilience, etc.
- Work supporting local jurisdiction's housing elements (e.g. RHNA, REAP)
- Implementation of AB1487 (*NEW as of Jan. 2020*: noting legislated decision making roles between ABAG and MTC)
- Environmental issues/climate change/resilience

Alternative Framework Combination

- MTC Planning Committee
- ABAG Administration Committee's *planning function* with modifications
 - Adjust county and city balance to capture range of local experience with Planning and Housing issues/programs

Assess how to integrate the funding/finance function of Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (assigned to MTC by AB 1487) with housing policy and implementation assigned to consolidated Planning committee

Example of Committee Consolidation #3

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT: PBA Blueprint, RHNA, REAP, BAHFA

Some Combination of our Existing Committees that Lead Advisory Engagement

- MTC's Policy Advisory Committee (non-elected officials)
- ABAG's Regional Planning Committee (non-elected officials and elected officials)

Proposed Framework Combination

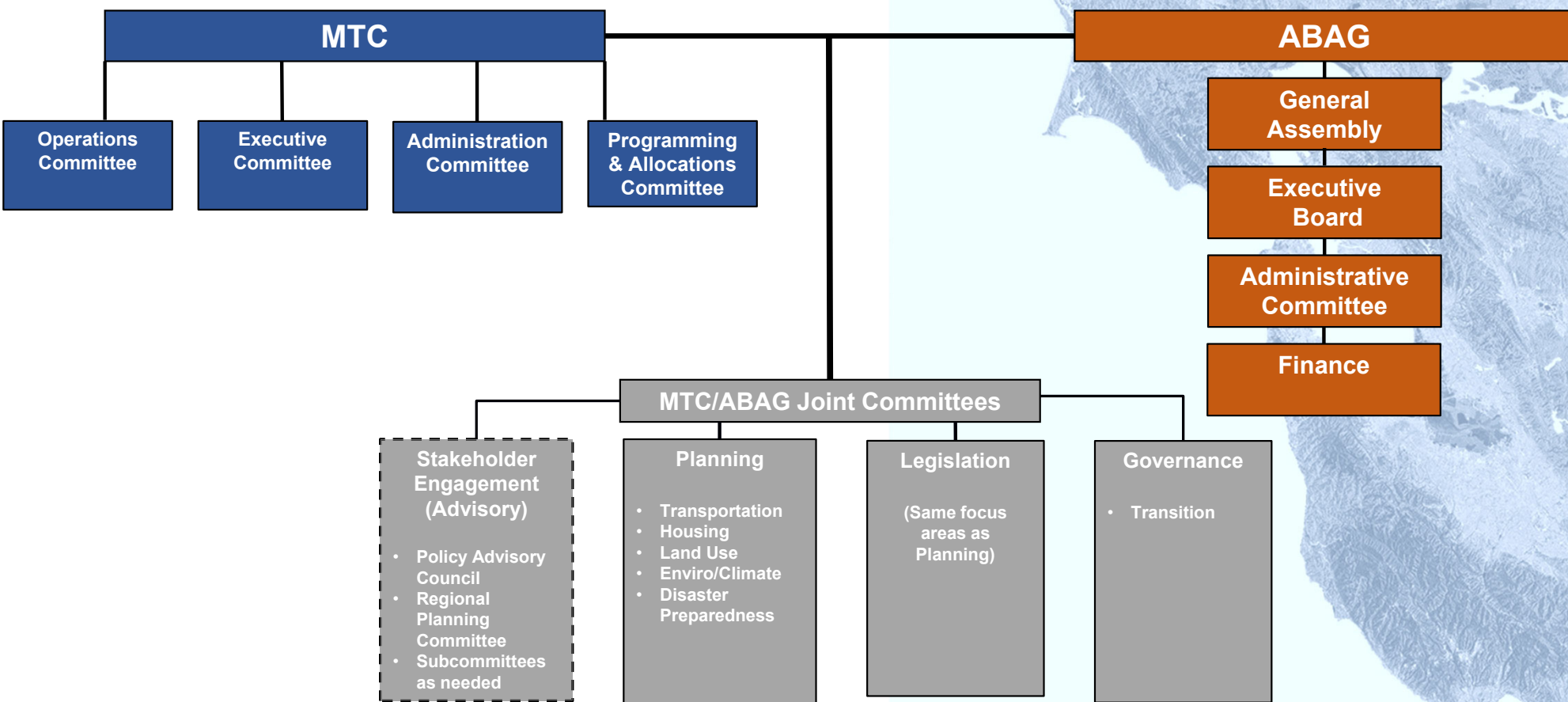
- Decide what sectors should be represented on single Committee (environment, equity, business, senior disabled mobility, youth)
- Appointments equally between MTC and ABAG leadership

Existing Consolidated Committee

GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- MTC and ABAG have already created a unified Governance Committee made up of members both governing boards
- Consider retaining to oversee transition to consolidated committee structure, and periodic review

Consolidated Committee Framework: View from the Top



Benefits of Adopting Consolidated Committees

A system of combined committees could help further discussion between our two agencies on how best to structure our relationship based on the shared interests discussed above, one that could help address...

- How best to carry out the shared work in our two work plans (e.g. PBA 2050, housing/BAHFA, resilience/climate change);
- How irrespective of color of money and the amount—the two governing boards can be jointly accountable for implementing this shared work plan—with a clear understanding of the available resources— and the opportunities and limits of such;
- How the two boards can navigate appropriate Discussions versus Decisions within this shared work plan — restructured combined committee meetings may aid in that effort.

April 10th ABAG/MTC Governance Committee Action

- **Committee voted unanimously to recommend proposal to ABAG and MTC governing boards with several modifications including:**
 - Retain MTC ABAG Governance Committee to oversee this transition to a consolidated committee structure and provide for periodic review
 - Establish periodic reevaluation
 - Present concept to PAC and RPC and report back their response as part of staff due diligence before ABAG or MTC take any final action on proposal to consolidate Advisory Committees

NEXT STEPS: MTC/ABAG Initial Board Decision

- **If ABAG and MTC governing boards agree conceptually with this approach (Phase 1) to consolidating similar committees, then**
- **Staff would bring back a more detailed set of administrative issues and questions that would have to be discussed and agreed to by ABAG and MTC before implementing such a proposal (Phase 2)**

NEXT STEPS: Implementation

Factors to Consider in Implementing Committee Consolidation Concept

- Membership of each consolidated committee must sufficiently represent the breadth of interests, geographies and jurisdictions of the Bay Area.
- Enough MTC and ABAG board members should be assigned to each committee to ensure a balance of views from each board, while maintaining a total number conducive to effective decision making.
- Existing representation structures underlying MTC Commission and ABAG Executive Board remain the same; consolidated committees must strike a balance between each, e.g. how are counties and cities represented within any single committee.
- Procedures will need to address consideration of issues unique to either MTC or ABAG that may fall within consolidated committee jurisdiction