



Date: May 27, 2020

To: Joint ABAG MTC Governance Committee

Fr: Therese W. McMillan, Executive Director

Re: **Game Plan and Timeline for Phase 2 of Committee Consolidation Plan**

Following a unanimous recommendation by the ABAG MTC Governance Committee, the MTC Commission voted unanimously on April 22<sup>nd</sup> to support the idea of consolidating similar ABAG and MTC committees (Phase 1) and asked staff to bring back recommendations on administrative and procedural issues that will need to be discussed by ABAG and MTC before a final vote on committee consolidation (Phase 2) is taken. ABAG's board took similar action the next day.

This memo lays out the game plan and timeline for Phase 2 of the committee consolidation process. It starts with feedback from some committee and board members, proposes factors to be considered when creating consolidated committees and poses several major questions that need to be addressed. It ends with a proposed timeline for completing the work by year's end.

#### **A. Recent Feedback.**

Below are some key comments and take aways from recent meetings.

##### **April 10<sup>th</sup> ABAG MTC Governance Committee**

Members unanimously recommended that MTC and ABAG endorse the committee consolidation concept with these modifications:

- *Commit to a periodic evaluation of the new structure.*
- *Retain the MTC ABAG Governance Committee to oversee this transition to a consolidated committee structure and provide for periodic review.*
- *Present this concept to the PAC and RPC and report back their response to the concept of a "stakeholder committee" consolidation as part of staff due diligence before ABAG or MTC take any final action on this proposal.*
- *ABAG to retain its Administration Committee as a standing committee to act on behalf of Executive Board between its meetings.*

##### **April 22<sup>nd</sup> MTC Commission**

- *The Commission voted unanimously to support idea of consolidating similar ABAG and MTC committees while continuing to operate as two separate regional governing boards.*
- *Staff was asked to come back with analysis and recommendations regarding the administrative, procedural and policy issues that need to be addressed before implementation (Phase 2).*

## Game Plan and Timeline for Phase 2 of Committee Consolidation Plan

May 27, 2020

Page 2

### April 23<sup>rd</sup> ABAG Executive Board

- *Executive Board unanimously endorsed the concept and moving ahead with Phase 2.*
- *Many saw this as building upon the foundation of current joint committee meetings, the Joint ABAG Administrative Committee and MTC Executive Committee (AB 1487) and the combined agency visits to Sacramento and Washington D.C. in the past few years.*
- *Some suggested a separate ABAG Housing Committee to address RHNA, Housing Elements, etc. while the Planning Committee addresses related issues of Housing/Transportation/Resilience.*
- *Several people suggested adding Regional Advisory Working Group to Stakeholder Committee.*
- *Julie Pierce: “This is a start; if we need to make adjustments along the way, we will”.*

### May 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Planning Committee

- *Many people questioned combining RPC and PAC given their widely differing portfolios.*
- *Some felt a consolidated stakeholder committee of 20-25 would limit diversity of opinions.*
- *Many felt it was important to have some electeds on any Stakeholder Committee so their perspective and experience can help inform stakeholder policy recommendations.*

### May 22<sup>nd</sup> Policy Advisory Council

- *TBD—will report at meeting*

## B. Factors to Consider in Creating Effective Consolidated Committees

Based on feedback to date, staff put together the following list of potential factors to be considered when creating consolidated committees. We request feedback on other factors that should be considered. Suggested parameters are offered in italics.

### 1. Who should serve on committees?

- *Except for the proposed Stakeholder Committee, all new consolidated committee members should be elected members of the Commission or Executive Board. Should there be a decision to combine the PAC and RPC Stakeholder Committee, the decision to include local elected officials is an open question.*
- *MTC and ABAG board members serving on the other agency’s governing board must choose which agency they will exclusively represent on a consolidated committee.*

### 2. How should we address the issue of geographic representation?

- *ABAG and MTC will strive for geographic balance at the sub-regional level (North Bay, South Bay, East Bay and West Bay) to represent varying needs, interests and a diversity of opinions.*

**3. How should we address the issue of City vs. County representation?**

- *How city perspectives are currently represented on existing committees needs to be evaluated; importance may vary by topic.*
- *Address whether and how County representatives can also represent the cities in their county; or whether conflicts may exist.*
- *Determine the appropriate balance between city and county members going forward.*
- *In making appointments, determine whether a “balance of city voices” is critical in terms of small, medium and large cities, income diversity and urban/suburban/rural, and how that can be achieved.*

**4. What is the optimal number of committee members necessary to address issues described above while keeping the Committee to a manageable number?**

- *For comparison, a 15 to 18 member committee generally has 12 to 15 on average in actual attendance.*

**5. Should MTC Chair/Vice Chair and ABAG President/Vice President be Ex Officio members of consolidated committees to step in to vote when quorum is a problem, but otherwise not vote?**

**C. Other Major Issues and Challenges that Need be Addressed**

**1. How can we best address the housing crisis? Options include:**

- *Keep all housing issues under the new consolidated Planning Committee;*
- *Establish a new ABAG Housing Committee to oversee housing implementation (e.g. RHNA, Housing Elements, REAP, ACFA); advise the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA); and implement new housing implementation strategies (e.g. management of a regional rent relief program, new homelessness funding).*

**2. Can committee members from one agency legally advise the other’s governing board?**

- *The consolidated committees under discussion are advisory to the ABAG and MTC governing boards that have the final decision making authority. If a consolidated committee can’t reach consensus, the members will have had the benefit of a thorough discussion with their peers on the other board and can summarize the key policy discussions for their colleagues on their respective boards. This is similar to the way our previous joint AB 1487 Committee operated and our current ABAG MTC Governance Committee works. We could try this for a time and revisit if necessary.*

## Game Plan and Timeline for Phase 2 of Committee Consolidation Plan

May 27, 2020

Page 4

### 3. What role should BARC play regarding the new Planning Committee's resilience work?

- *The last BARC meeting (5/15) discussed having the proposed Planning Committee refer climate change topics to BARC for review and recommendations back to that Committee. This was part of a larger discussion about BARC's growing focus on climate change and resilience.*

### 4. Should we sequence formation of these consolidated committees? If so, in what order?

- *If desired, staff recommends a consolidated Legislation Committee followed by Planning.*

## D. Proposed Timeline

Staff proposes that we spend the May and June meetings of the ABAG MTC Governance Committee discussing the factors highlighted above to provide more direction to staff. During this same period of time, ABAG will decide whether to create a new housing committee or add a housing portfolio to one of its existing committees.

In July, the Governance Committee could refer the first committee consolidation proposal to appropriate MTC and ABAG committees for feedback prior to presenting a final proposal to the MTC and ABAG board meetings that month (August is generally a "dark month" for both boards, but special meetings may be called if necessary). This would allow the first consolidated committee to meet in September creating a template for further committee consolidations in October and November. This timeline allows us to complete committee consolidations before the end of the calendar year.

## E. Conclusion

Staff welcomes guidance on the above issues, particularly whether a comprehensive regional housing portfolio is too complicated to be handled in its entirety by a consolidated Planning Committee that is dealing with so many other issues (transportation, resilience, PBA 2050). Recent discussions on the implementation of AB 1487, the development of an expanded regional housing agenda, and the specific roles of BAHFA may well inform this question of what housing aspects must be integrated into the policy and program elements taken up by the anticipated consolidated Planning Committee, and which ones may require a different forum. We look forward to your guidance on this question.



Therese W. McMillan