

Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments
Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee

November 20, 2020

Agenda Item 7a

Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint: Alternative to Strategy EN7 (Telecommuting)

- Subject:** Proposed action on MTC Resolution No. 4437, Revised, integrating a potential alternative to the Plan Bay Area 2050 telecommuting strategy (EN7).
- Background:** Under Senate Bill 375, the Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint must meet or exceed this 19 percent per-capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction target from cars and light-duty trucks for the region to continue to receive key transportation monies. In September 2020, the ABAG Executive Board and the Commission approved the Final Blueprint Strategies, Growth Geographies, and Regional Growth Forecast for Plan Bay Area 2050. One of these 35 strategies focused on requiring major office-based employers to significantly increase future levels of telecommuting, with an intent to reduce auto trips. Ultimately this could enable up to 25 percent of the regional workforce to telecommute on a typical day in 2035, reducing GHGs and congestion as a result.
- Last month, the Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee was provided additional context on the strategy, including public engagement feedback specific to telecommuting, as well as requirements for any alternative to the telecommute strategy. Staff has explored a number of options that would meet these requirements – that is, having the **same scale of GHG reductions** as the telecommute strategy, **not duplicating other strategies** in the Final Blueprint, and **operating within the fiscal constraint** of the Plan.
- After discussions with key stakeholders in October and November to better understand the concerns of the business community with the original strategy, one alternative emerged as the viable path forward – changing the strategy to **“Expand Commute Trip Reduction Programs at Major Employers”** as listed in **Attachment B**. By expanding the scope beyond telecommuting to recognize the importance of other alternative modes like transit, walking, and bicycling, the revised strategy would provide greater flexibility for business while achieving the same greenhouse gas emission reductions. Furthermore, the revised strategy reduces impacts on small businesses by raising the threshold to employers with 50 or more employees, consistent with the existing Commuter Benefits Program. To accommodate these changes, the strategy scope was expanded to all major employers, given the reduced focus on telecommuting.
- Issues:** None
- Recommendation:** Refer MTC Resolution No. 4437, Revised to the Commission for approval, which updates Strategy EN7 in the Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint analysis currently underway.
- Attachments:** Attachment A: Presentation
Attachment B: Alternative Strategy EN7 Description
Attachment C: MTC Resolution No. 4437, Revised


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