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

January 8, 2021 Agenda Item 5a

MTC Resolution No. 4451 and ABAG Resolution No. 01-2021:

Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint: Approval as Preferred EIR Alternative

Subject:

Presentation on the Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint Outcomes, including performance & equity outcomes, and recommendation to advance the Final Blueprint as the Preferred Alternative in the EIR process.

Background:

Last fall, MTC and ABAG approved the Strategies and Growth Geographies for the Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint (Attachments B and C), as well as the Final Regional Growth Forecast. The Final Blueprint integrates 35 resilient and equitable strategies, building upon the predecessor Horizon initiative, to advance the adopted vision of a more affordable, connected, diverse, healthy, and vibrant Bay Area for all.

By weaving together strategies for transportation, housing, the economy, and the environment – and integrating public feedback on the Draft Blueprint from summer 2020 – the Final Blueprint moves the region even closer towards this vision. It also addresses the five key challenges laid out in July 2020, ranging from insufficient affordable housing to further climate emissions reduction.

Building on the Draft Blueprint:

The Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint preserves many of the successes of the Draft Blueprint. Most of the region's future growth is focused in walkable, transit-rich communities, within existing urban growth boundaries. Along with a more compact land use pattern, transportation strategies enable a significant shift away from auto use. Robust sea level rise protections ensure that nearly all homes at risk through 2050 are protected, with homes at high risk due to earthquakes and wildfires funded for much-needed retrofits (more context in **Attachment G**).

Final Blueprint Growth Pattern:

The Final Blueprint growth pattern (Attachment F) continues to focus the largest shares of housing and job growth in Santa Clara County, the heart of Silicon Valley. At the same time, there is slightly more housing and job growth in San Francisco and the East Bay, compared to the Draft Blueprint. The North Bay remains relatively unchanged, with less housing growth in Sonoma County and more job growth in Solano County. Importantly, the growth pattern has even higher shares near frequent public transit – 82 percent of new homes and 63 percent of new jobs – which support the critical greenhouse gas reduction target.

Beyond integrating updated baseline and pipeline land use data, several strategies rise to the top as key drivers of these shifts. With regard to housing, refined strategies enable a greater share of growth to occur in transit-rich, high-resource places to support the Plan's climate target, while large development sites in North Santa Clara County and portions of the East Bay are transformed into dense walkable communities near BART and light rail. With regard to jobs, the new economic strategy to incentivize development near regional rail stations in the East Bay and North Bay play a role in the slightly higher shares in Alameda, Solano, and (to a lesser extent) Contra Costa counties.

Supporting the Plan Vision:

The Final Blueprint also makes further headway towards ensuring the Bay Area is more affordable, connected, diverse, healthy, and vibrant for all. Key findings related to each of the Plan's Guiding Principles are spotlighted below, with additional context in **Attachments D and E**:

- Advancing Affordability: The Final Blueprint reduces the burden of housing and transportation on a typical household's budget from 58 percent in 2015 to 45 percent in 2050, with even greater reductions for low-income households.
- Advancing Connectivity: The Final Blueprint doubles the number of jobs accessible by transit for a typical household, supporting a reduction in auto commute mode share from 71 percent in 2015 to 53 percent in 2050.
- Advancing Diversity: The Final Blueprint enables nearly one-quarter of low-income households to live in High-Resource Areas, while also reducing displacement risk in Growth Geographies through robust affordable housing development.
- Advancing Public Health: The Final Blueprint builds parks, trails, and open space in historically disinvested communities, closing the gap in urban park access between Communities of Concern and the rest of the region.
- Advancing Economic Vibrancy: The Final Blueprint makes even further headway on the jobs-housing imbalance by integrating strategies to provide tax incentives to employers locating offices in transit-rich, housing-rich East Bay communities.

Next Steps:

Following the identification of the Preferred EIR Alternative, staff will proceed into the final phase of Plan Bay Area 2050. In addition to developing the EIR and Plan Document, work in 2021 will further develop the Implementation Plan to define near-term implementation actions for MTC/ABAG to advance in partnership with public, private, and non-profit organizations over the next five years. Following robust public and stakeholder engagement in winter and spring 2021, as shown in **Attachment A**, the final Plan Bay Area 2050 is anticipated to be considered by the Commission and Board for approval in fall 2021.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee approve MTC Resolution No. 4451 (Attachment H) and ABAG Resolution No. 01-2021 (Attachment I), respectively, which approve the identification of the Final Blueprint as the Preferred Alternative for the Plan Bay Area 2050 EIR, and refer them to the MTC Commission and ABAG Executive Board (respectively) for approval.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Presentation

Attachment B: Final Blueprint – Strategies (adopted fall 2020)

Attachment C: Final Blueprint – Growth Geographies (adopted fall 2020)

Attachment D: Final Blueprint – Investment Analysis

Attachment E: Final Blueprint – Outcomes
Attachment F: Final Blueprint – Growth Pattern

Attachment G: Final Blueprint – Additional Context on Resilience Integration

Attachment H: MTC Resolution No. 4451 Attachment I: ABAG Resolution No. 01-2021

Therese W. McMillan



Long-Range Planning... for an Uncertain Future

2021 2018 2019 2020

Plan Bay Area 2050 built upon the foundation of the Horizon initiative, which generated new strategy ideas and stress-tested them against a broad range of economic, technological, environmental, and political forces.

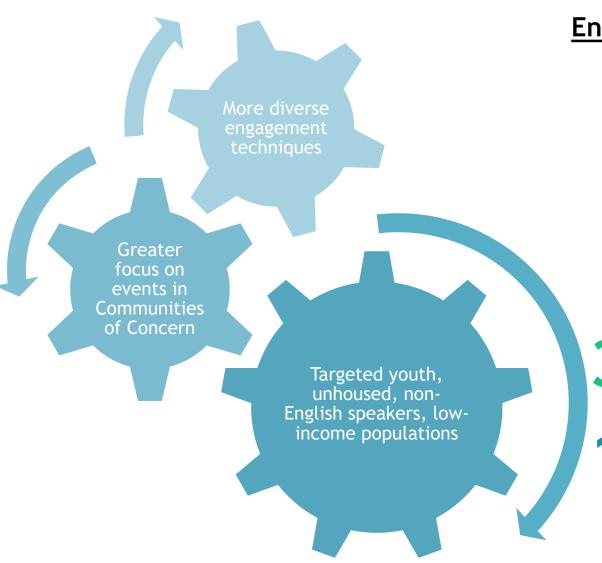


Strategies prioritized based upon:





Long-Range Planning... Driven by Public Input



Engagement to Date by the Numbers

130 + public meetings featuring discussion of Horizon & Plan Bay Area 2050

100+ public events including in-person & virtual workshops, pop-up events, and focus groups

50+ stakeholder events including RAWG and REWG meetings, workshops, and webinars

33,000+

15,000+

public and stakeholder comments received to date

participants in planning process to date

Final Blueprint: Advancing the Plan Vision

Vision: Ensure by the year 2050 that the Bay Area is affordable, connected, diverse, healthy and vibrant for all.



- Transportation Strategies
- Housing Geographies & Strategies
- Economic Geographies & Strategies
- Environmental Strategies

Adopted This Fall: 11 Themes, 35 Bold Strategies



Maintain and Optimize the Existing System



Create Healthy and Safe Streets



Build a Next-Generation Transit Network



Protect and Preserve Affordable Housing



Spur Housing Production at All Income Levels



Create Inclusive Communities

Final Blueprint Strategies (Inputs to Modeling Process)



Improve Economic Mobility



Shift the Location of Jobs



Reduce Risks from Hazards



Expand Access to Parks and Open Space



Reduce Climate Emissions



Learn more about each of the 35 adopted strategies at <u>planbayarea.org</u>, including the revised Strategy EN7.



Adopted This Fall: Growth Forecast & Geographies



new households between 2015 and 2050



new jobs between 2015 and 2050

Protect



Areas Outside Urban Growth Boundaries (including PCAs)



Unmitigated High Hazard Areas

Prioritize





Priority Development Areas (PDAs)





Priority Production Areas (PPAs)



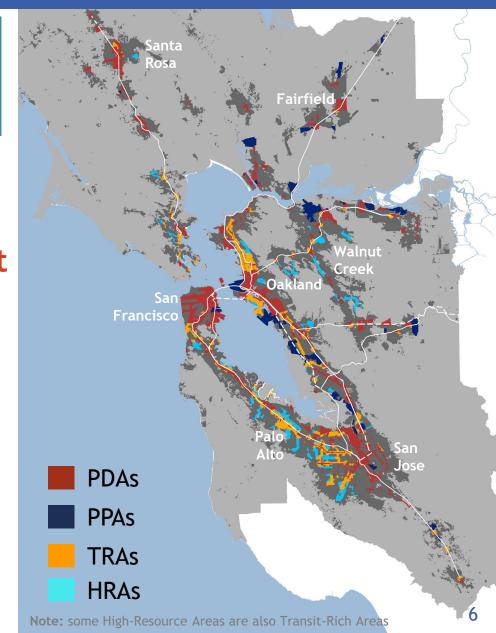


Transit-Rich Areas





High-Resource Areas (HRAs)



Adopted This Fall: Revenues & Expenditures

Transportation Element

\$466 billion in existing funding \$113 billion in new revenues

Housing Element

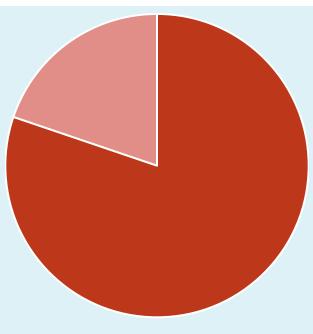
\$122 billion in existing funding \$346 billion in new revenues

Economy Element

N/A in existing funding \$234 billion in new revenues

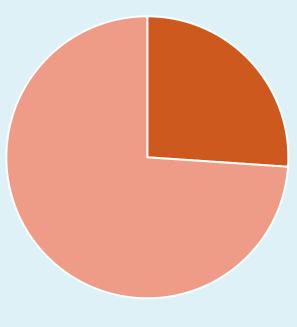
Environment Element

\$15 billion in existing funding \$87 billion in new revenues



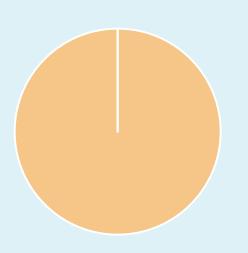
Existing RevenuesNew Revenues

Note: \$12 billion in existing transportation funding is shown in Environment Element for climate & sea level rise strategies.



Existing RevenuesNew Revenues

Note: new housing revenues could come from a mix of federal, state, regional, or local sources.



Existing Revenues New Revenues

Note: as Needs & Revenue data is unavailable for economic development, existing funding is underrepresented.



Existing Revenues New Revenues

Note: as Needs & Revenue data is unavailable for parks & conservation, existing funding is underrepresented.

Final Blueprint: Preparing for a Post-COVID Future

While the future remains quite uncertain, the emergence of the pandemic this spring gave us time to integrate some of its critical near- and medium-term impacts into the Final Blueprint.



Integrated near-term revenue impacts from COVID/2020 recession, plus expanded low-cost strategies ideal for an era of fiscal constraint



Refreshed economic strategies in Final Blueprint with expanded emphasis on job training and business incubator programs



Adjusted telecommute growth projections, with accelerated regional action by major employers to incentivize alternative modes to the automobile



Doubled-down on resilience focus of Blueprint to reduce regional risk in the face of other future disasters, including sea level rise, wildfires & earthquakes



Final Blueprint: Builds Upon July's Draft Blueprint

Most of the positive forecasted outcomes from the Draft Blueprint remain in the Final Blueprint, including key highlights spotlighted below. New strategies adopted in the Final Blueprint enabled even further progress in tackling the five key challenges spotlighted in summer 2020 public outreach.

Vast majority of new growth in walkable, transit-rich communities

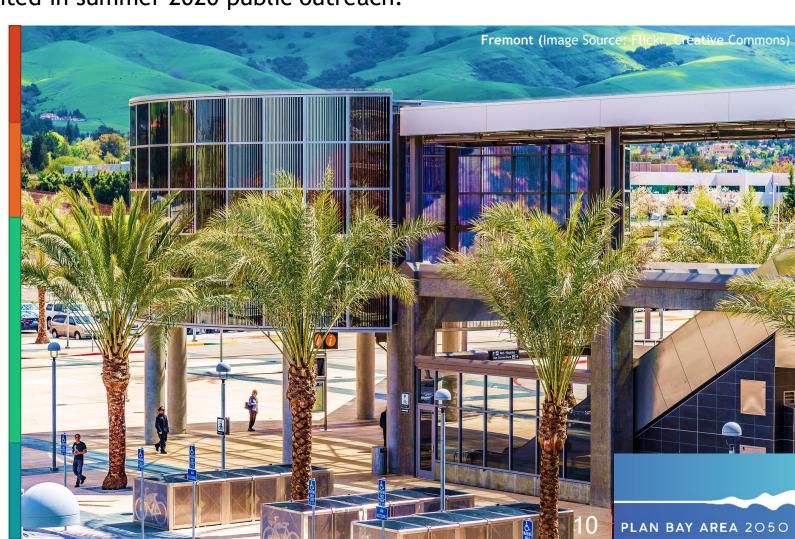
Significant shift away from auto dependence for both commute & non-commute trips

Nearly all Bay Area homes protected from sea level rise

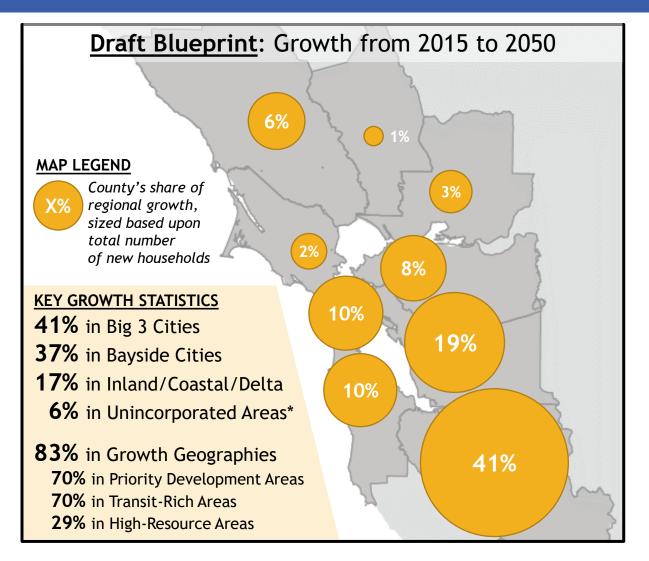
All high-risk Bay Area homes retrofitted to reduce seismic and wildfire risks

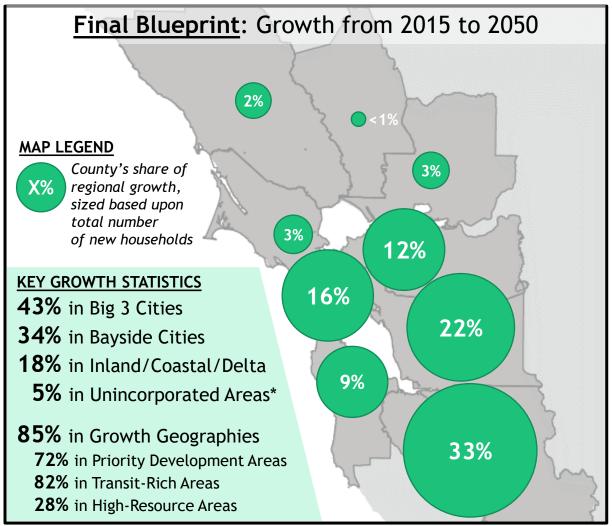
No urban growth envisioned outside of present-day growth boundaries

New revenues required to advance Plan forecasted to support, not inhibit, future economic growth



Household Growth: Draft vs. Final Blueprint





^{*} All urbanized growth in unincorporated areas is focused within existing urban growth boundaries (Strategy EN4). For breakdowns on the subcounty level, please refer to the Final Blueprint Growth Pattern on planbayarea.org. Totals do not always sum to 100% due to rounding.



Household Growth: Draft vs. Final Blueprint

Which new or revised Final Blueprint Strategies are driving changes between Draft & Final?



Allow a Greater Mix of Housing Densities and Types in Growth Areas

Refinements approved in September focused a greater share of growth in transit-rich, high-resource places, yielding shifts toward San Francisco & higher-resource East Bay cities.

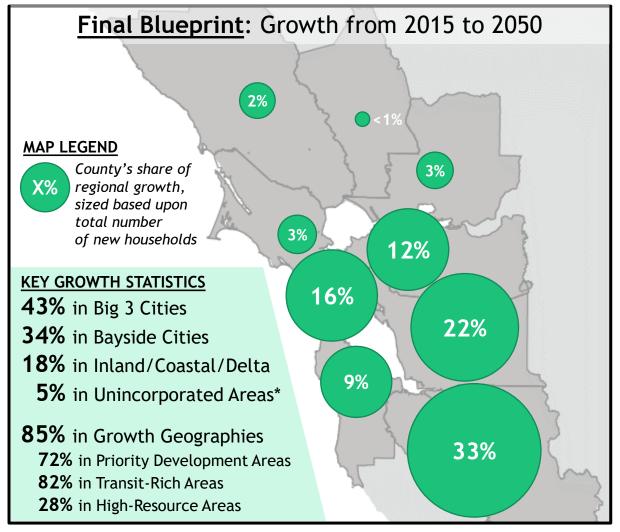


Transform Aging Malls & Office Parks +
Accelerate Reuse of Public Land
Larger sites with significant development
potential - including in North Santa Clara County
and in portions of the East Bay - are seeing more
housing in the Final Blueprint as a result.



Improved Baseline & Pipeline Data
Further engagement with local jurisdiction
partners this summer improved baseline, pipeline,
and zoning data, which contributed to changes in

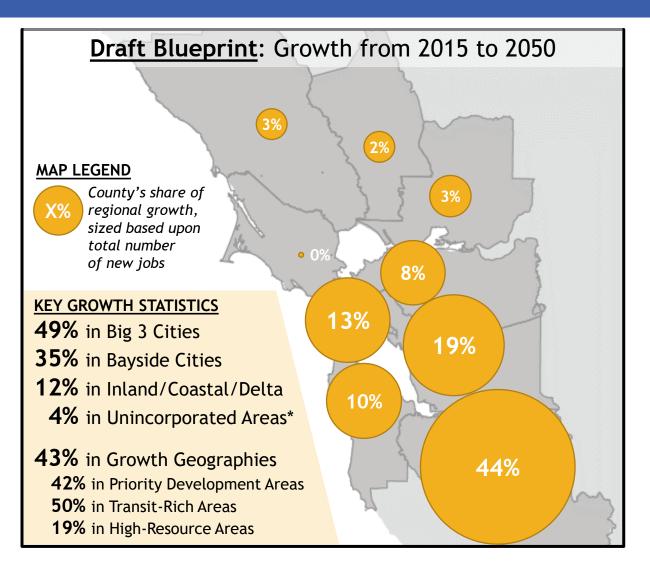
household growth projections for select counties.

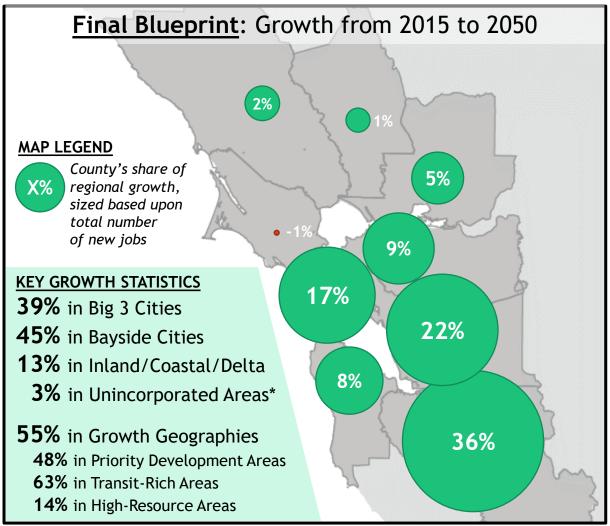


^{*} All urbanized growth in unincorporated areas is focused within existing urban growth boundaries (Strategy EN4).



Job Growth: Draft vs. Final Blueprint





^{*} All urbanized growth in unincorporated areas is focused within existing urban growth boundaries (Strategy EN4). For breakdowns on the subcounty level, please refer to the Final Blueprint Growth Pattern on <u>planbayarea.org</u>.

Totals do not always sum to 100% due to rounding.



Job Growth: Draft vs. Final Blueprint

Which new or revised Final Blueprint Strategies are driving changes between Draft & Final?



Provide Incentives to Employers to Shift Jobs to

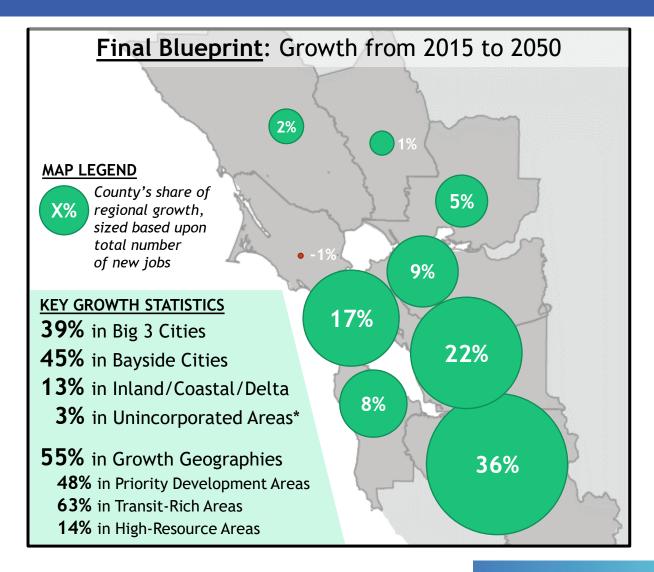
→\$ Housing-Rich Areas Well Served by Transit

This new strategy to incentivize more job growth in the East Bay and North Bay led to moderate shifts from select South Bay cities; the elimination of jobs-housing imbalance fees featured in the Draft Blueprint also contributed to intra-county shifts within Santa Clara County.



Allow Greater Commercial Densities in Growth Geographies

With a focus on greater capacity near public transit, updates to this strategy led to a much greater share of job growth within walking distance of high-quality transit hubs.



^{*} All urbanized growth in unincorporated areas is focused within existing urban growth boundaries (Strategy EN4). For breakdowns on the subcounty level, please refer to the Final Blueprint Growth Pattern on <u>planbayarea.org</u>.

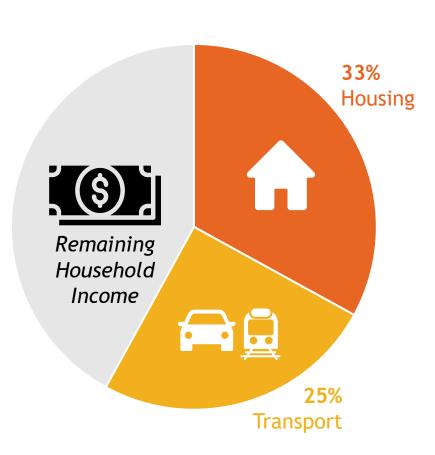
Totals do not always sum to 100% due to rounding.

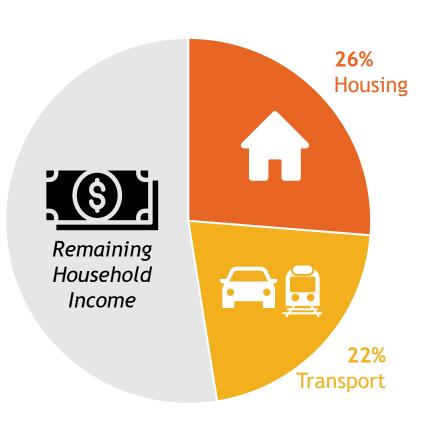
Affordability: Draft vs. Final Blueprint

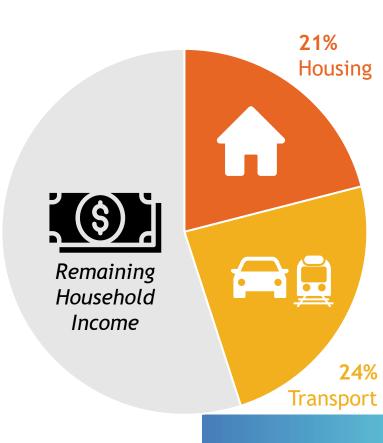
Housing & Transport Costs
2015

Housing & Transport Costs
2050 Draft Blueprint

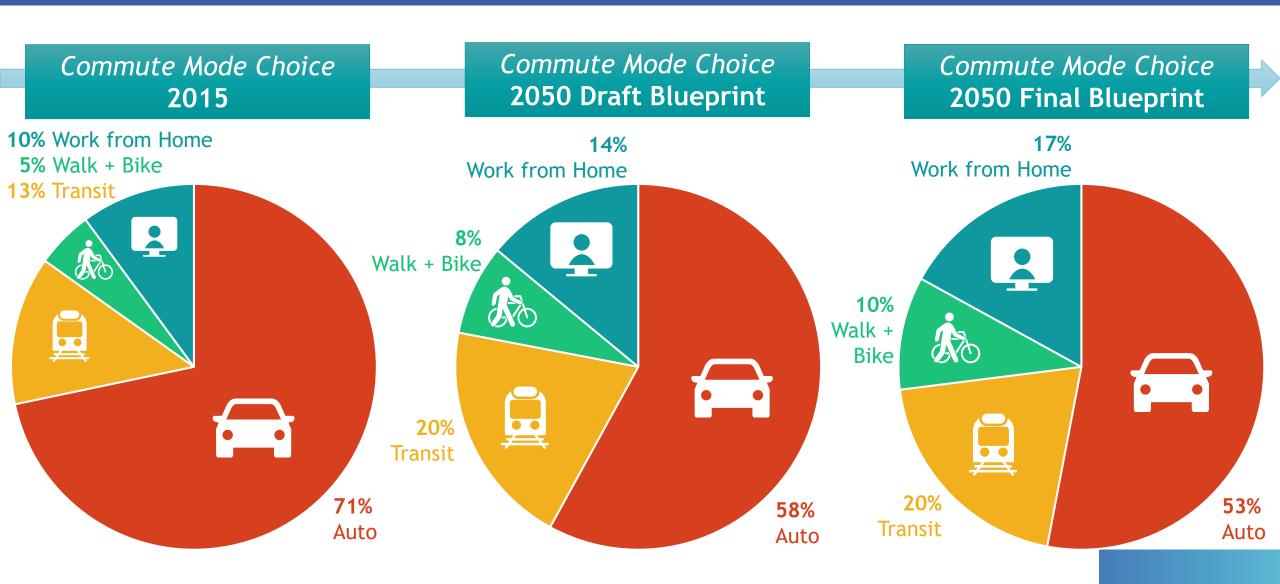
Housing & Transport Costs
2050 Final Blueprint







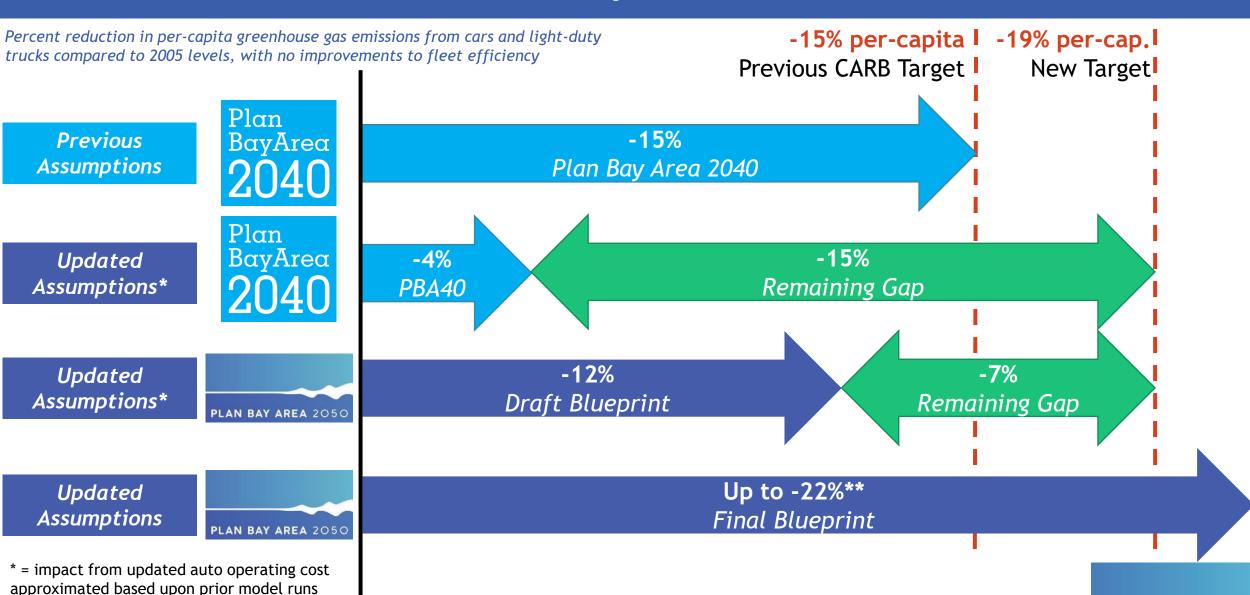
Commute Mode Choice: Draft vs. Final Blueprint



GHG: Draft vs. Final Blueprint

for Plan Bay Area 2040 and Draft Blueprint;

approved by CARB in October 2020



^{** =} estimated GHG reductions could change as a result of CARB review process in 2021-22; CARB could request even more conservative assumptions re: strategy benefits

GHG: Draft vs. Final Blueprint

Which new or revised Final Blueprint Strategies are driving changes between Draft & Final?



Expand Clean Vehicle Incentives

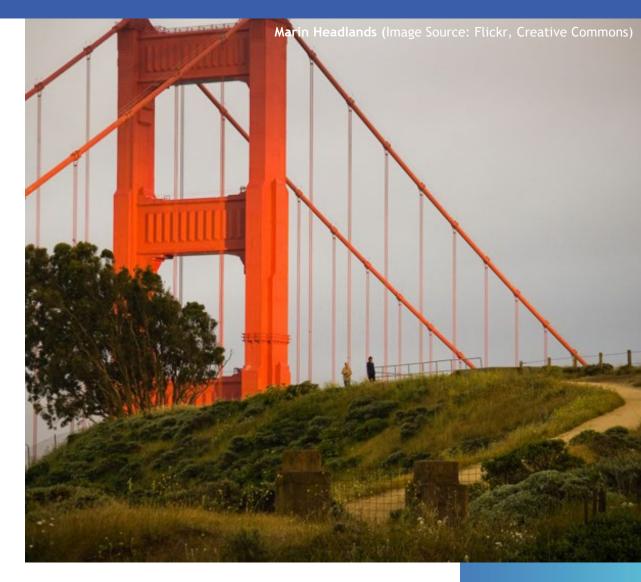
Increasing funding for clean vehicles helped to accelerate the region's shift towards clean vehicles and reduce emissions at a faster rate than envisioned by CARB.



Expand Commute Trip Reduction Programs and Transportation Demand Management Initiatives Strategies for major employers to incentivize sustainable commutes, combined with regional parking initiatives, enabled progress toward the target.



Expand Per-Mile Tolling and Allow a Greater Mix of Housing Densities & Types in Growth Areas By doubling down on existing Draft Blueprint strategies as identified in the September action item, additional emission reductions were possible.



Final Blueprint: More <u>Affordable</u> than Draft



- Will Bay Area residents spend less on housing and transportation?
 Yes.
 - Housing cost burden declines significantly from 2015 levels, especially for those with the fewest means to afford Bay Area homes.
- Will the Bay Area produce and preserve more affordable housing?
 Yes.
 - Final Blueprint strategies to expand preservation and production of affordable units result in more than one-quarter of regional housing stock as deed-restricted affordable by 2050.

Share of	58%	in <u>2015</u>
average household income spent	48%	in <u>Draft</u> 2050
on housing + transportation	45%	in <u>Final</u> 2050

Share of	113%	in <u>2015</u>
low-income household income spent	83%	in <u>Draft</u> 2050
on housing + transportation	58%	in <u>Final</u> 2050

Final Blueprint: More Connected than Draft



- Will Bay Area residents be able to access their destinations more easily? Yes, if using public transit.
 - Access to destinations by public transit continue to grow, while means-based road pricing helps to manage congestion and provide reliable auto travel times.
- Will Bay Area residents have a transportation system they can rely on? Yes, especially for motorists.
 - While freeway reliability improves due to Final Blueprint strategies, transit crowding remains an ongoing concern on select systems in the medium-tolong term.

Jobs accessible	131к	in <u>2015</u>
by transit in 45 minutes or less (average Bay	254к	in <u>Draft</u> <u>2050</u>
Area resident)	276к	in <u>Final</u> <u>2050</u>

in 2015 Jobs accessible by transit in 45 in **Draft** minutes or less 389_K (average resident 2050 in Community of in Final Concern) 477k

Final Blueprint: More <u>Diverse</u> than Draft



Will Bay Area communities be more inclusive?

To a limited degree, yes.

- While Plan Bay Area 2050 makes some headway by focusing affordable housing in transit-rich, high-resource areas, RHNA is likely to go even further.
- Will Bay Area residents be able to stay in place?
 It depends.
 - While new strategies both expand protections for renters and generate muchneeded affordable housing, some lowincome residents may end up relocating to

seek improved housing or other amenities.

Share of low-	20%	in <u>2015</u>
income households in High-Resource	22%	in <u>Draft</u> <u>2050</u>
Areas	24%	in <u>Final</u> 2050

Share of Growth Geography tracts at risk of displacement	42% Draft	17% Final
Share of Communities of Concern tracts at risk of displacement		40% Final

Final Blueprint: *Healthier* than Draft



 Will Bay Area residents be healthier and safer?

Yes.

- Strategies to invest in parks and open space - focused in disinvested communities - provide more opportunities for recreation.
- Will the environment of the Bay Area be healthier and safer?
 Yes.
 - In addition to reduced GHG emissions for transportation, building modernization strategies create jobs, improve energy efficiency, and reduce water consumption.

Acres of urban parks per 1,000 residents (<u>regionwide</u>)	1.7 1.7	in <u>2015</u> in <u>Draft</u> <u>2050</u> in <u>Final</u>
	2.11.4	2050 in 2015
Acres of urban parks per 1,000 residents (Communities	1.4	in <u>Draft</u> 2050
of Concern)		

Final Blueprint: Resilience Highlights



One common question during the Blueprint planning process relates to how resilience is integrated into the Plan. Plan Bay Area 2050 is the first comprehensive regional plan featuring multi-hazard strategies to reduce risks, paired with exclusion of unmitigated high-hazard risk areas from the Growth Geographies.







A suite of strategies works together to reduce wildfire risks in the Final Blueprint, including:

- Maintain Urban Growth Boundaries
- Protect and Manage High-Value Conservation Land
- Modernize Existing Residential Buildings

A single, unifying strategy focuses attention on adapting to sea level rise, protecting nearly all communities at risk from two feet of permanent inundation* plus 100,000 acres of marsh restoration.

Building retrofit strategies tackle seismic and drought deficiencies, with a focus on older residential structures and providing meansbased subsidies to do so.

^{*} Per State guidance; less than 1% chance of greater inundation by year 2050.

Final Blueprint: More *Vibrant* than Draft

- Will jobs and housing be more balanced?
 Yes.
 - Even more improvement in the intraregional jobs-housing balance in Final Blueprint help to reduce commute distances, especially for workers with low incomes.
- Will the Bay Area economy thrive?
 Yes.
 - In addition to the robust long-term growth forecasted in the Draft Blueprint, business incubators and job training programs help support more middle-wage jobs in industrial lands across the Bay Area.

Jobs-housing	1.8	in <u>2015</u>
ratio for combined West & South Bay	1.6	in <u>Draft</u> <u>2050</u>
subregion	1.5	in <u>Final</u> 2050
Median	10	in <u>2015</u>
Median commute distance for workers with low incomes	10 12	in <u>2015</u> in <u>Draft 2050</u>



Winter/Spring: Public and Stakeholder Engagement

Winter 2021
Focus on
Implementation Plan
Development



Ongoing small-group stakeholder meetings and CBO focus groups to discuss potential implementation actions



Online survey & textbased service (for those without internet access) to prioritize strategies to advance/implement first

Spring 2021

Focus on

Draft Implementation Plan,

Draft Plan Document, and

Draft EIR Release



Videos, podcasts, and/or webinars in multiple languages



Postcards, flyers, telephone comment line, and digital in-language promotion



Virtual public meetings & digital webinars with partners to learn about the draft Plan



Virtual scavenger hunt (for youth & young-at-heart)

Seeking Approval: Preferred EIR Alternative

Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint



Staff Recommendation: Approve MTC Resolution No. 4451 and ABAG Resolution No. 01-2021 to Advance as Preferred EIR Alternative



No Project Alternative

as required by CEQA

Alternative #1

based upon comments received in scoping

Alternative #2

based upon comments received in scoping

Alternatives will be finalized this winter with a focus on reducing environmental impacts, as required by CEQA.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR)