

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Planning Committee**

July 9, 2021

Agenda Item 4b

**Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for Plan Bay Area 2050 and
Amended 2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Subject: The Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for Plan Bay Area 2050 and Amended 2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was released July 7, 2021 for a 30-day public review and comment period.

Background: Plan Bay Area 2050 (the “Plan”) is composed of 35 strategies across four interrelated elements—housing, the economy, transportation, and the environment—that provide a blueprint for how the Bay Area can accommodate future growth and make the region more equitable and resilient in the face of unexpected challenges and achieve regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets established by the California Air Resources Board pursuant to Senate Bill 375. The core of the transportation element is a list of transportation projects and programs—organized across 12 strategies and three themes—that have been prioritized for implementation over the next 30 years with expected revenues from federal, state, regional and local sources.

The Amended 2021 TIP, as amended by Revision Number 2021-10, includes transportation projects with committed federal, state, regional and local funding over the four-year TIP period from FY2020-21 through FY2023-24. The federally required TIP is a comprehensive listing of Bay Area surface transportation projects that receive federal funds, are subject to a federally required action, or are regionally significant (projects that add capacity from a roadway or transit system).

Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis

Federal regulations require that MPOs conduct an analysis to determine whether the region’s long-range plans and short-range funding programs are in compliance with federal air quality requirements as part of the Plan and TIP approval processes. MTC has prepared the Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Plan and the Amended 2021 TIP (“Conformity Analysis”) in accordance with the latest U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) transportation conformity regulations and the Bay Area Air Quality Conformity Protocol (MTC Resolution No. 3757), and by using the latest planning assumptions, emissions model, and consultation provisions, including a quantitative regional emissions analysis that meets emissions budget requirements of the U.S. EPA transportation conformity rule. The Draft Conformity Analysis approach, methodology, and findings have been prepared in consultation with the multiagency Air Quality Conformity Task Force (comprised of staffs from the EPA, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Caltrans, and participating congestion management agencies and transit operators), as stipulated in MTC Resolution No. 3757. These task force meetings, which were open to the public, took place in June 2020, January 2021, February 2021, and May 2021.

This Draft Conformity Analysis demonstrates that both the Plan and the Amended 2021 TIP are consistent with (“conform to”) the federal air quality plan, which is referred to as the state implementation plan (SIP), meaning that the transportation activities will not cause new air quality violations, worsen existing violations, or delay timely attainment of the federal air quality standards. The Draft Conformity Analysis finds that emissions in the Plan and the Amended 2021 TIP are lower than the air quality emissions budgets and meet the requirements related to ozone and fine particulate matter, and the implementation of transportation control measures.

Public Comment Period and Next Steps

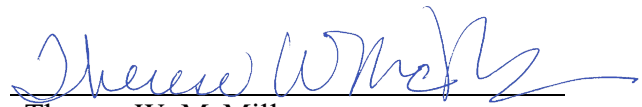
The Draft Conformity Analysis was released for public review and comment on July 7, 2021 and is available at: www.planbayarea.org/reports. The close of the comment period is scheduled for 5 p.m. Monday, August 5, 2021. At the end of the 30-day public review period, MTC staff, in consultation with the Air Quality Conformity Task Force will review and respond to public comments and make revisions to the Draft Conformity Analysis as needed, as outlined in MTC Resolution No. 3757.

MTC will consider public comments received on the Draft Conformity Analysis at its October 8, 2021 Planning Committee meeting. MTC is expected to approve the final transportation-air quality conformity analysis during the Commission’s special meeting to adopt Plan Bay Area 2050 on Thursday, October 21, 2021.

Issues: None

Recommendations: Receive Public Comment

Attachments: None


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