

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

September 10, 2021

Agenda Item 6a

Plan Bay Area 2050: Implementation Plan Partnerships & Final Steps to Adoption

Subject: Summary of major findings and considerations from the Partnership Phase of the Implementation Plan as well as final steps for overall Plan Bay Area 2050 finalization, prior to a joint meeting of the Commission and ABAG Executive Board in October to consider Final Plan adoption.

Background: The release of Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 in spring 2021 kicked off a series of workshops and public hearings as well as a public comment period which welcomed participation and input from partners and stakeholders. The Draft Plan release was also the starting point for the Partnership Phase of the Plan Bay Area 2050 Implementation Plan. The purpose of the Partnership Phase was to expand the focus of the Implementation Plan beyond MTC and ABAG and further develop the partnerships and commitments needed to advance the plan's 35 strategies.

Implementation Plan Partnership Phase Elements

MTC/ABAG received hundreds of comments related to the Draft Plan Document, Draft Supplemental Reports, and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) during the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 public comment period from May 26, 2021 to July 20, 2021. Of these, nearly 40 contained feedback specific to the Draft Implementation Plan, including partnership commitments, statements of support, highlights of key partner-led initiatives and suggestions for new or revised implementation actions.

On July 19, 2021, staff held a virtual partner and stakeholder workshop to request input on how partners can help support plan implementation. This workshop was well-attended, with approximately 70 individuals representing over 50 different entities or organizations from a diverse range of sectors. Starting on May 26, 2021 staff also began holding virtual one-on-one and small group focused discussions, including virtual "office hours" for partners from July 27, 2021 through August 13, 2021. Thirty-plus "office hours" meetings with nearly 40 different entities or organizations were held, which provided an opportunity to further discuss feedback provided during the comment period and at the workshop. Finally, a webinar and Q+A was held Tuesday, August 17, 2021.

Partnership Phase Findings

In August, staff mailed out a packet to policymakers detailing "What We Heard" on all aspects of Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 during the public comment period. This feedback along with other summer engagement input will inform revisions proposed for the Final Plan Bay Area 2050, which the MTC Commission and ABAG Executive Board will consider for adoption in October.

Input was received on all plan strategies, although there were more requests for revisions and clarifications for Transportation and Environment implementation actions versus Housing and Economy implementation actions. The Partnership Phase saw at least 45 distinct partners offering potential commitments or statements of support to advance plan implementation over the next one-to-five years. Feedback was received from transit agencies, local jurisdictions, county transportation authorities, advocates, non-profits, state agencies, regional agencies, labor representatives, and business community representatives. These partnerships will be essential as MTC/ABAG transitions to plan implementation and advances advocacy, initiatives, and planning activities that will realize the vision and goals of the plan.

Below are select highlights where Partnership Phase discussions and feedback informed revisions proposed for inclusion in the Final Implementation Plan. Additional information on these highlights can also be found in **Attachment A**.

- 1) **Environment: Sea Level Rise Adaptation** – Staff are proposing to change the MTC/ABAG implementation role for *Strategy EN1: Adapt to Sea Level Rise* from “Lead to “Partner” based upon feedback from environmental non-profits and ongoing coordination discussions with partner regional agencies.
- 2) **Transportation: Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Risk Force Work** – The Transformation Action Plan developed by the Task Force, with Commission consideration to accept this month, will be more deeply woven into the Final Implementation Plan based upon input from transit operators and county transportation agencies.
- 3) **Economy: Workforce Development Needs** – Partnership Phase discussions with labor and business partners revealed new areas of concern related to workforce development. Staff are proposing significant revisions for implementation actions under *Strategy EC2: Expand Job Training and Incubator Programs* to help improve economic mobility as well as enhance coordination with labor and business partners moving forward.
- 4) **Housing: Anti-Displacement Programs** – Housing and equity advocates as well as some local jurisdictions raised the importance of prioritizing actions that support anti-displacement efforts. Acknowledging the recent \$20 million allocation for the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) from the California state budget, the Final Implementation Plan proposes revisions to clarify the scope of a BAHFA-led pilot project to explore potential regional scale anti-displacement programs.

- 5) **Tracking Progress: Supporting Accountability** – Partners across various sectors raised the need to track progress and support accountability after plan adoption – an important need given state oversight of plan implementation moving forward. Staff are committing to providing status updates on Implementation Plan progress at least annually starting in 2022 to MTC/ABAG committees and boards.

Key findings from Partnership Phase activities for each plan strategy have also been incorporated into **Attachment B, Draft Implementation Briefs (Revised, September 2021)**.

Final Steps Prior to Plan Adoption

In addition to the robust feedback on the Draft Implementation Plan, staff have been thoroughly reviewing the comments received on all Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 deliverables since the end of the public comment period on July 20. Comments received on the Draft EIR will be responded to within the Final EIR, whereas comments received on non-EIR matters are being responded to on a rolling basis. When appropriate, revisions will be made to the Final Plan Document, Final Supplemental Reports, Final Implementation Plan, and Final EIR in advance of next month's release.

Staff anticipates that the Final Plan Bay Area 2050, constituting the components listed above, will be released publicly the week of October 4. Staff will present revisions since the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 release in spring 2021 to the Regional Advisory Working Group (RAWG), ABAG Regional Planning Committee (RPC), and Policy Advisory Council early next month. Staff will also seek the referral of Final Plan Bay Area 2050 by the Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee to a special joint Commission and ABAG Executive Board meeting to be held on Thursday, October 21. At that meeting, the two boards will consider Final Plan Bay Area 2050 for adoption, making it the official regional plan until the next update slated for 2025 and concluding the nearly four-year-long planning process.

Should Final Plan Bay Area 2050 be adopted by MTC/ABAG in October, staff would then work with federal and state partners at FHWA, FTA, Caltrans, and CARB to secure their approvals in fall 2021 and winter 2022. Staff would also commence work on Plan implementation activities identified in the Final Implementation Plan, providing annual updates starting next year on implementation progress.

Issues: None identified.

Recommendation: Information

Attachments: Attachment A: Presentation
Attachment B: Draft Implementation Plan Briefs (*Revised, September 2021*)



Therese W. McMillan

PLAN BAY AREA 2050



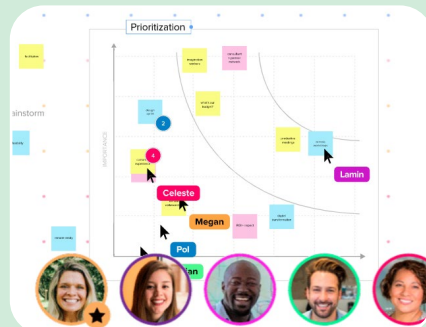
Implementation Plan Partnership Phase Findings & Final Steps to Adoption

*Chirag Rabari and Dave Vautin, MTC/ABAG
September 2021*

Implementation Plan: Timeline



Sept-Nov 2020



Nov-Jan 2021



Feb-May 2021



Jun-Aug 2021



Sept-Oct 2021

Phase 1: Analysis

- Strategy assessment & brainstorming
- Mapping complementary efforts, initiatives and partners

Phase 2: Engagement

- Nov. committees feedback ★
- Two virtual stakeholder meetings
- Small group meetings
- Public/CBO outreach

Phase 3: Draft Plan

- Feb. + Mar. progress update to committees ★
- Identify opportunities and challenges
- Develop Draft Implementation Plan

Phase 4: Partnerships

- Public outreach & comment period
- Virtual partner & stakeholder workshop
- Focused discussions and small group meetings

Phase 5: Final Plan

- Sept. progress update to committees ★
- Develop Final Implementation Plan
- Final Plan release and adoption ✓

★ = Board/Commission input ✓ = Board/Commission approval

Implementation Plan: Partnership Phase (*Summer*)

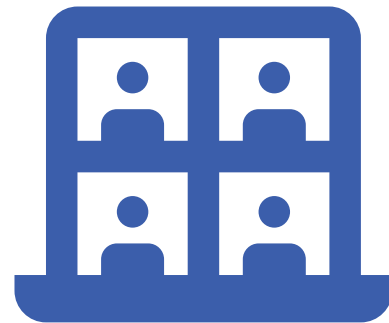
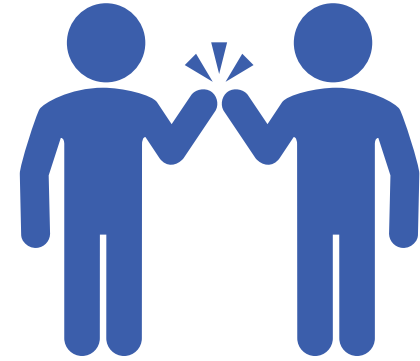
- The Partnership Phase expanded the focus beyond **MTC/ABAG** to help identify a broader range of actions, complementary initiatives, and potential commitments for incorporation into the Final Implementation Plan.
- Partnership Phase elements included:

Virtual workshop for partners & stakeholders (*Monday, July 19*)

Comment period (*Late May through July 20*)

One-on-ones and small group focused discussions (*May 26 to August 13*)

Webinar + Q&A (*Tuesday, August 17*)



Implementation Plan: Feedback from Partners

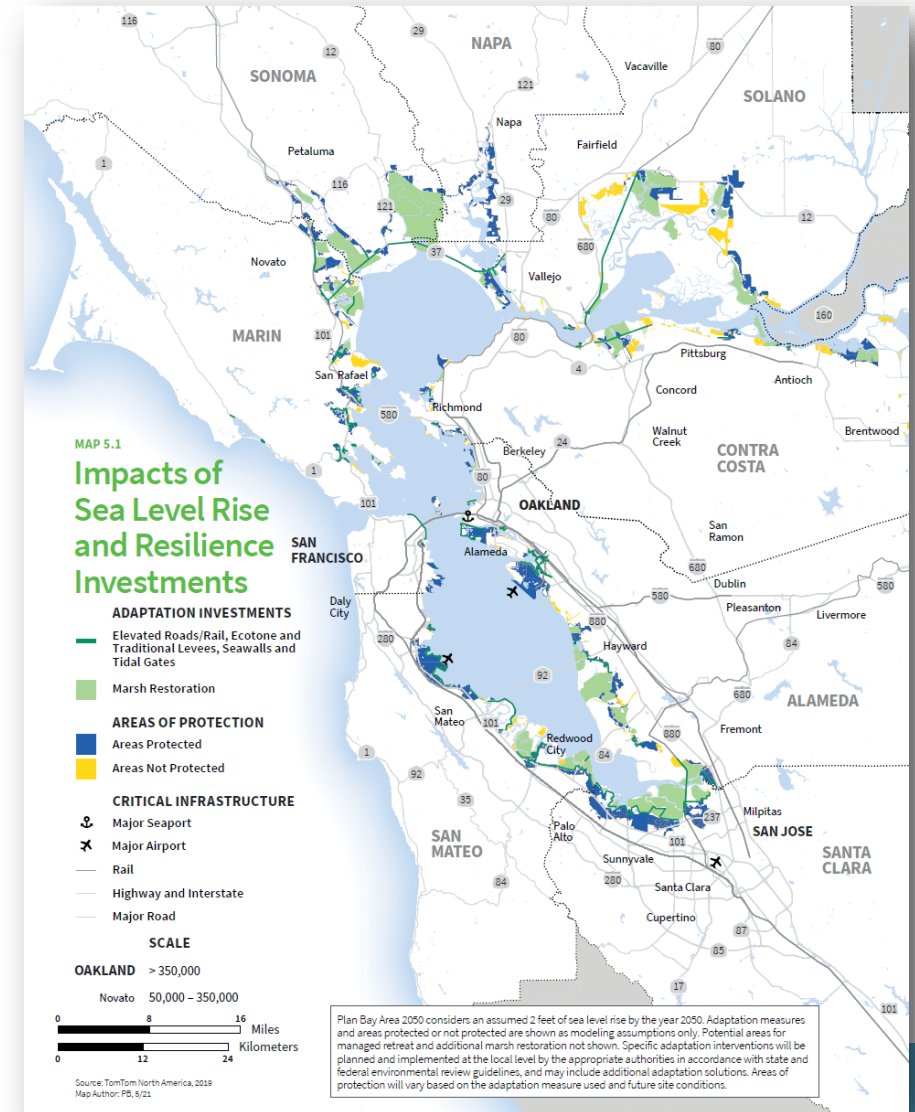
- Staff sought feedback on the Draft Implementation during the Plan Bay Area 2050 public comment period; combined with other summer engagement input, this will inform the Final Plan Bay Area 2050 to be considered for adoption in October.
- Input was received on all plan strategies, although there were more requests for revisions and clarifications for Transportation and Environment implementation actions versus Housing and Economy implementation actions
- Key Partnership Phase findings for each plan strategy have been incorporated into Attachment B in your packet, *Draft Implementation Briefs (Revised)*.
- The focus of today's presentation will be on five select topic areas where partnership discussions and feedback informed significant proposed Implementation Plan revisions, including:
 1. Sea level rise adaptation
 2. Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force work
 3. Workforce development needs and opportunities
 4. Housing and anti-displacement programs
 5. Tracking progress of Plan implementation



Environment: Sea Level Rise Adaptation



- Based upon feedback received during the Partnership Phase from environmental non-profits and regional agencies, **staff are proposing to change the MTC/ABAG implementation role** for *Strategy EN1: Adapt to Sea Level Rise* from “Lead” to “Partner”.
- **This will better reflect the multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary nature** of sea level rise adaptation work and strengthen the alignment with the BCDC-led Bay Adapt process, which identifies specific actions for MTC/ABAG to advance.
- **The Final Implementation Plan will further highlight key partner-led efforts**, including those by BARC, BCDC, and the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, among others.



Transportation: Transit Recovery Task Force



- Transportation partners identified during the Partnership Phase that more clarity was needed regarding the alignment of the Plan Bay Area 2050 Implementation Plan with the work of the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force.
- Concurrently, the Transformation Action Plan released in July included 27 recommendations, including integration policy, mapping and wayfinding, bus transit priority, and more.
- Blue Ribbon recommendations will be more deeply woven into the Final Implementation Plan, generally nesting under existing transportation strategies under the themes of *Maintain and Optimize the Existing System* and *Build a Next-Generation Transit Network*.





- Partnership Phase discussions revealed new concerns from a range of economic stakeholders related to workforce development.
- Both labor and business organization identified challenges in this area, with labor seeking to ensure an adequately sized and skilled construction workforce and business flagging concerns on staff shortages and skill gaps.
- The Final Implementation Plan proposes significant revisions to actions under *Strategy EC2: Expand Job Training and Incubator Programs*:
 - Emphasize the importance of apprenticeship opportunities and high-road career opportunities, including construction, through regional advocacy efforts
 - Propose enhanced collaboration with both labor and business on regional modeling of workforce supply factors moving forward

Housing: Anti-Displacement Programs



- **Housing and equity advocates, as well as some local jurisdictions,** raised the importance of prioritizing implementation actions that will support anti-displacement efforts.
- **The recently-approved California state budget included a \$20 million allocation to stand up the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA);** this allocation will help accelerate proposed pilot projects included in the Draft Implementation Plan.
- **The Final Implementation Plan proposes revisions in multiple housing areas,** including a BAHFA-led action to launch a pilot project which will develop standardized best practices for tenant protection programs and scope potential regional-scale anti-displacement programs.



For more information on proposed Implementation Plan revisions for the plan's housing strategies, please see Attachment B.

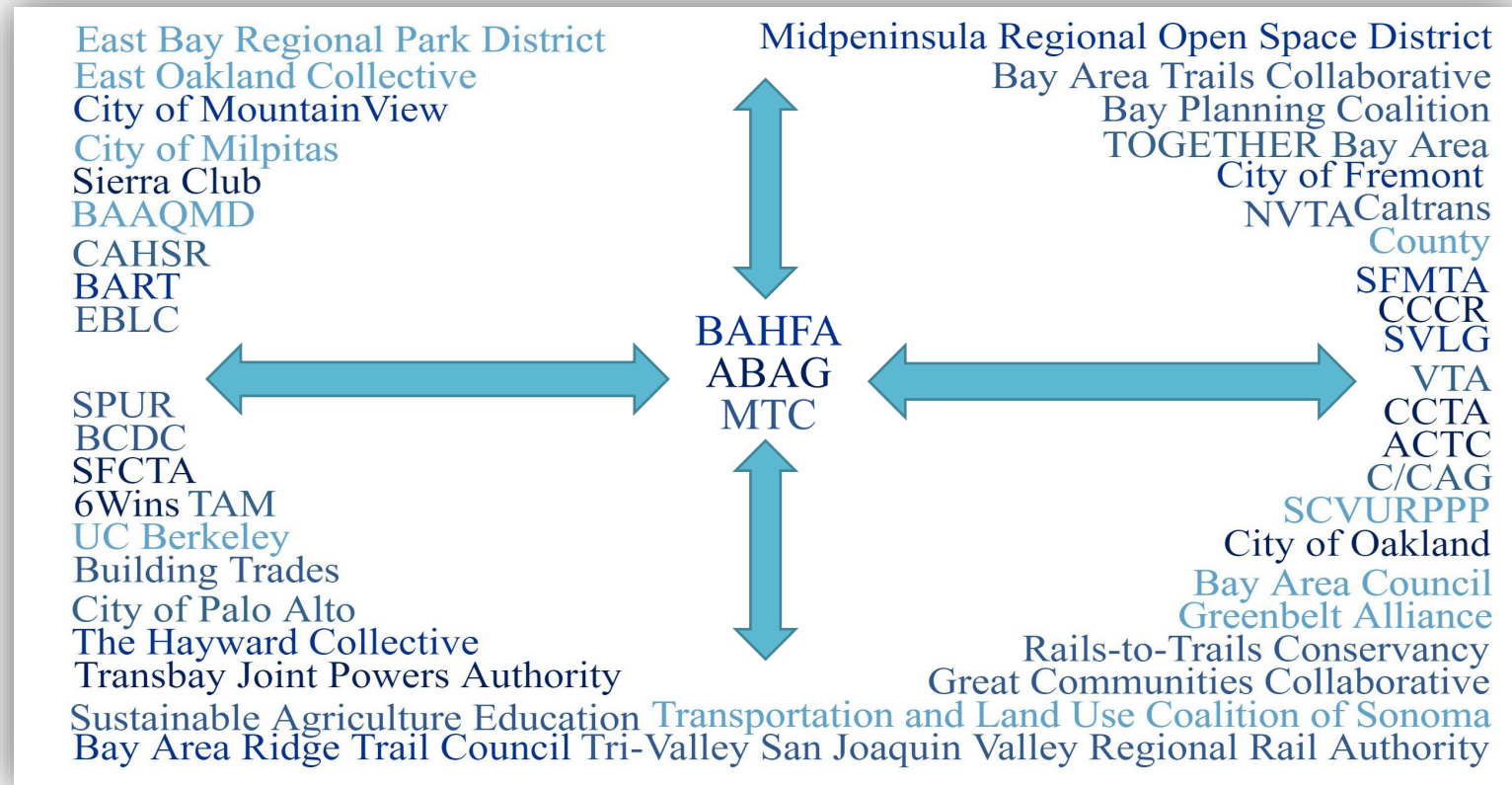
Tracking Progress: Supporting Accountability

- Partners across various sectors spoke of the **need to track progress** and support accountability after plan adoption - an important need given state oversight of Plan implementation going forward.
- In the **Final Implementation Plan**, staff are committing to providing **status updates and progress reports** at least annually starting in 2022 to MTC/ABAG's committees & boards.
- Staff also propose building upon the robust **performance tracking work in Vital Signs**, the regional performance monitoring initiative, as a tool to more effectively gauge Plan Bay Area 2050 implementation progress.



Partnership: The Key to Implementation Success

- The Partnership Phase saw at least **45 distinct partners** offering potential commitments or statements of support to advance implementation over the next 1-5 years, across all plan strategies.
- **MTC/ABAG staff are grateful for the dedication partners have shown** throughout the four-year planning process and look forward to continued collaboration.
- **Partnership will be critical as we transition to Plan implementation** and push forward with the advocacy, initiatives, projects and planning activities that will make Plan Bay Area 2050 a reality.



PLAN BAY AREA 2050

Final Steps to Plan Adoption

What's Next for October?

Comments & Responses

- In addition to feedback on partnership opportunities for the Final Implementation Plan, MTC/ABAG staff are **actively reviewing hundreds of additional emails and letters submitted prior to the close of the comment period on July 20th.**
- **Draft EIR comments received will be responded to within the Final EIR;** comments received on non-EIR matters are being responded to on a rolling basis.
- **When appropriate, revisions will be made to the Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Document, Final Supplemental Reports, Final Implementation Plan, and Final EIR as part of next month's release.**



Considering Final Plan Bay Area 2050 for Adoption

Public Release of Final Plan

- Anticipated no later than the week of October 4th
- Includes Final Plan Document, Final Implementation Plan, Final Supplemental Reports, and Final EIR

Stakeholder & Public Presentations

- Regional Advisory Working Group
- MTC Policy Advisory Council
- ABAG Regional Planning Committee

Committees & Boards to Consider Adoption

- Joint MTC Planning/ABAG Administrative Committee (October 8th)
- Joint Commission/ABAG Executive Board Meeting (October 21st)

Submission for Federal/State Approval*

- California Air Resources Board (CARB)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) & Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- Caltrans

Plan Implementation

- Already underway with additional initiatives slated to kick off in early 2022
- Annual updates to Joint MTC Planning/ABAG Administrative Committee on progress

** If adopted, Final Plan Bay Area 2050 would be submitted to federal & state partners no later than November 2021, with final approvals anticipated from all federal & state agencies no earlier than winter 2022.*

Questions or Comments?

Staff Contacts:

Chirag Rabari, crabari@bayareametro.gov

Dave Vautin, dvautin@bayareametro.gov