

MTC Resolution No. 4485 and ABAG Resolution No. 09-21:
Final Plan Bay Area 2050

Subject:

Request referral of MTC Resolution No. 4485 and ABAG Resolution No. 09-21 to the Joint Commission and ABAG Executive Board meeting on October 21, 2021 for adoption.

Background:

In February 2018, MTC and ABAG initiated a new cycle of long-range planning for the San Francisco Bay Area with the Horizon initiative, designed to prioritize resilient and equitable strategies in an increasingly uncertain future. Stress-testing strategies for the region's future – against a broad range of external forces like telecommuting adoption, economic boom-bust cycles, and changing land use preferences – helped create a solid foundation for Plan Bay Area 2050. Starting in late 2019, the Plan Bay Area 2050 Blueprint phase further enhanced strategies to accelerate equitable outcomes through deep public and stakeholder engagement – both in-person and virtual. As the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the Bay Area throughout 2020, Blueprint strategies were further refined to account for this new reality, even as the pandemic underscored the need to tackle the region's continued crises related to housing unaffordability, climate change, and more. After the Commission and Board advanced the Final Blueprint into the environmental phase in early 2021, staff then focused on translating each of the Blueprint's 35 long-term strategies into more than 80 near-term implementation actions, working in partnership with public, private, and non-profit entities to create a comprehensive Implementation Plan for the next five years.

Ultimately, Plan Bay Area 2050 (Plan) is ready to serve as a resilient and equitable next-generation plan for the San Francisco Bay Area 2050 – laying out a pathway toward a better future for all residents through specific strategies – policies and investments – related to transportation, housing, the economy, and the environment. The Final Plan was informed by over 23,000 Bay Area residents and over 234,000 comments, with over 450 public and stakeholder meetings and events held over the four-year planning process. Most importantly, more than 60 percent of public engagement activities targeted communities – including residents of Equity

Priority Communities and other underserved groups – who have been historically underrepresented in planning processes.

As shown in **Attachment C**, the Final Plan works to ensure that the Bay Area of 2050 is more affordable, connected, diverse, healthy, and vibrant for all through 35 strategies to be implemented at the local, county, regional, and state levels over the next three decades. Totalling approximately \$1.4 trillion, the Plan’s strategies rely on existing and reasonably-anticipated new monies, but fully realizing those revenues will be critical in the decade ahead to fully implement the Final Plan. If implemented, the Final Plan would significantly reduce housing and transportation costs for a typical household, shift approximately one-fifth of the workforce away from commuting by auto, provide more affordable housing in historically-exclusionary cities and towns, meet the state-mandated greenhouse gas target, and improve intraregional jobs-housing balances, among other beneficial outcomes. Last but certainly not least, the Final Plan would make greater headway in addressing challenges for households with low incomes, and Equity Priority Communities, addressing long-standing disparities in housing, transportation, and more.

Revisions to Plan Document and Implementation Plan:

Between the release of Draft Plan Bay Area 2050 in late May and the close of the public comment period on July 20, 2021, MTC and ABAG received hundreds of comment letters, as well as feedback at virtual workshops and related public engagement. Comments received on Draft Plan Bay Area 2050, including the Draft Implementation Plan, were reviewed in August and September 2021, with all comments posted online and electronically shared with elected officials and stakeholders in mid-August (**Attachment D**). In response to comments received as well as minor technical updates, Final Plan Bay Area 2050 reflects the following key changes:

- **Minor Technical Updates.** Staff updated funding assumptions for Strategy EN8 (electric vehicles) in response to feedback from the California Air Resources Board to maintain forecasted greenhouse gas emission reductions. Staff also adjusted “stay-at-home” assumptions related to vacation, sick, and personal business days, which led to slightly higher greenhouse gas emissions for all EIR alternatives, including the Final Plan.

- **Final Plan Document.** In addition to integrating minor data updates discussed above, the Final Plan Document features expanded sidebars and maps on topics such as: the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force; COVID-19 pandemic integration; parks, recreation, and conservation; and express bus network improvements.
- **Final Implementation Plan.** The Implementation Plan received significant feedback, especially from stakeholder organizations, during the summer 2021 Partnership Phase. Integrated as the final chapter of the Plan Document, the Final Implementation Plan integrates refined implementation actions on topics ranging from workforce development to sea level rise mitigation, previewed in September. The Final Implementation Plan also identifies timeframes and partnership opportunities to further explore in the years ahead.

Final Plan Bay Area 2050 is available for review online on the [Plan Bay Area 2050 website](#); in-person and by appointment at 375 Beale Street in San Francisco; or by emailing info@planbayarea.org or calling (415) 778-6757 to make alternative arrangements to access the document.

Pivoting Toward Implementation in 2022:

While the Implementation Plan highlights more than 80 specific implementation actions that MTC and ABAG are slated to advance in partnership with other entities over the next five years, adoption of Final Plan Bay Area 2050 will allow MTC/ABAG staff to begin advancing some key initiatives over the next year specifically. High-priority actions for next year include:

- Advancing pilot projects such as a homelessness prevention system and the “Doorway” affordable housing platform through the Expanded Regional Housing Portfolio and the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA)
- Providing land use guidance for local jurisdictions through the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Policy Update
- Advancing transit recovery through implementation of the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force priorities, as well as further progress on the Major Project Advancement Policy and completion of the Fare Coordination and Integration Study

- Conducting deep community engagement on the future of Bay Area freeways, and how pricing can play a role, through the Next-Generation Freeways Study
- Expanding coordination with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to accelerate implementation of all climate mitigation strategies, from sustainable commute targets to electric vehicle subsidies & marketing to travel demand management programs

Adopting Final Plan Bay Area 2050 through MTC Resolution No. 4485 and ABAG Resolution No. 09-21 (**Attachments A and B, respectively**) will allow staff to pivot toward implementation and advance these and many other priorities in the coming year to realize the Plan's Vision.

Next Steps:

If approved by the Commission and ABAG Executive Board later this month, staff will finalize the document and officially publish Plan Bay Area 2050 as the new regional long-range plan. Staff will report back to the joint committees annually with updates on overall progress on Plan implementation to maximize accountability. A focused update to the regional long-range plan, anticipated to build upon Plan Bay Area 2050, is slated to commence in mid-to-late 2023.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendation:

Refer MTC Resolution No. 4485 and ABAG Resolution No. 09-21 to the Joint Commission and ABAG Executive Board meeting on October 21, 2021 to adopt Final Plan Bay Area 2050.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: MTC Resolution No. 4485
- Attachment B ABAG Resolution No. 09-21
- Attachment C: Final Plan Bay Area 2050 (*proposed for adoption*)
- Attachment D: Summer 2021 Public Engagement Summary (*August 2021*)



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