

2026 Legislative Proposal: Modernizing California's Sustainable Communities Strategies Law



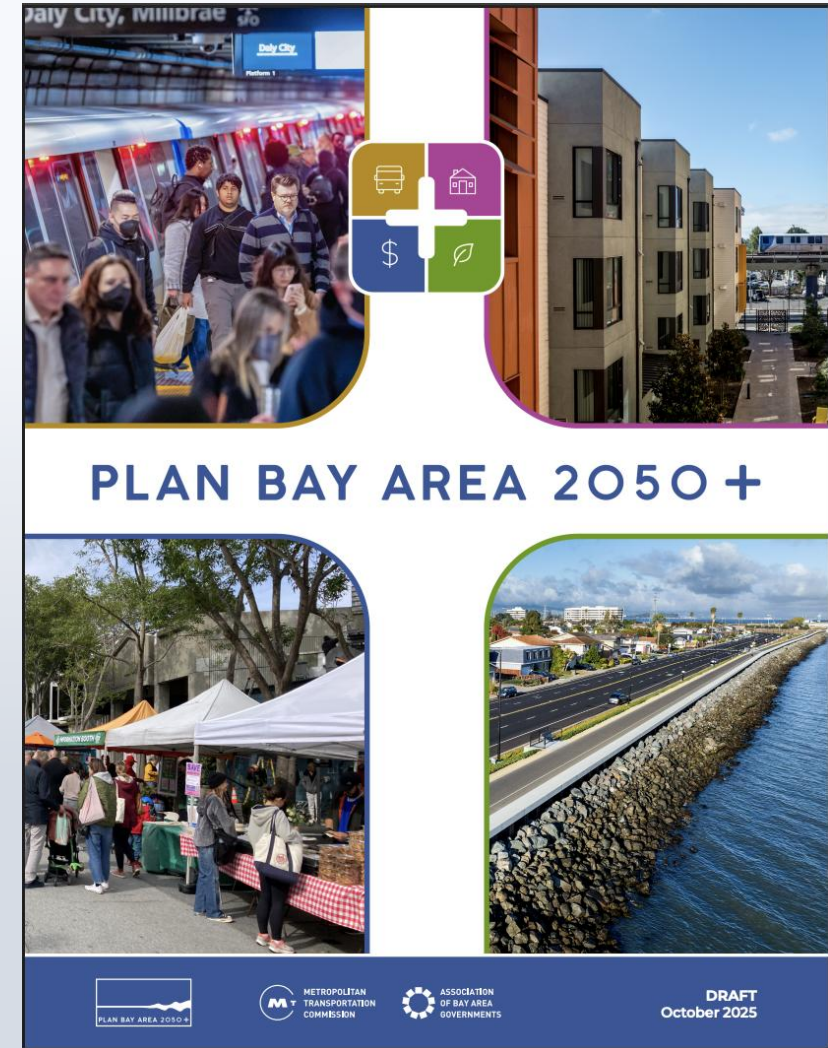
ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee
December 12, 2025

What is an SCS and Why does it Matter?

- The Bay Area and other metro regions are required to craft a long-range regional plan, fulfilling the federal Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) requirements as well as the state Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) requirements from SB 375 (Steinberg, 2008).
- The SCS requires regions to achieve a state target set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light-duty trucks.
- State housing law also mandates regional housing needs allocations (RHNA) be consistent with the SCS.
- The RTP/SCS (regional plan) guides billions of dollars in transportation investments and identifies strategies to meet climate, transportation and housing goals.



Why Modernize SB 375 Now?

- SB 375 has improved how California aligns transportation, housing, and land use planning, *however...*
- The policy landscape and on-the-ground realities have substantially changed since 2008
- The planning process can be improved to better support implementation and make progress on climate, housing, transportation and resilience goals.

Evolving Context, Urgent Goals



New laws



Climate



Fleet transition



Affordability



Changing travel patterns



Equity



MTC-ABAG SB 375 Modernization Objectives

1. Streamline regional plan development to create more capacity to focus on implementation
2. Update state law so regional plan can reflect a balanced set of regional goals.
3. Secure a stronger state partnership with increased resources and greater alignment of priorities.
4. Update state law so regional plan earns trust and drives action.



Bay Area is Co-Leading a Coordinated, Statewide Effort

- “Big 4” MPOs, including MTC and ABAG, are co-leading with CALCOG to develop 2026 legislation.
- Former State Senate Leader and SB 375 author Darrell Steinberg is under contract to support with strategy and stakeholder engagement.
- Three statewide roundtables were held in fall 2025; more engagement planned in 2026.



Timeline and Next Steps

