

Date: June 25, 2025
W.I.: 1121
Referred by: Planning

ABSTRACT

Resolution No. 4715

This resolution advances the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Final Blueprint into the environmental process for the long-range plan, as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Further discussion of this action is contained in the Executive Director's summary sheets dated June 25, 2025.

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RE: Advancing Plan Bay Area 2050+ Final Blueprint into Environmental Phase

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 4715

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is the regional transportation planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area pursuant to Government Code Section 66500 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), a joint exercise of powers entity created pursuant to California Government Code Sections 6500 *et seq.*, is the Council of Governments and the regional land use planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code § 65080 *et seq.* requires MTC to prepare and update a long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), including a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) prepared in conjunction with the ABAG, every four years; and

WHEREAS, Plan Bay Area 2050+ (“plan”) is envisioned to be the Bay Area’s next long-range regional plan, ultimately serving as the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy for the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, MTC and ABAG jointly adopted the first Plan Bay Area in 2013 (Plan Bay Area 2013) (MTC Resolution No. 4111 and ABAG Resolution No. 06-13), the second Plan Bay Area in 2017 (Plan Bay Area 2040) (MTC Resolution No. 4300 and ABAG Resolution No. 10-17), and the third Plan Bay Area in 2021 (Plan Bay Area 2050) (MTC Resolution No. 4485 and ABAG Resolution No. 09-21); and

WHEREAS, MTC and ABAG jointly adopted the Vision for Plan Bay Area 2050 in September 2019, emphasizing that resilient and equitable strategies should be prioritized to ensure by the year 2050 the Bay Area is affordable, connected, diverse, healthy, and vibrant for all (MTC Resolution No. 4393 and ABAG Resolution No. 09-19); and

WHEREAS, this Vision is carried forward into Plan Bay Area 2050+;

WHEREAS, ABAG approved the Regional Growth Forecast Methodology in September 2019, which guided the development of the Plan Bay Area 2050 Regional Growth Forecast and which is carried forward into Plan Bay Area 2050+; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Regional Growth Forecast was shared in draft form in November 2023 and was carried forward into the Final Blueprint phase as the Final Regional Growth Forecast for Plan Bay Area 2050+; and

WHEREAS, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has set a -19 percent per capita greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reduction target for the year 2035 for cars and light-duty trucks for the long-range regional plan; and

WHEREAS, the MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee approved the analysis of proposed Draft Blueprint Strategies as well as corresponding Draft Blueprint Growth Geographies for the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint in January 2024; and

WHEREAS, MTC and ABAG released findings from the Draft Blueprint analysis in June 2024; and

WHEREAS, MTC and ABAG approved revised Final Blueprint Strategies, including the Final Transportation Project List and Final Resilience Project List, and revised Final Blueprint Growth Geographies in January 2025 (MTC Resolution No. 4687 and ABAG Resolution No. 04-2025); and

WHEREAS, the Blueprint was informed by an expansive engagement process over 2023 and 2024, engaging tens of thousands of participants through 42 pop-up workshops, multiple online surveys, 22 community-based organization (CBO) partnerships, 6 webinars and technical workshops, office hours, and widespread digital promotion, among other forums; and

WHEREAS, the Final Blueprint integrated feedback received during the engagement process to better address the challenges identified in the Draft Blueprint phase and incorporated a refined transit network as identified through the parallel Transit 2050+ process; and

WHEREAS, MTC and ABAG released Final Blueprint performance and equity outcomes in May 2025, demonstrating how Plan Bay Area 2050+ advances the plan's adopted vision, while meeting and exceeding the statutory greenhouse gas emissions reduction target established by CARB, as well as accommodating anticipated growth; and

WHEREAS, all of the planning processes and approvals described above related to Plan Bay Area 2050+ were intended to define the "project" as that term is used under CEQA for purposes of environmental review, and were contingent on future environmental review of that project under CEQA prior to approval; and

WHEREAS, the Final Blueprint, if approved to advance into the environmental process as the project to be analyzed under CEQA, would be analyzed against a reasonable range of alternatives over the course of 2025, prior to any adoption of Plan Bay Area 2050+ or one of its alternatives, currently anticipated to come before MTC and ABAG for consideration in early 2026; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that MTC hereby certifies that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and incorporated by this reference; and be it further

RESOLVED, that MTC, as a decision-making body, hereby approves the advancement of the Final Blueprint into the environmental process for the long-range plan to inform the development of the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Environmental Impact Report, as required by CEQA.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Sue Noack, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission held in San Francisco, California and at other remote locations on June 25, 2025.