



Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Regional Network Management Council

December 15, 2025

Agenda Item 3c

Photo credit: Karl Nielsen

MTC's Regional Transit Priority Efforts

Policy



**Transit Priority Policy
for Roadways**

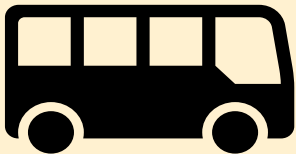
Planning



**Transit Priority
Roadway Assessment**

**Plan Bay Area 2050+
(and Transit 2050+)**

Funding & Technical Assistance



**Transit Performance
Initiative (TPI)**

**Bus Accelerated
Infrastructure Delivery
(BusAID)**

**Innovative Deployments to
Enhance Arterials (IDEA)**

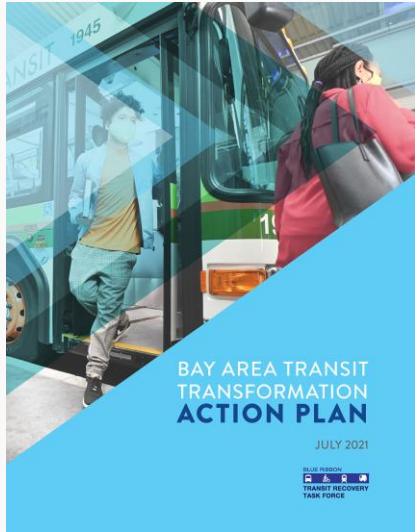
Project Delivery



**Forward Commute
Initiatives**

- Bay Bridge Forward
- Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Forward
- Dumbarton Bridge Forward

Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways



Implements:

Transit
Transformation
Action Plan
Action 12



Supports:

Plan Bay
Area 2050+
Strategy T11

What:

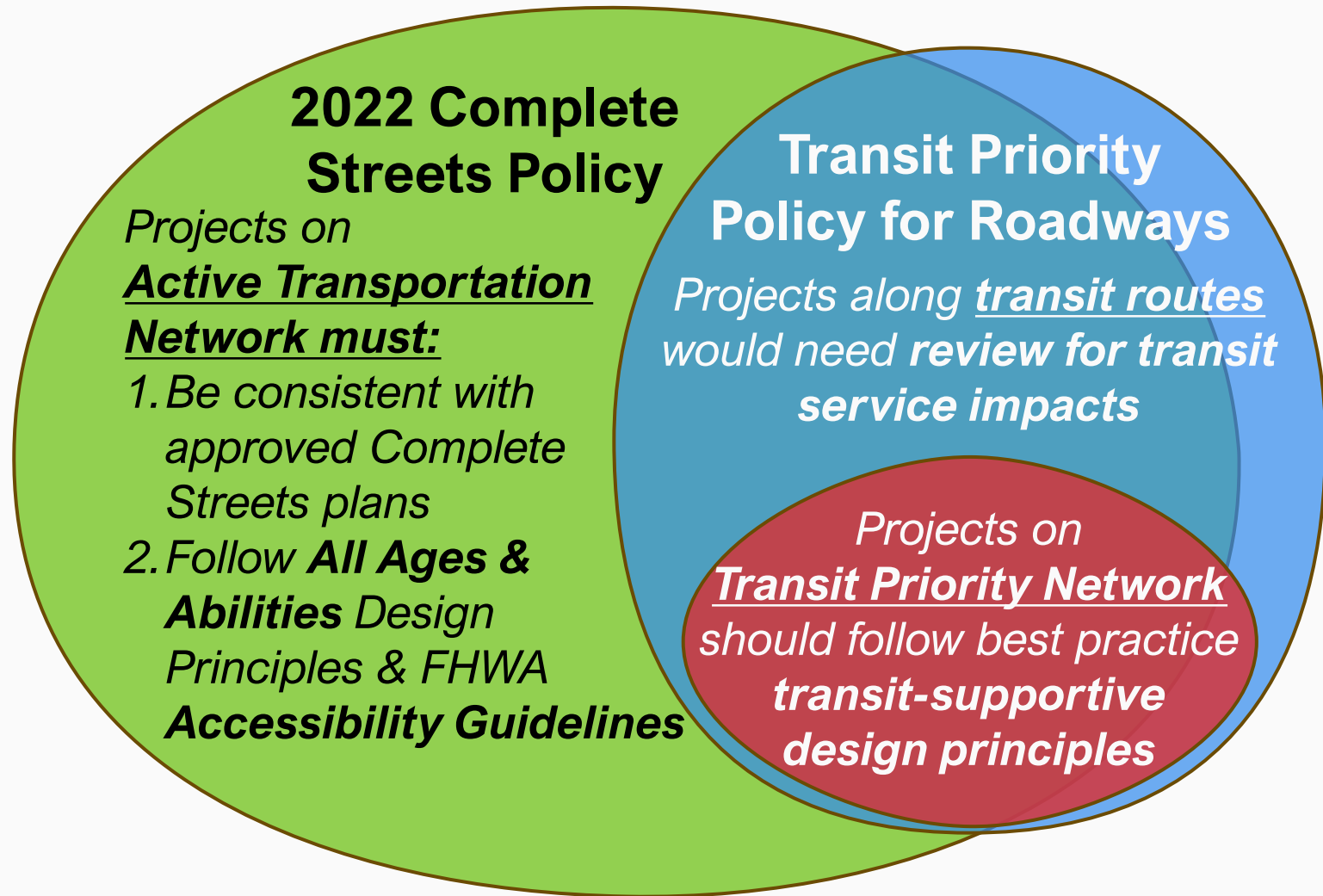
- New Policy to emphasize transit priority
- Implemented via existing Complete Streets Checklist to avoid creating an additional administrative process

Goals:

1. Establish a common definition of transit priority
2. Strengthen interjurisdictional coordination and guide agencies to consider transit in roadway projects.
3. Inform prioritization of funding for transit priority projects

Expanding Transit Review in Complete Streets Checklist

- Implementation through the Complete Streets Checklist would avoid creating a new administrative process
- Currently, projects seeking more than \$250,000 of **regional discretionary funds** must complete a Complete Streets Checklist and seek transit agency **acknowledgment** of project.
- Policy would require transit agency **review** and **design input**, and detail eligible exceptions.



RNM Body Feedback on Draft Policy

Key themes heard at RNM Bodies during fall 2025 engagement:

Themes of Comments	RNM Body
Implementation & Coordination Requirements	Committee
Technical Assistance	Committee, CAG
Funding Incentives for Local Policies	Council, Customer Advisory Group (CAG)
Dispute Resolution	Council
Stakeholder Outreach	Council, Committee, CAG

Implementation and Interagency Coordination Requirements

RNM Committee Feedback

- Clarification needed about implementation and interagency coordination requirements
- Concerns about limited local staff resources

Response

- Policy implementation materials revised to emphasize importance of early coordination, and clarify how transit review expectations vary based on level of transit service
- Will monitor and seek feedback to inform Technical Assistance program development and possible policy adjustments

Project Transit Context	Transit Review Required
No published transit routes in project area or surrounding community	No transit review required
No published transit routes in project area, but transit service in community	Confirm if routine detours or non-revenue service in project area; if so, accommodate basic bus movements
Published transit route(s) in project area	Try to mitigate project impacts
Project located along regional Transit Priority Network (TPN)	Try to improve transit through best-practice transit-supportive design

Technical Assistance

RNM Committee & CAG Feedback

- Technical assistance would be helpful during project development, especially in smaller jurisdictions
- Interest in learning about appropriate treatments for different land use contexts, and different levels of investment (e.g., quick implementation, larger capital projects)

Response

- Staff are investigating Technical assistances ideas including:
 - Regional Transit Priority Toolkit
 - Tech Transfer Trainings
 - Other project development and interagency coordination tools.

Funding Incentives for Transit Priority Policies

RNM Council & CAG Feedback

- Desire to use funding incentives to encourage jurisdictions to adopt local policies that reinforce coordination with transit operators on projects that impact transit, regardless of fund source

Select Cities with Existing Transit-Supportive Policies or Policy Elements

- Berkeley
- El Cerrito
- Fremont
- San Francisco
- San José

Response

- Staff will work with MTC funding program managers to identify appropriate programs where incentives could be considered, and update RNM bodies in late 2026 or early 2027.
- MTC will provide templates to ease local adoption
 - Local resolution supporting the regional Policy
 - Standalone local transit priority policy
 - Update to local complete streets (or similar) policy

Dispute Resolution Process

RNM Council Feedback

- Desire for MTC to play a larger role in conflict resolution

Response

- Policy focuses on providing structure for more effective interagency coordination.
- Policy **does not dictate roadway design**, which would remain a local decision.
- MTC would consider convening a stakeholder meeting when there is a design dispute
- MTC intends to develop technical assistance resources focusing on collaboration and interagency coordination during project development.

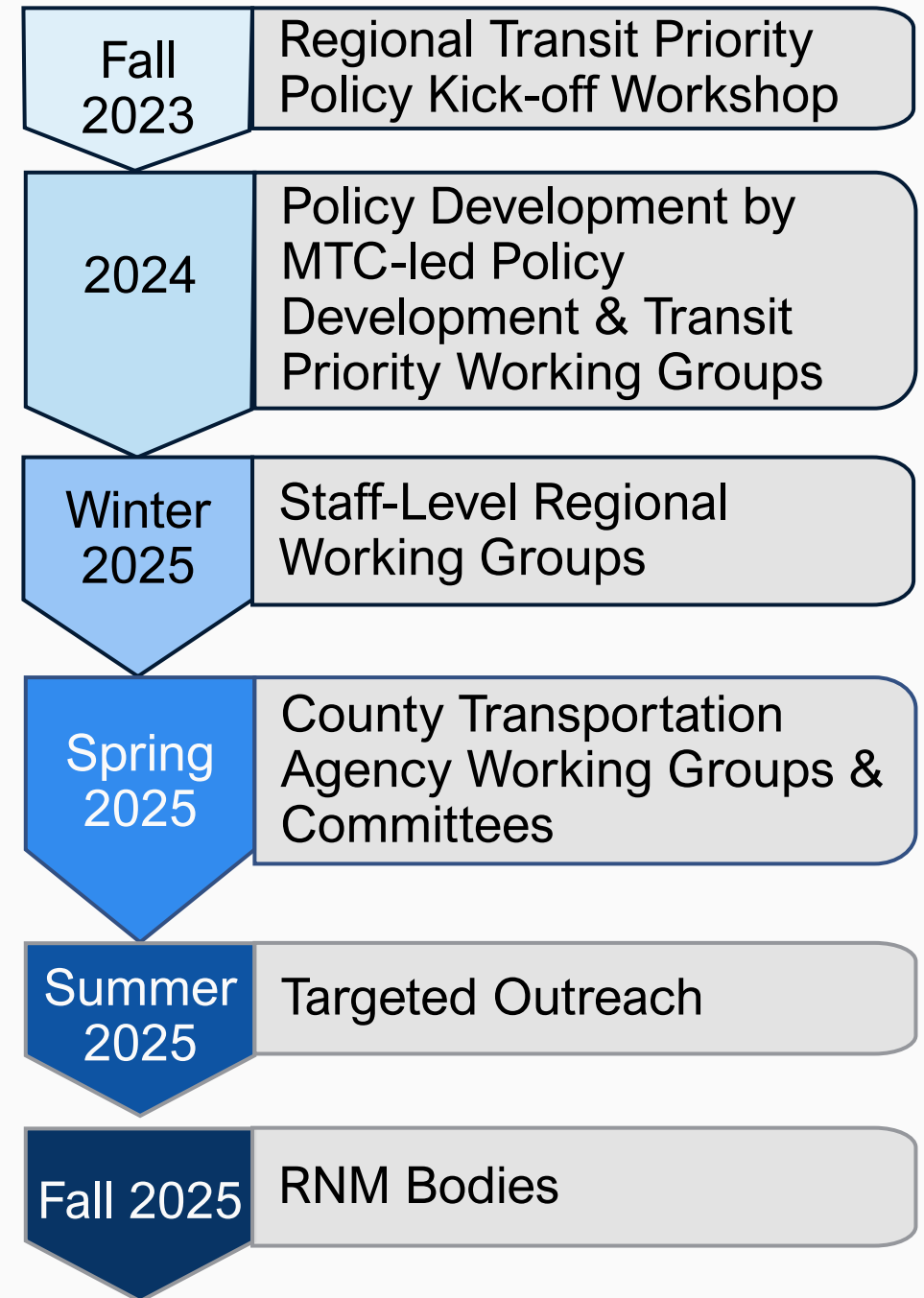
Stakeholder Outreach

RNM Council, Committee & CAG Feedback

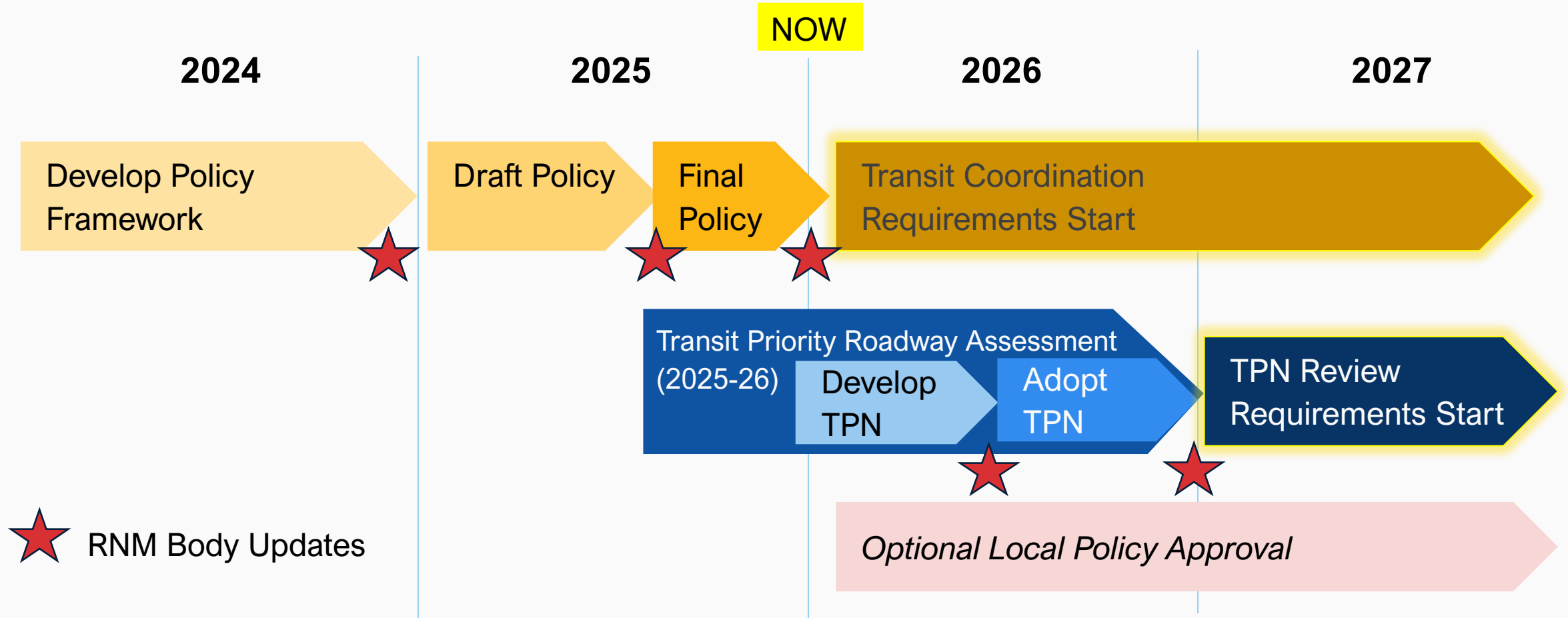
- Concerns around outreach and engagement, especially to local jurisdictions and county transportation authorities (CTAs)

Response

- Policy developed with input from wide variety of agencies, including cities, counties, transit operators, Caltrans and advocacy groups
- Feedback heard from 50+ jurisdictions
- MTC will continue to coordinate with CTAs to support implementation of the Policy



Policy Development & Implementation Timeline

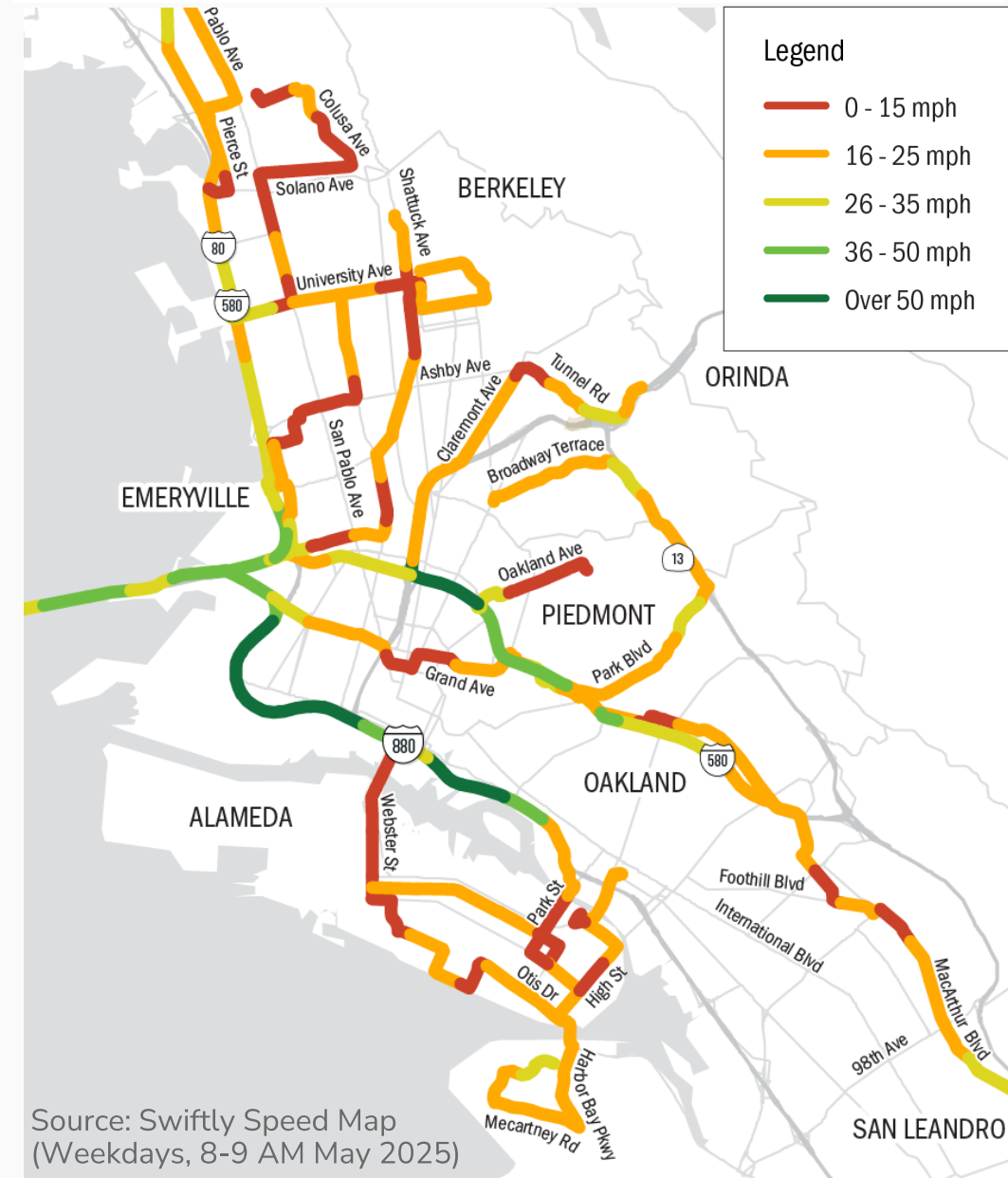


Next Steps

If Policy is approved by RNM Council, RNM Committee & MTC Commission:

- Integrate Transit Review requirements into updated Complete Streets Checklist portal
- Transit Priority Roadway Assessment
 - Conduct baseline analysis of transit (speed/reliability, ridership, transit priority infrastructure)
 - Develop regional Transit Priority Network (TPN) of key transit corridors, mentioned in Policy
 - *Draft TPN Summer 2026*
 - *Final TPN Late 2026/Early 2027*
 - Identify transit delay “hotspot” locations
- Develop Technical Assistance Resources

Average AC Transit Transbay Bus Speeds Weekday AM Peak Hour



Thank You

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