

Regional Network Management Council

December 15, 2025

Agenda Item 3c

Proposed Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways

Subject:

Proposed Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways to support the implementation of transit priority projects in the region.

Background:

Staff received feedback on the draft Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways (Policy) at the Regional Network Management (RNM) Council on September 22, 2025, RNM Committee on October 10, 2025, and RNM Customer Advisory Group on October 20, 2025. This memo summarizes the feedback received and the recommended next steps. Staff are seeking approval of the proposed Final Policy from the RNM Council at this meeting, and from the RNM Committee at their January 9, 2026 meeting.

Overview of Proposed Policy:

If approved, the Policy, included in Attachment A, will establish transit review requirements for roadway projects on public right-of-way requesting MTC discretionary funding over \$250,000 or MTC endorsement. The Policy includes transit review requirements intended to:

- Promote active interagency engagement to minimize unintended impacts to transit; and
- Enhance the transit rider experience by supporting transit priority infrastructure and policies that improve transit travel times and reliability.

Transit review requirements will vary by the level of transit service in the project area; an overview of the proposed transit review process is identified in Attachment B.

Feedback Received and Staff Responses:

Staff engaged with various stakeholder agencies throughout the development of the Policy through a variety of staff working groups and county transportation agency (CTA) committees. The Policy was shaped by over 500 individual comments from stakeholders at more than 50 cities, counties, transit agencies, CTAs, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), MTC, and advocacy organizations.

A summary of the feedback heard at the September and October 2025 RNM Council, RNM Committee, and RNM Customer Advisory Group and staff responses is included in the table below. Based on feedback, staff made minor edits to and clarifications within the Policy.

Key Feedback Themes	Staff Response:
<p><u>Interagency Coordination and Implementation</u> <u>Guidance & Support:</u> Request for clarification on coordination required by the level of transit service, and for regional guidance for context-sensitive transit priority treatments. Concerns that the Policy may burden limited staffing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy implementation materials were revised to emphasize importance of early coordination, and clarify when transit review was required and how transit review expectations vary based on level of transit service. • Policy exceptions were updated to recognize conflicts with existing infrastructure and/or requiring additional right-of-way as an “Infeasible” exception. • Staff plan to develop a regional Transit Priority Toolkit and training opportunities, as well consider other potential opportunities to support project development and interagency coordination.
<p><u>Funding Incentives for Local Policies / Resolutions:</u> Request for incentives for local jurisdictions to implement the Policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MTC will provide templates for the optional adoption of a transit priority policy or resolution at the local level. • Staff will work with MTC funding program managers to identify appropriate programs where incentives could be considered. Staff will provide an update to the RNM bodies in late 2026 or early 2027.
<p><u>Dispute Resolution:</u> Request for MTC to play a stronger role in resolving disputes between agencies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy focuses on providing structure for more effective interagency coordination, not dictating roadway design. • If there is a design dispute, MTC would consider convening a stakeholder meeting to aid in discussions.
<p><u>Stakeholder Outreach:</u> Questions were asked about the level of outreach conducted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff conducted multiple outreach rounds and heard feedback from 50+ jurisdictions, including cities, counties, CTAs, transit operators, Caltrans, and advocacy groups. MTC will continue to coordinate with CTAs to support Policy implementation.

Next Steps:

If approved, the Policy will be implemented through the existing MTC Complete Streets (CS) Checklist process, which is expected to roll out an improved online portal in early 2026. As part of the outreach efforts to introduce the new CS Checklist portal, staff will also share the new Transit Priority Policy requirements. Staff also plan to provide regular reports on Transit Priority Policy implementation activities in coordination with CS Policy reports.

Additionally, the Transit Priority Roadway Assessment (Assessment) is currently underway; details of the Assessment are included in the [October 2025 RNM Committee packet](#). The Assessment will include the development of the regional Transit Priority Network (TPN), which will identify transit corridors where additional Policy criteria will apply. The Assessment will also identify transit delay “hotspot” locations with speed/reliability issues, which will inform funding priorities for future MTC transit priority grant programs. Staff anticipate bringing the draft TPN to the RNM bodies in mid-2026, and will provide an update on the Policy implementation, related technical assistance efforts, potential funding incentives, and transit priority grant funding programs at that time.

Issues:

Throughout the Policy development process, staff oftentimes heard conflicting comments from transit agencies and local jurisdictions. As proposed, the Policy aims to strike a balance between the considerations and needs of transit agencies and local jurisdictions. However, some outstanding comments remain. Some transit agencies are requesting the inclusion of funding incentives within the policy to encourage local jurisdictions to adopt a transit supportive resolution or policy. MTC will work to identify how funding incentives could be applied, but would implement any potential funding incentives through the funding programs and not through the Policy. In addition, local jurisdictions are concerned that the policy will slow down project development and grant applications by requiring transit review. In response, Staff will monitor implementation of the Policy, particularly during the anticipated OBAG 4 Call for Projects in Spring 2026, to understand how it is working and note any issues. Staff plan to provide an update on these issues and any potential Policy modifications or refinements to consider to the RNM Council, anticipated alongside the presentation of the Transit Priority Network in late 2026/early 2027.

Recommendations:

Refer the Bay Area Transit Priority Policy to the RNM Committee for approval.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Draft Final Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways
- Attachment B: Overview of Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways
- Attachment C: Presentation