



Looking Ahead to Plan Bay Area 2060:

MTC-ABAG Community Advisory Council

May 1, 2026

Today: Presentation Overview

❑ Plan Bay Area Background

- Plan purpose
- Regulatory requirements
- Progression of past plans

❑ Plan Bay Area 2060

- Key context
- Reflections and opportunities
- Scope development
- Next steps and questions



Photo: Karl Nielsen

Background: Plan Purpose



Photo: Karl Nielsen

Plan Bay Area ...

- ❑ **Is the region's long-range plan**, serving as the federal Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and state Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).
- ❑ **Integrates transportation, land use and the environment**, focusing growth near transit to foster communities that are complete, connected, affordable and resilient.
- ❑ **Sets regional priorities — not mandates**, offering a vision and framework while respecting local land use authority.
- ❑ **Evolves with emerging needs and challenges**, delivering results through strong partnerships and local leadership.

Requirements: State & Federal Rules

Topic Area	Core Regulatory Requirement
Timing & Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Update every four years.✓ Coordinate regional transportation, housing and land use.
Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Engage community through a robust, collaborative process.✓ Comply with applicable Title VI requirements of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Identify transportation network to serve regional needs.✓ Produce fiscally constrained Transportation Project List.
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Accommodate future growth across all economic segments.
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Meet regional per capita greenhouse gas reduction target set by the state.✓ Achieve air quality goals under the federal Clean Air Act.

Note: Several additional requirements of the planning process are not shown.

Plan Evolution: Integrated Planning

Plan Bay Area

- 2013 adoption
- First integrated plan

Plan Bay Area 2040

- 2017 adoption
- *Minor* update

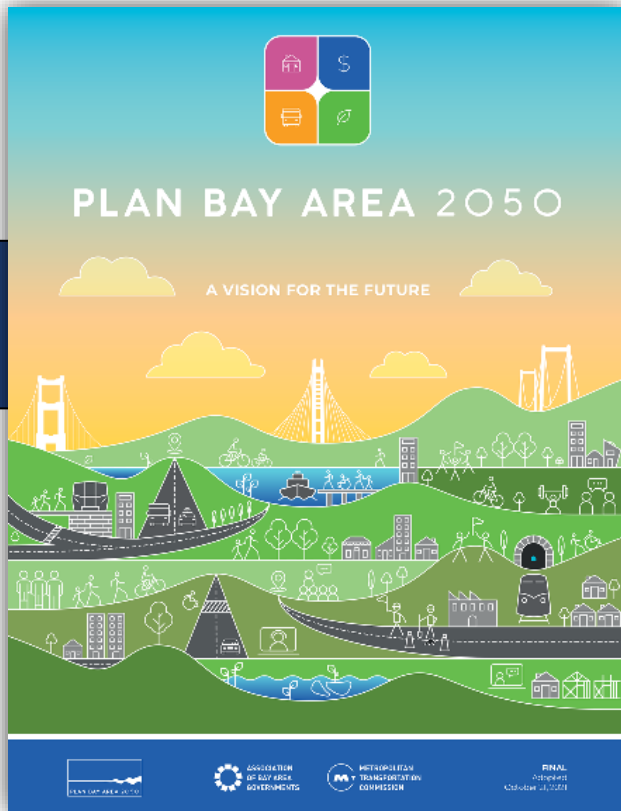


More **narrowly tailored** in policies and investments to address regulatory requirements.

Expanded Priorities: Comprehensive Approach

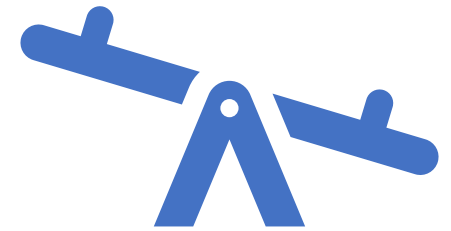
Plan Bay Area 2050

- 2021 adoption
- *Major* update



Plan Bay Area 2050+

- 2026 adoption
- *Minor* update



More **visionary** and **aspirational**, addressing regional challenges with an **ambitious**, “**what would it take?**” approach.

Plan Bay Area 2050+: Overview

- ❑ Plan Bay Area 2050+ lays out how the region can accommodate over **900,000 new households** and more than **1.3 million new jobs** by 2050.
- ❑ Structured around **4 elements, 11 themes** and **35 strategies**, together directing over **\$1.4 trillion** in investments toward Bay Area transportation, housing, economic development and environmental resilience.
- ❑ Expected to meet **2035 target of 19% per capita reduction** in vehicle emissions compared to 2005.
- ❑ Regionwide outreach resulted in input from **17,600+ residents** through various activities, including pop-up workshops, online surveys and partnerships with 22 community-based organizations.



Plan Bay Area: Importance of Council Feedback

Feedback from the predecessor Policy Advisory Council had a significant impact on past plans, especially approaches and priorities for community engagement.

Plan Bay Area 2050+ incorporated many substantive modifications based on the Council's input.

Transportation Element:

- Expanding investments in paratransit improvements.
- Emphasizing transit service frequencies and speed, the customer experience, safety, security, and network integration.
- Prioritizing public right of way accessibility enhancements, complete streets for all users, and street safety.



Environment Element:

- Expanding community parks and emphasizing that new parks be designed for all ages and abilities.
- Supporting accessibility retrofits to make homes safer for residents with disabilities.

Housing Element:

- Prioritizing housing security.
- Ensuring homes designed for people of all ages and abilities.





What's New?

- ❑ Plan Bay Area 2060 will be a **major update**.
- ❑ Potential shifts in state planning requirements:
 - **Senate Bill 375** modernization (via Senate Bill 1087)
 - **GHG target determination** (tentatively, late 2026) and **revised CARB guidelines** (tentatively, late 2027)



RHNA

- ❑ Alignment with **RHNA Cycle 7**:
 - State provides Regional Housing Needs Determination (RHND), expected **early 2028**.
 - ABAG develops methodology to turn RHND into local RHNA requirements, **“informed by” the regional plan**.

Challenges: Reflecting on Past Plans



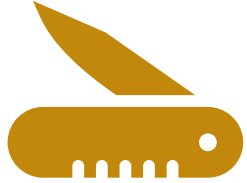
Lessons Learned

- Aspirational vision** can feel removed from day-to-day realities and hinder near-term prioritization.
- Inherently **complex content** can be unclear and hard to navigate.
- The **scale of long-range, region-wide planning** can be difficult to translate into near-term, local-level implementation.



Photo: Noah Berger

Opportunities: Looking to the Future



Enhance Plan Utility

- ❑ Present a **clear narrative** that connects long-range planning to a diversity of **everyday concerns**.
- ❑ Improve usability and public engagement by making complex content **readily applicable** for implementation and more **legible and intuitive for all**.



Strengthen Foundations & Explore Uncertainty

- ❑ Ground the plan in a practical synthesis of **emerging trends, existing conditions, and shared regional vision**.
- ❑ Examine relevant **future uncertainties** beyond regional control.
- ❑ Evaluate effects of multiple **growth and funding trajectories**.



Elevate Emerging Planning Priorities

- ❑ Highlight **cost-effectiveness** and **key tradeoffs** in strategy and project prioritization.
- ❑ Advance focus on equitably **improving affordability** and **reducing homelessness**.
- ❑ Revise **land use framework** to **strengthen resilience** to climate and hazard risks.

Considerations: Pressing Topics



State & federal funding



Hazards & climate change



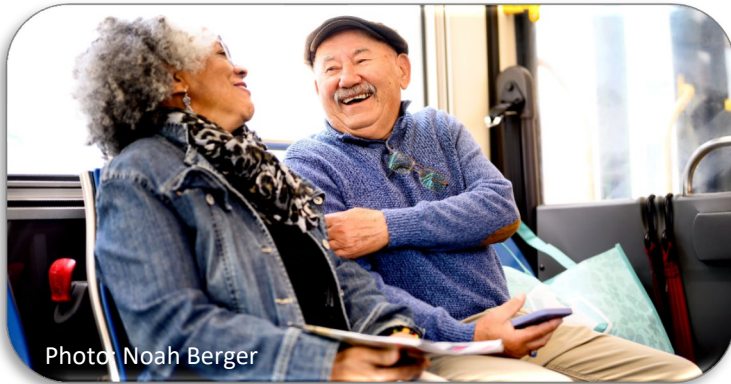
Regional economy & commute patterns



Housing affordability



Automation & AI



Demographic shifts

Plan Bay Area 2060: Proposed Areas of Work



Foundations

Level-set where the Bay Area is today, **reaffirm** the plan's vision, and critically **evaluate** the land use framework and existing strategies.

2026–2027



Outlook

Deeply **research** and contend with the uncertainty of external forces; **prepare** scenarios to evaluate tradeoffs through forecasts and planning assumptions.

2026–2027



Blueprint

Iteratively **update** plan components; **assemble** Blueprint strategies, land use framework and projects; **analyze** performance and forecasted outcomes.

2027–2029



Final Plan

Synthesize and **deliver** Blueprint into a final plan, with associated environmental review, supplemental reports and implementation plan.

2029–2030

Next Steps

Spring & Summer 2026:

- Seek Council input on the draft Public Participation Plan (PPP)
- Gather input and feedback from key partners
- Finalize proposed scope of Plan Bay Area 2060
- Board adoption of PPP update

Fall 2026:

- Formal kickoff of Plan Bay Area 2060
- Conduct outreach and engagement on existing conditions and the plan's Vision and Guiding Principles

Photo: Jeremy Menzies

Discussion Questions for Council

- What potential challenges or opportunities do you foresee in the development of Plan Bay Area 2060?
- Which aspects of developing Plan Bay Area 2060 do you believe will benefit most from the input of the Council?
- Where do you see the ideal role for sustained engagement with specific community representatives, and for broad, maximum-reach public outreach?

Photo : Karl Nielsen