

MTC-ABAG Community Advisory Council Orientation

March 2026



ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MTC-ABAG Community Advisory Council

- History
- Purpose
- Composition
- Role at MTC-ABAG



History of the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council

Today is our inaugural meeting!

This Council represents a step forward towards greater integration of MTC and ABAG's work as it replaces the MTC Policy Advisory Council and the ABAG Regional Planning Committee with a single Community Advisory Council to strengthen policy coordination and improve alignment of the Bay Area's regional housing, transportation, and environmental policy and plans.



Community Advisory Council Purpose

- Advise MTC and ABAG on issues related to transportation, housing, and the environment in the San Francisco Bay Area.
- By incorporating diverse voices and perspectives on the Council, MTC and ABAG aim to advance shared local and regional priorities in support of a **vibrant Bay Area** that is **connected, equitable, and sustainable**.

As set forth in MTC Resolution 4686 and ABAG Resolution 5-2025



Community Advisory Council Composition

27 members (**18** county-based)

- 9** representing interests of communities of color and low-income residents
- 9** representing interests of disabled persons and older adults
- 9** at-large representatives of communities of interest



What Regional Interests do the “At Large” Seats Represent?

- **Labor**
- **Business/Employers**
- **Environment**
- **Transit advocacy**
- **Youth**
- **Civic organizations focusing on community service, advocacy and/or social welfare**
- **Affordable housing**



Your Individual Role

- Council members should represent the stakeholder interest under which they have been appointed
- Although some Council members may be appointed based on an organizational affiliation, they should represent their constituency (not just their individual organization)
- For example, if you are appointed to fill an “at large” slot for the environment, you should be looking at issues through that lens broadly, not just from your organization’s perspective

Council Workplan

- The Council will adopt an annual workplan.
- MTC and ABAG leaders will identify priority areas for feedback from the Council.
- Council members will also be able to recommend initiatives of potential relevance for inclusion in the work plan.
- We anticipate bringing a draft workplan to the Council for adoption in June after Council leadership selected in April and can meet with MTC and ABAG leadership.

Providing Feedback to MTC and ABAG Boards

- Council leadership will have an opportunity to present on the Council's work or recommendations to the ABAG Executive Board and MTC at their regularly scheduled full board meetings
- ABAG typically meets every other month (3rd Thursday), while MTC meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month



Orientation to MTC and ABAG

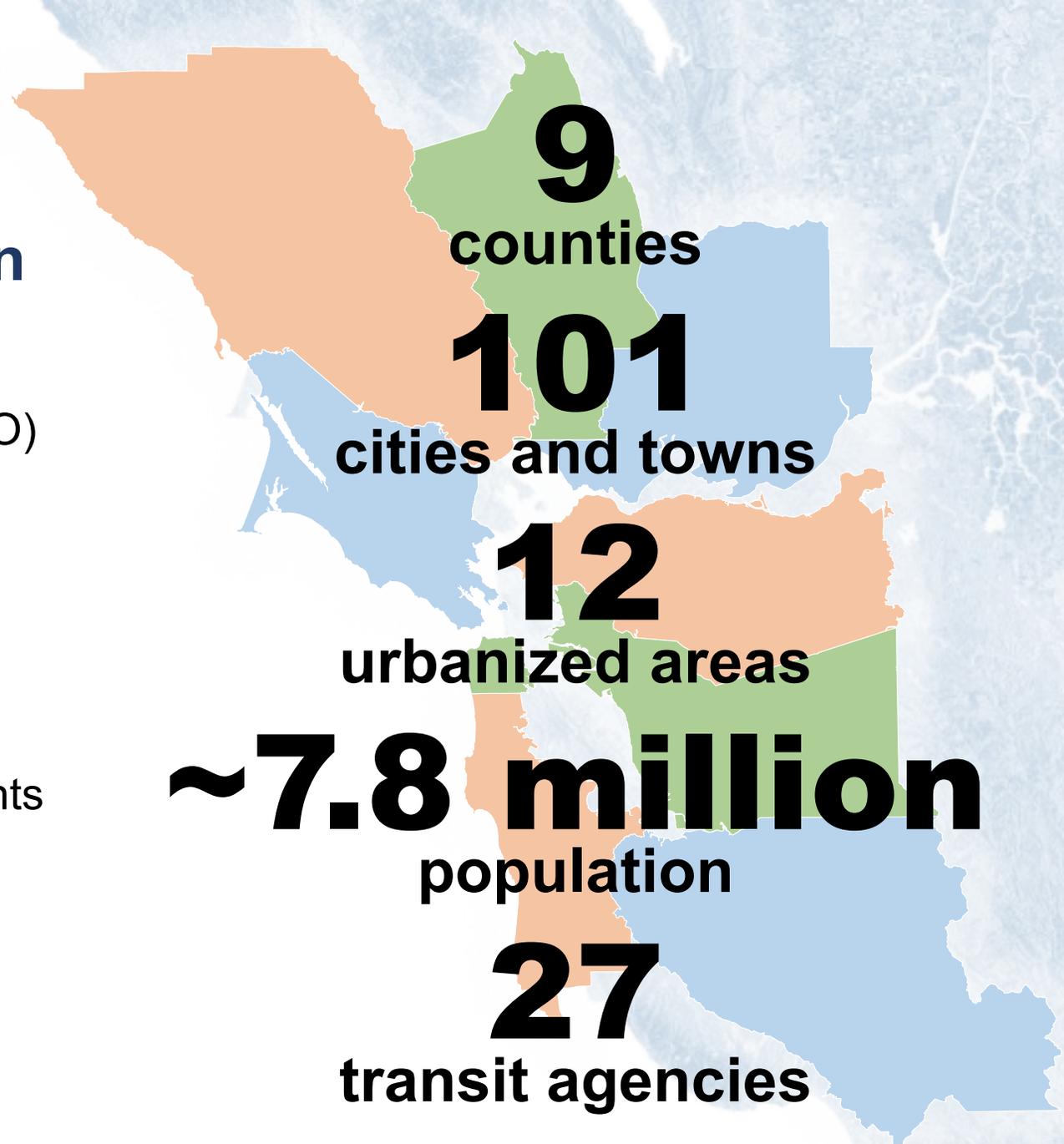


Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
for the San Francisco Bay Area

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

Member-supported council of governments
(COG) for the San Francisco Bay Area



MTC & ABAG: Distinct Roles, Shared Responsibilities



Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)

Federally-designated metropolitan planning organization (MPO) & State-designated regional transportation planning agency (RTPA) for the 9-county San Francisco Bay Area

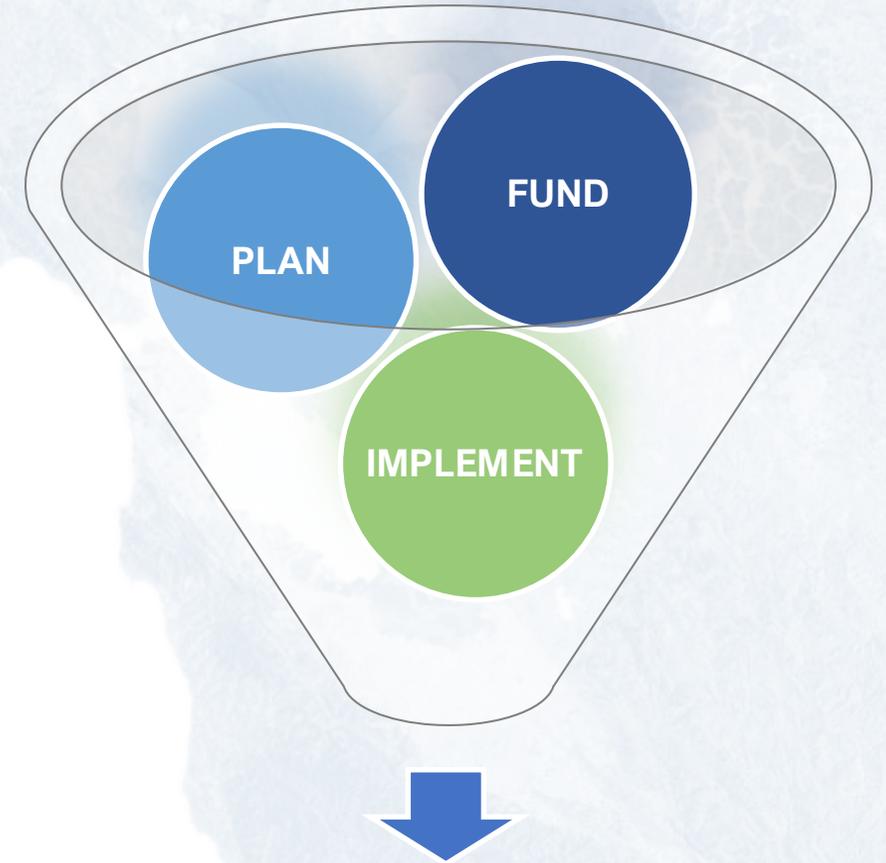
- **Chair:** Sue Noack, Contra Costa County
- **Vice Chair:** Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Marin County
- **Related Entities:** BAHFA, BAIFA, BATA, SAFE



Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)

Member-supported council of governments (COG) with statutory responsibilities related to housing & land use, as well as additional environmental programs

- **President:** Belia Ramos, Napa County
- **Vice President:** Carlos Romero, San Mateo County
- **Related Entities:** BAHFA, SFEP



Plan Bay Area Vision:

A more affordable, connected, diverse, healthy,
and vibrant Bay Area *for all*



MTC-ABAG Staff

- MTC and ABAG are separate governing bodies
- Several committees now meet jointly
- Consolidated staff since 2017
- Approx. 400 employees
- Operate via a contract for services with ABAG





ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



Vision

A vibrant Bay Area that is Connected, equitable and Sustainable.

Mission

Advancing shared local and regional priorities for transportation, housing, and the environment.

Values

Collaboration – Commitment to partnership and valuing all voices and perspectives.

Equity – Advancing a fair, just, and inclusive Bay Area through policies, actions and investments.

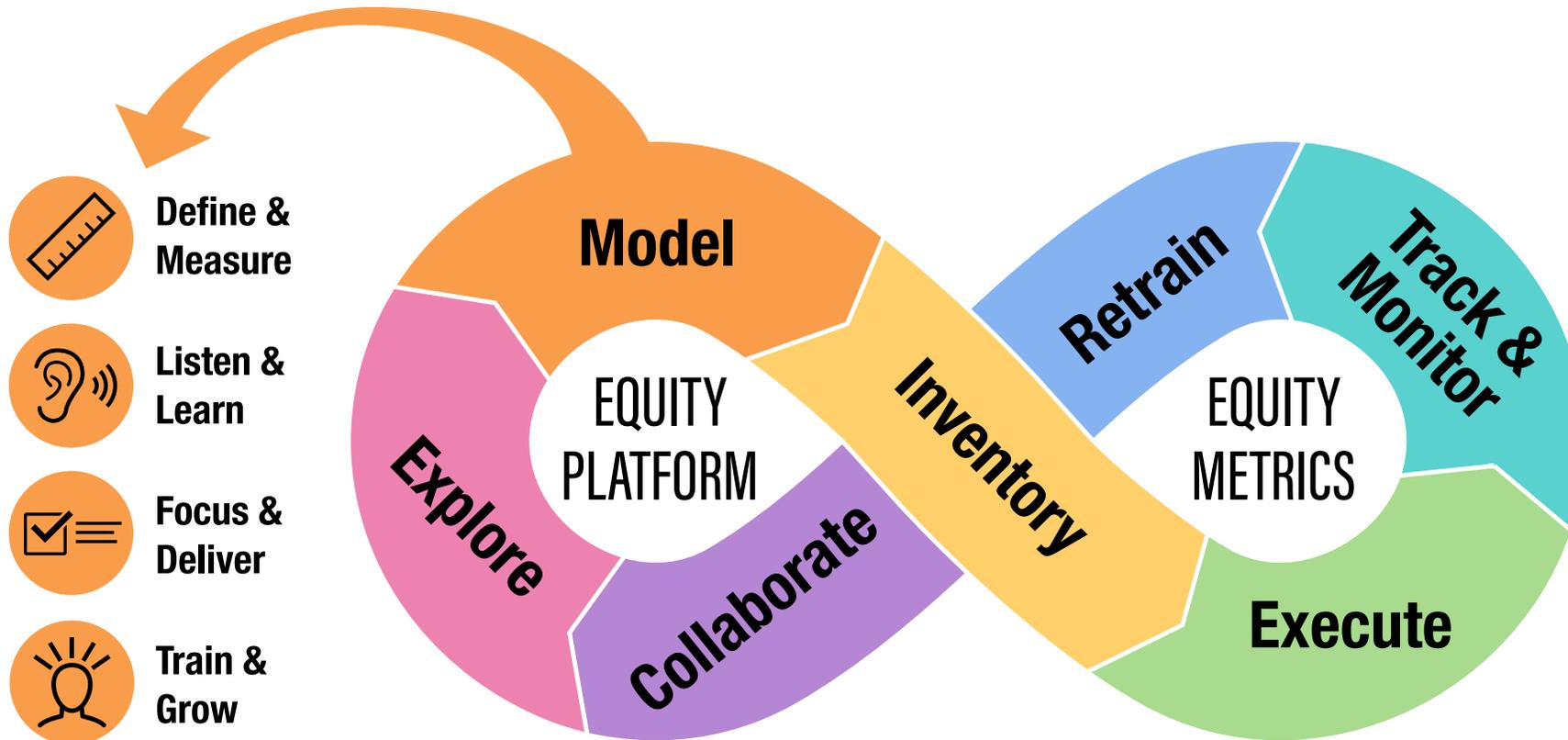
Excellence – Commitment to high-quality work products and services.

Innovation – Commitment to continuous improvement through exploration of new tools, technologies, and approaches.

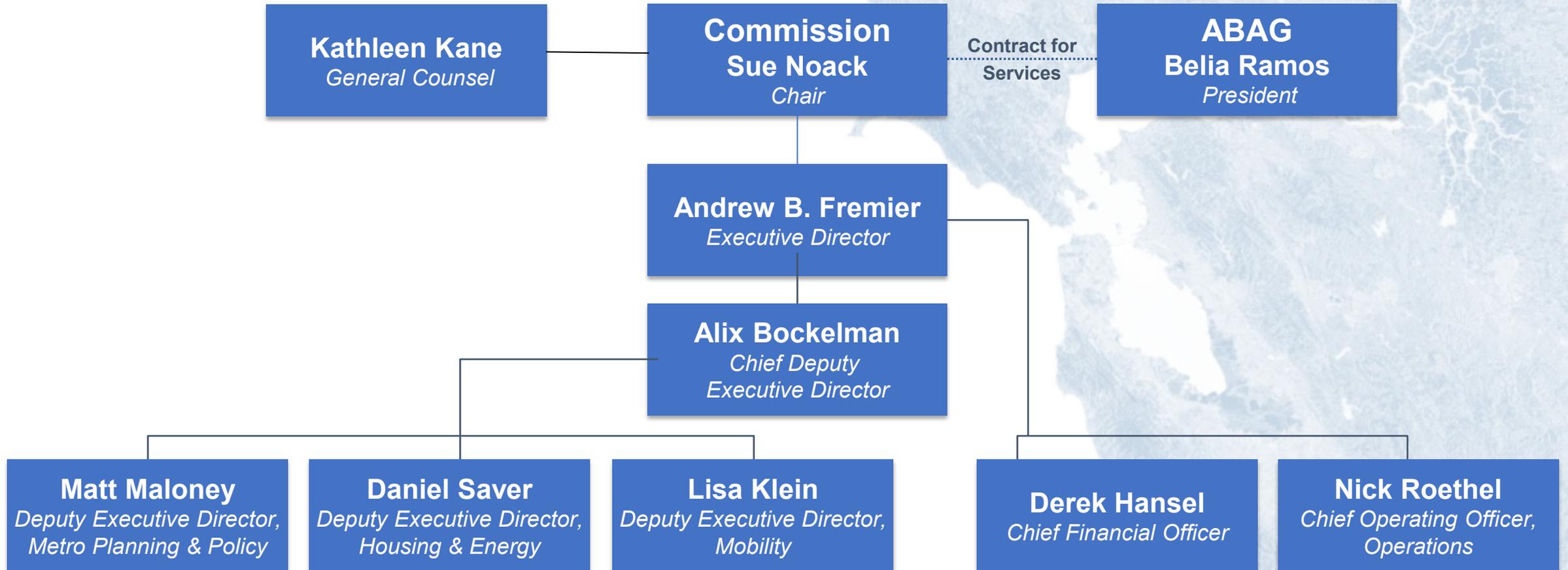
Integrity – Be transparent, accountable and responsible in providing information and making decisions.

Equity Platform

Adopted in January 2023 by MTC and ABAG, the Equity Platform helps the agencies set policies and deliver programs, hold ourselves accountable to data-backed results, and encourage a Bay Area where everyone can thrive.



Agency Leadership & Executive Team



ABAG & MTC: Evolution over Time

1970

MTC is established by the State Legislature



1980s–2000s

MTC becomes increasingly responsible for allocating federal transportation monies and managing Bay Area toll bridges



2008

SB 375 (Steinberg) sparks development of the first regional plan for transportation and land use with State-mandated climate targets (*Plan Bay Area*)



2017

Integration of MTC and ABAG staff leads to development of a new regional vision connecting housing, transportation, and the environment (*Plan Bay Area 2050*)

1961

ABAG is founded by Bay Area cities and counties

ABAG takes on new responsibilities related to housing and the environment, including the Regional Housing Needs Allocation



MTC Overview



MTC is Many Agencies in One



MTC

Created by Legislature in 1970. Planner, coordinator, manager and banker.

BATA

Created by Legislature in 1998 to manage and finance the seven state-owned toll bridges.

BAHFA

Created by Legislature in 2019 to support tenant protections and the production and preservation of affordable housing. Must coordinate with ABAG on any revenue measure.

SAFE

Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways manages Freeway Service Patrol tow trucks and emergency roadside call boxes.

State Law Governs MTC Composition

16

represent Bay Area
cities and counties

Larger Counties

- Two per county from Alameda (plus Mayor of Oakland or city council appointee), Contra Costa, San Mateo, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties (plus Mayor of San Jose or city council appointee)

Smaller Counties

- One each from Marin, Napa, Solano and Sonoma counties

2

represent
ABAG and BCDC

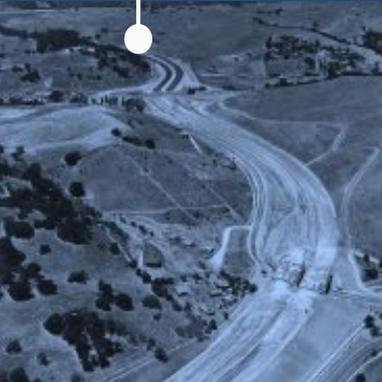
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non-voting members
represent USDOT, HUD
and California State
Transportation Agency

Postwar Growth and Early Commission History

1950s & 1960s

New freeways & expressways; integrated planning in its infancy



1970

Assemblymember John Foran authors bill forming MTC



1989

SB 602 requires MTC to adopt policies to promote transit fare & schedule coordination



1962

Bay Area voters approve funding to build BART



1970s & 1980s

Original MTC offices co-located with ABAG at Claremont Hotel



1984

MTC, ABAG and BART complete construction of MetroCenter building in Oakland



Growing Reach and Responsibilities

1996

SB 1474 requires MTC set transit coordination requirements for receipt of State Transit Assistance

2002

MTC unveils TransLink, the region's first transit fare payment card & the 511 traveler information system



2005

AB 144 assigns to BATA all fiduciary responsibilities for the state-owned toll bridges

2010

TransLink rebranded Clipper & expands to more operators



1997

Legislature creates Bay Area Toll Authority



2004

MTC assumes control of Bay Area FasTrak



2008

Legislature enacts SB 375, requiring transportation plans to more directly integrate land use & achieve climate goals



Modern Era of Integrated Planning

2013

MTC and ABAG adopt *Plan Bay Area*, first regional plan with Sustainable Communities Strategy



2019

Legislature establishes Bay Area Housing Finance Authority



BE
REGION
ABLE

BAY
AREA
METRO
CENTER

2016

Bay Area Metro Center opens — shared headquarters for MTC, ABAG, Air District, BCDC



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What is an MPO?

Metropolitan Planning Organization: Federal designation

Responsible for regional transportation planning and project selection;
distribution of federal transportation dollars at regional level*

- Long-range Regional Transportation Plan
- Near-term Transportation Improvement Program
- Public Participation Plan
- Overall Work Program

What is an RTPA?

Regional Transportation Planning Agency:
State designation

Responsible for carrying out federal and state planning functions
and the administration of state transit dollars

- Regional Transportation Plan
- Near-term Transportation Improvement Program
- Administers state transportation dollars including STIP, STA, TDA



Intermission...



ABAG Overview



ABAG Formation & Governance



- Formed in 1961 as a collective of local governments to address common issues and challenges from a regional perspective. Kicked off the Bay Area's first regional plan in 1970.
- Voting members of Executive Board (14 county/20 city, one alternating SF mayor and SF Board of Sups) make policy decisions, approve expenditures and recommend annual Budget & Work Plan to ABAG General Assembly.
- The ABAG General Assembly meets once a year to approve the ABAG annual budget & work plan.

Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA)

WHAT

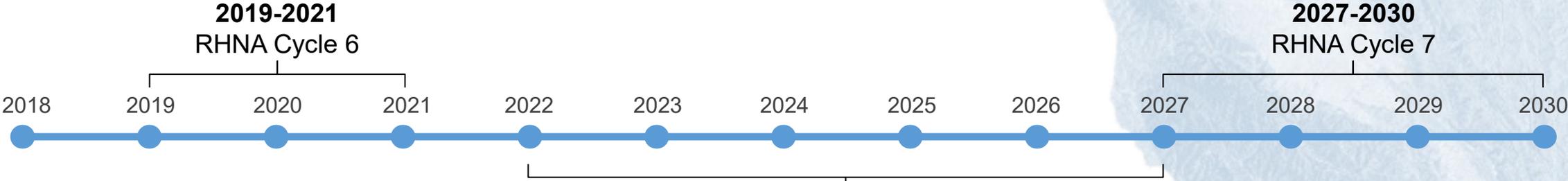
The regional process for allocating state-identified housing needs to each of the region's 109 jurisdictions

WHO

ABAG is responsible for RHNA, after receiving total number of units from the state

WHY

Satisfies state housing law and its mandate for all jurisdictions to plan for units at all income levels



2022-2027
Support Jurisdictions with Housing Elements & Implementation;
Track Legislation

Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN)



BayREN is a **coalition** of all nine **Bay Area counties** that supports communities in equitably achieving California's climate and energy goals since 2013

As a network of local governments and ABAG, **BayREN provides regional-scale energy efficiency programs, services and resources that empower residents, small businesses and local governments to improve buildings**

BayREN's ten programs are designed to save energy and reduce climate impacts through equitable and scalable solutions



ABAG POWER



Formed in 1998, **ABAG POWER** provides aggregated **natural gas and renewable natural gas procurement** for municipal facilities and schools in Northern California

- Regional Structure
- Public Ownership
- Provide Price Stability and Cost Savings
- In-House Customer Service
- Cost and Data Analysis
- Consolidated Billing
- Regulatory Involvement



52 Participating Agencies

4 Member exec committee

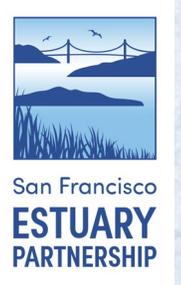
970 Gas meters managed and served



SF Estuary Partnership

The Estuary Partnership is part of the **National Estuary Program** established under the US Clean Water Act. A place-based, collaborative, non-regulatory program to **protect and restore the San Francisco Estuary**.

- Managing **\$125 million** in planning, design, implementation and community capacity-building projects that implement the priority actions in the 2022 Estuary Blueprint
- Supporting **100 conservation, restoration, and climate adaptation projects** across the region
- Advancing **nature-based solutions** to improve the resilience of the Estuary and its surrounding communities



MTC-ABAG Regional Planning



Plan Bay Area

WHAT

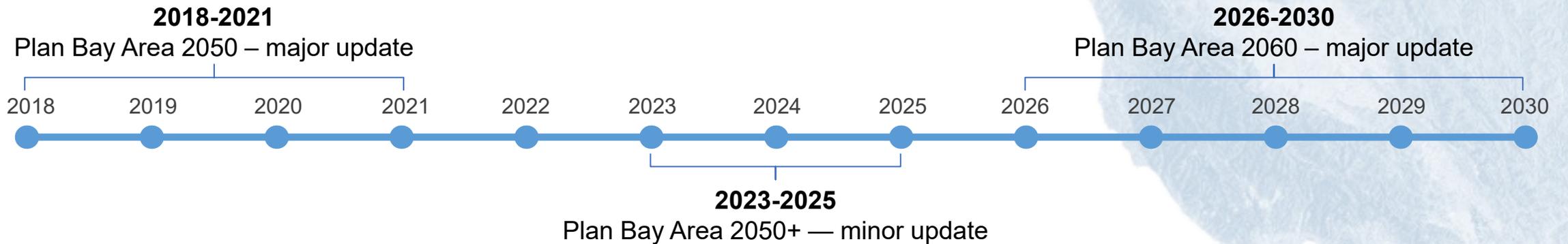
The regional vision for transportation, housing, the economy, and the environment.

WHO

Jointly reviewed and approved by MTC and ABAG every 4 years

WHY

Satisfies federal transportation requirements, as well as state land use & climate requirements via SB 375



MTC-ABAG's "North Star"

Plan Bay Area ...

- Focuses growth near transit to advance a vision of complete, connected and affordable communities.
- Responds to the Bay Area's evolving needs — with each iteration of the plan shaped by emerging challenges and opportunities.
- Delivers results on the ground through strong partnerships and local leadership.



Photo Credit: Noah Berger

Plan Bay Area 2050+: Vision, Elements & Themes

Vision

Ensure by the year 2050 that the Bay Area is affordable, connected, diverse, healthy & vibrant *for all*

Elements



35 strategies organized into **11** themes

- 

Maintain and Optimize the Existing System
- 

Protect & Preserve Affordable Housing
- 

Create Healthy & Safe Streets
- 

Spur Housing Production at All Income Levels
- 

Build a Next-Generation Transit Network
- 

Create Inclusive Communities
- 

Improve Economic Mobility
- 

Reduce Risks from Hazards
- 

Shift the Location of Jobs
- 

Expand Access to Parks & Open Space
- 

Reduce Climate Emissions

MTC and ABAG Committee Structure & Responsibilities



MTC Standing Committee Structure

WEDNESDAY



FRIDAY



Wednesday Standing Committees

BATA Oversight Committee

- Oversees work of BATA
- Manages FasTrak®

Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9:35 a.m.

Administration Committee

- Oversight of MTC staff
- Approves consultant contracts
- Commission budget
- Financial and personnel policies
- Oversees financial reports and audits

Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9:40 a.m. or immediately after BATA Oversight Committee

Programming & Allocations Committee

- Recommends how to spend state and federal funds
- Allocates funding for various projects and programs
- Reviews projects for consistency with regional priorities and air quality laws

Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 9:45 a.m. or immediately after Administration Committee meeting

BAHFA Oversight Committee

- 11-member BAHFA Oversight Committee meets jointly with the ABAG Housing Committee.

Regular meetings are held at 12 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month.

Friday Standing Committees

Planning Committee

- Oversees planning studies and programs
- Recommends revisions to [Plan Bay Area](#)

MTC is required by law to update Plan Bay Area every four years.

Committee meets second Friday of each month.

Meets jointly with the ABAG Administrative Committee.

Joint MTC-ABAG Legislation Committee

- Oversees and develops MTC's and ABAG's advocacy priorities
- Recommends positions on state and federal legislation
- Monitors and recommends positions on local and regional ballot measures
- Oversees agencies' public information and public participation programs

19-member committee consists of nine voting members from each agency and one non-voting member from MTC.

Meets second Friday of each month.

Regional Network Management Committee

Oversees focus areas identified in Transit Transformation Action Plan including:

- Fare integration
- Mapping and wayfinding
- Transit priority and network coordination

Oversees:

- [Clipper®](#) transit-fare payment card
- [511](#) Traveler Information System
- [Freeway Service Patrol & Call Boxes](#)
- [Highway and Arterial Operations](#)

Committee meets second Friday of each month at noon or immediately after Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee meeting.

BAIFA Network & Operations Committee

- Oversees BAIFA's Express Lane network in Alameda, Contra Costa and Solano Counties, and tolling on Highway 37
- Approves Express Lane and SR-37 contracts
- Reviews BAIFA toll policy, including rates, discounts, equity programs and toll ordinances
- Oversees BAIFA's long-range financial planning
- Sets BAIFA's annual budget

Committee meets second Friday of each month.

ABAG Standing Committee Structure

Administrative Committee

- Meets jointly with the MTC Planning Committee
- Considers Plan Bay Area and other planning efforts

Committee meets on the second Friday of every other month, at 9:40 a.m.

Finance Committee

- Considers matters related to the budget and work program

Committee meets on the third Thursday of every other month, at 5 p.m.

Housing Committee

- Considers matters related to housing production, preservation, and protection

Committee meets at least quarterly, on the second Wednesday of the month at 12 p.m., and as needed

Meetings jointly with the BAHFA Oversight Committee

Joint MTC & ABAG Legislation Committee

- Considers matters related to the MTC and ABAG joint advocacy program and legislation ABAG and MTC are tracking in Sacramento

Committee meets the second Friday of each month, at 9:45 a.m.



Spotlight on Mobility



Active Transportation

MTC plays a hands-on role in the planning, development & operation of pedestrian & bicyclist facilities & services

Initiatives include MTC's Complete Streets Policy, 3,200-mile Regional Active Transportation Network, competitive technical assistance and capital grant programs, and Regional Bikeshare among others



Bay Wheels

Regional System launched in 2017 as a no cost contract with Lyft. In Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, San Francisco & San Jose.

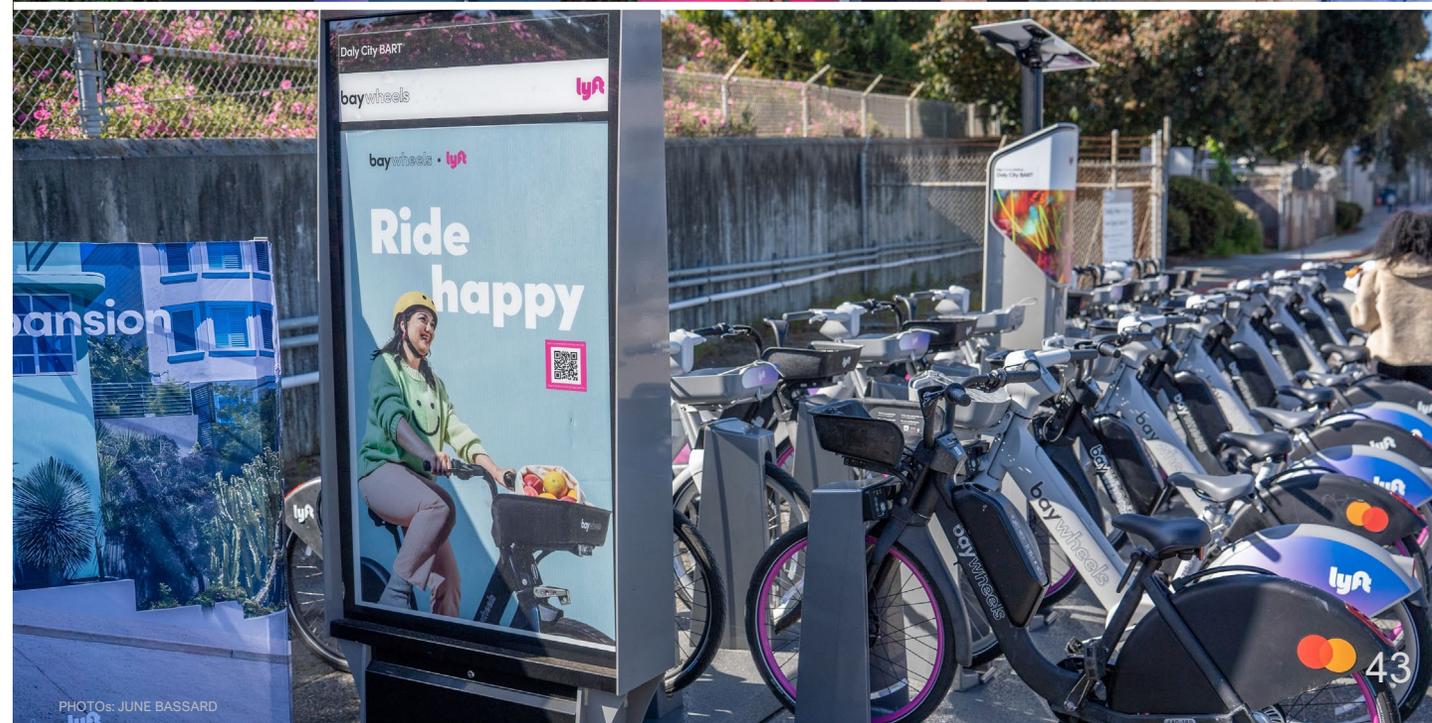
Statistics

- **2024 Trips:** 3.3M
- **System Size:** 5,000+ bikes, 570 stations

First/Last Mile to Regional Transit: Busiest stations are at BART, Ferry & Caltrain

Program Updates

- **2023:** MTC invested \$20M in 2023 to improve system, focusing on e-bikes
- **2024:** Ridership increased by 30% since MTC investment in e-bikes
- **2025 (expected):** Daly City launch, first expansion of program
- **2027:** End of contract (July)



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Transit Transformation and Regional Network Management: Outcome Areas

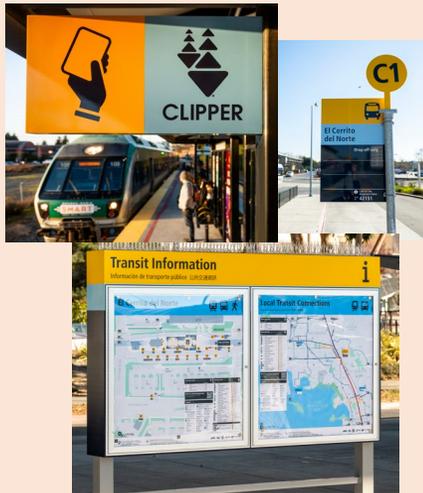
I. Fares and Payment

Simpler, consistent & equitable fare & payment options



II. Customer Information

Make transit easier to navigate & more convenient



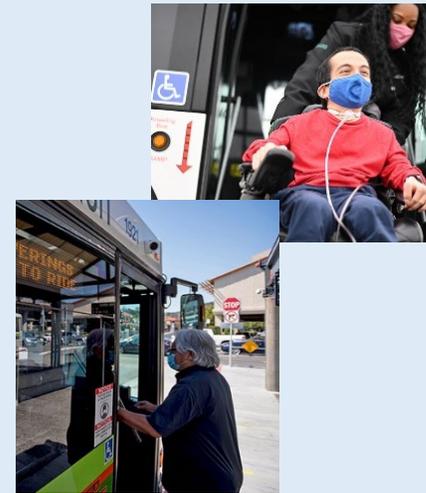
III. Transit Network

Transit services managed as a unified, efficient & reliable network



IV. Accessibility

Transit services for older adults, people with disabilities & those with lower incomes are coordinated efficiently



V. Funding

Use existing resources more efficiently & secure new, dedicated revenue to meet funding needs



Clipper



22 Transit Operators



User Experience:
94% Satisfaction

Governance:
Clipper Executive Board



Monthly Statistics
\$36M Collected for Operators
16M Taps

Mobile Phone Payment
3.8M Cards / 35% of Taps



Next Generation Clipper

- All New Equipment
- Contactless Bank Cards
- Regional Transfer Discounts
- Real-Time Value Availability
- Supports Transit Agency Promotions
- Supports Existing Equity Programs
- Launched 2025



Spotlight on Housing



Regional Housing Efforts Have Expanded Greatly Over the Last 15 Years





Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA)

Created in 2019 to help solve housing affordability challenges



BAHFA's Core Power

To raise revenue regionally across the 3Ps:

1. **Production** of new affordable housing
2. **Preservation** of existing affordable housing
3. **Protections** for low-income residents and people at risk of homelessness

BAHFA's Mission

1. **Collaborate** with cities and counties
2. **Add Value**
3. **Improve** our housing delivery system

BAHFA's Governance

For large-scale decisions there must be agreement between the BAHFA Board (same members as the Commission) and the ABAG Executive Board



The Housing Portfolio shared by MTC, BAHFA & ABAG is delivering tangible results



Planning

- **~200,000 housing units** of increased zoned capacity
- **~170,000 new homes** in the pipeline via *Priority Sites Program* across all 9 counties
- **726 staff from 100 cities/counties** registered for one+ of 30 interactive training webinars
- **Agency staff created 300+ templates**, sample ordinances, memos, and other T.A. documents for local staff
- **RHTA granted \$11 million** to all 109 jurisdictions
- **92% of jurisdictions** with compliant Housing Elements



Finance & Funding

- **1,700 affordable homes** financed in near-term
- **~12,800 new homes** in early predevelopment stages supported with technical assistance
- **800 homes preserved** as affordable to lower-income households
- **\$6.6 million to prevent homelessness** for seniors



Recently Released

- **~\$10 million in grants** to local governments for housing policy and zoning updates
- **Doorway: seamless search and application** for affordable homes



2026: Brief Outlook



Preview of MTC and ABAG Initiatives in 2026

**Finalize and
Approve Plan
Bay Area 2050+**

**MTC Update of
Public
Participation Plan**

**Plan Bay Area 2060
Kick-off**

**RHNA 7th Cycle
Kick-off**



The End

