

Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments
Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee

June 12, 2026,

Agenda Item 6a – 26-0584

Release of the Draft MTC 2026 Public Participation Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area

Subject:

Overview of the draft 2026 MTC Public Participation Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area.

Background:

MTC's policies and investments affect how people move, how communities grow, and how the region responds to challenges such as safety, affordability, climate change and resilience. To ensure the decisions MTC makes are informed by the real-world experience and priorities of Bay Area residents, MTC is committed to an open process where the public can learn about issues, share lived experience, and provide input that informs the agency's recommendations and actions.

As the Bay Area's Metropolitan Planning Organization, MTC helps set regional priorities that affect daily life in the Bay Area, so it is important that MTC communicates in a way that helps the public understand what is being considered, provides the public an opportunity to weigh in early, and communicates how public input is used. As such, MTC is required to adopt a Public Participation Plan (PPP) for the region, which serves as a public-facing guide that explains how Bay Area residents and partners can get involved in MTC decision-making, including where to find information, how to provide input and what participation opportunities exist.

Federal and State Requirements:

The PPP exists because both federal and state requirements call on MTC to clearly document public participation procedures for the regional long-range plan, Plan Bay Area, and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The PPP documents the procedures that MTC uses to provide timely notice and access opportunities to participate in the agency's work. The PPP also sets expectations for inclusive, accessible and accountable engagement, including guidance on reducing barriers to public participation. Historically, the PPP focused only on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the TIP. While this made sense decades ago, MTC's work now encompasses much more than Plan Bay Area and the TIP. As such, staff did a major overhaul of the PPP in 2023 to capture MTC's extensive portfolio of work, transforming it from a document

that outlines procedures for engagement strictly for those two work products into a user-friendly guide that explains how Bay Area residents and partners can learn about MTC’s work, track decisions and provide input in accessible ways.

Draft 2026 Public Participation Plan:

The latest iteration of the PPP incorporates MTC-ABAG’s recently adopted Mission, Vision and Values (<https://mtc.ca.gov/about-mtc/what-mtc/mission-vision-values>) by framing participation as essential to MTC-ABAG’s mission to advance shared regional priorities for transportation, housing and the environment, and its vision to support a Bay Area that is connected, equitable and sustainable. The adopted values are collaboration, equity, excellence, innovation and integrity. In terms of values, **collaboration** is reflected in the PPP’s emphasis on shared decision-making and relationship-based work with communities and partner institutions. **Equity** is embedded as both a goal (who should be included) and a method (how barriers are removed), anchored by MTC-ABAG’s Equity Platform. Additionally, MTC’s engagement efforts have historically included collaboration with community-based organizations (CBOs), now supported through efforts such as the Community Action Resource and Engagement (CARE) program, to deepen engagement with historically underserved communities.

Excellence is reflected in the PPP’s focus on quality, consistency and continuous improvement — using structured processes, clear standards and evaluation. Innovation is reflected in the PPP’s embrace of multiple formats, modern engagement channels, and tools that expand access beyond traditional public meetings. Finally, **integrity** appears through commitment to transparency, accountability, responsiveness and open access to decision-making.

The draft 2026 PPP includes a third appendix — the public participation plan for the next Plan Bay Area update, Plan Bay Area 2060. This appendix is intended to serve as the plan-specific participation roadmap for Plan Bay Area 2060 by laying out the major milestones and decision points where public input is needed, describing the participation methods that will be used (such as meetings, workshops, online tools, public comment opportunities, etc.), and outlining how comments will be documented and reported back to the public as the plan is developed and considered for adoption.

Next Steps:

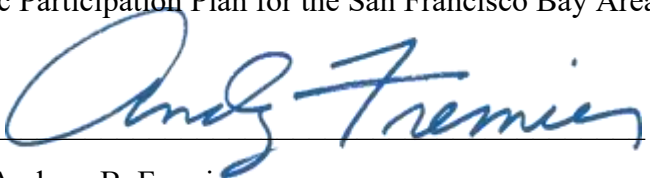
Staff released the draft Public Participation Plan on June 8, 2026, for a 45-day public review and comment period. During the comment period, MTC staff also will conduct robust engagement to identify innovative methods for engaging the public and our partners, identify current best practices and assess the relevance and usefulness of the Guiding Principles for Engagement and the Engagement Framework.

Public Participation Plan Development Timeline

Date	Milestone
June 5	Draft 2026 PPP presentation to the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council
June 8	Release MTC's Draft 2026 PPP for 45-day comment period
June 12	Draft 2026 PPP presentation to the Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee
September 4	Presentation of recommended changes and input received to the MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council
September 11	Presentation of recommended changes and input received from the Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee (if there are significant material changes, the PPP will be released for a second 45-day comment period). If there are no significant changes, referral by the Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee to the Commission for final action.
September 23	Final Commission action on 2026 PPP (or later if a second comment period is needed)

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Presentation
- Attachment B: Draft 2026 MTC Public Participation Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area



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