

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Programming and Allocations Committee**

March 12, 2025

Agenda Item 3b-25-0151

**MTC Resolution No. 4537, Revised. Major Project Advancement Policy: Stage Gate  
Evaluation and Recommendations for Transbay Joint Powers Authority – the Portal  
Project**

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**Subject:**

Under the Major Project Advancement Policy (MAP), this item recommends the Commission approve the advancement of the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (TJPA)'s The Portal project into MAP Level 1 through an update to MTC Resolution No. 4537, Revised, contingent on formation of a Change Control Board (CCB) with MTC as a member and charter executed prior to the start of The Portal Project Phase 2 (pre-construction), and development of an updated operating cost estimate and funding strategy by December 31, 2025.

**Background:**

In October 2022, MTC adopted the MAP, a regional policy to support implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050 aimed at delivering the next round of major transportation projects. This adoption included a list of projects in the MAP assigned to Levels 1, 2, and 3 based on readiness criteria and a funding endorsement matrix with funding prioritized based on project levels. In October 2023, MTC updated the MAP with a Stage Gate evaluation framework, included in detail as an attachment (Attachment E-2 to MTC Resolution 4537, Revised), for reassigning projects to different levels within the MAP.

In May 2024, after the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved TJPA's request to enter into the Engineering phase of the FTA Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program, TJPA staff requested MTC initiate the MAP Stage Gate evaluation process to move the project from MAP Level 2 to MAP Level 1.

In July 2024, the Commission approved commencement of a Stage Gate assessment of the Portal Project. MTC staff subsequently began the evaluation with support from the Steer Group, the consulting firm that assisted in the development of the MAP Stage Gate Evaluation Framework. Details of the evaluation process are included in the attached Terms of Advancement, and the consultant findings are included in the Stage Gate Assessment presentation.

**Advancement Conditions**

Staff recommend that MTC advance The Portal Project to MAP Level 1 conditioned on:

1. Formation of a Change Control Board (CCB) with MTC as a member and charter executed prior to the start of The Portal Project Phase 2 (pre-construction).
2. Development of an updated operating cost estimate and funding strategy by December 31, 2025.

Details of the conditions and additional staff recommendations for project coordination and oversight are included in the attached Terms of Advancement. Staff recommend updating MTC Resolution No. 4537, Revised, Attachment C, the MAP List of Projects to reflect the Portal Project's advancement into Level 1.

**Next Steps:**

Staff will continue to coordinate with TJPA to track progress on the conditions. Staff plan to update the MAP Funding Endorsement table after adoption of Plan Bay Area 2050+.

**Issues:**


See the issues section of the attached Terms of Advancement.

**Recommendations:**

Refer MTC Resolution No. 4537, Revised and the recommended advancement of TJPA's The Portal Project into MAP Level 1, with the conditions and recommendations in the attached Terms of Advancement, consistent with the MAP Stage Gate Evaluation Framework adopted in MTC Resolution No. 4537, to the Commission for approval.

**Attachments:**

- Attachment A – MAP Stage Gate Evaluation Terms of Advancement – The Portal Project, TJPA
- MTC Resolution No. 4537, Revised
  - Attachment C
  - Attachment E-2 (Attachment E-2 for information only)
- Presentation – Stage Gate Assessment



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