

Regional Map V0.9 Context and Criteria

The draft regional transit map is intended to provide an engaging and informative overview of public transit services in and beyond the nine county Bay Area, highlighting routes that bridge gaps between transit agency service areas and serve town/city centers and airports within them.

Balancing multiple priorities

The regional map seeks to balance several competing priorities:

- A. Inspire discovery, awareness, and curiosity.
 - Discovery: What places can transit take me in the nine-county Bay Area region?
 - Awareness: Which agencies/routes can I take or connect to get there? How often do these services operate?
 - Curiosity: How do I find out more about these services?

- B. Geographic challenges and scale. The Bay Area spans 130 miles from Cloverdale to Gilroy, the same distance as Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Bridgeport, Connecticut. To maximize legibility, it may be necessary to limit the amount of information shown and make deliberate choices about which transit routes and stops, and geographic places that aren't served by transit, to include.

- C. Equity. MTC is committed to promoting transit as a viable option wherever you are. As a regional agency, our goal is to impartially depict bus, rail, and ferry services of all transit agencies in the Bay Area as a unified network of local and interregional services across transit dense and less transit dense areas alike.

Criteria for displaying transit routes at the regional scale

The regional map has the broadest scale of a new set of maps that are designed to be used in tandem to help customers identify connecting transit routes as well as local destinations, employment centers, and other points of interest within several miles of their location. As a result, some high performing transit routes may not be included on the regional map but would appear on the fixed guideway and/or local transit maps instead, which are intended for trip planning purposes at smaller geographic scales. The selection of routes shown on the regional map is therefore guided by specific criteria to impartially balance legibility and utility across the 130-mile Bay Area.

1. Fixed guideway services (i.e., train, Bus Rapid Transit, and ferry routes)

- Include all fixed guideway routes in the region, with exceptions for legibility in downtown San Francisco, e.g.:
 - Muni historic services have been omitted; Van Ness BRT corridor is not specifically labeled.
- Include fixed guideway stations as follows:
 - **If the service crosses county lines**, include all stops (except stops for schools/events on Caltrain – Stanford and College Park).
 - **If the service is entirely within one county**, include only transfer points, terminals, or stops serving regionally significant destinations.
 - Use shortened stop names in constrained locations (e.g., “16th” for 16th St Mission BART or “Chinatown” for Chinatown-Rose Pak Muni).

2. Bus services

- Include all agencies providing local bus service, with transit service area boundaries depicted as shapes using the golden yellow color.
 - Where applicable, local bus service areas also include locations only accessible by paratransit.
- Include selected individual bus routes to highlight at the regional scale, IF:
 - The route connects two or more transit service areas that are not already connected by a fixed guideway service or another bus route with more frequent service; OR
 - The route provides more service than a parallel fixed guideway route within a single agency service area; OR
 - The route provides a direct and frequent link between distinct city/town centers, or a distinct city/town center and a multimodal transit hub, within a single agency service area; OR
 - The route provides a direct connection to a commercial passenger airport that isn't otherwise provided by a fixed guideway service.

Transit service frequency at the regional scale

Transit services that operate at least hourly and daily are emphasized in the regional map. Frequency is determined by the longest time between vehicles, during 7:00 am – 7:00 pm.

- Fixed guideway and bus routes that operate at least hourly AND daily are shown as thicker lines.
- Fixed guideway and bus routes that operate more than hourly AND/OR less than daily are shown as thinner lines.

Interregional services

The map depicts key transit links that connect the nine-county Bay Area with adjacent counties, allowing people to reach popular destinations in the greater Northern California megaregion and facilitating travel to visit and access services in the Bay Area (e.g., medical facilities or commercial airports).