

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

January 9, 2026

Agenda Item 3b

Final 2026 MTC and ABAG Joint Advocacy Program

Subject:

Final 2026 Joint Advocacy Program for MTC and ABAG, expressing the agencies' state and federal legislative priorities.

Overview:

Attachment A is the proposed Final 2026 Joint Advocacy Program, which incorporates adjustments to the state advocacy program based on the Committee's feedback in December as well as additional feedback from partners in Sacramento and throughout the state. Clarifying revisions are shown in italics and strikeout.

Proposed 2026 Legislative Priorities & Final Advocacy Program Updates

Staff continues to propose MTC and ABAG coordinate with our "Big 4 MPO" partners across the state to sponsor legislation to modernize California's regional transportation and land use planning framework – the Sustainable Communities Strategy – to better support progress toward the suite of state and regional environmental, housing, and transportation-related goals, including, but not limited to, reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Other priorities stay consistent with the recommendations in the December 2025 Legislation Committee item, with clarifications reflected in italics and strikethrough below.

- Maintaining existing state transportation resources, including protecting against cuts to prior-year state funding commitments to transit (i.e., SB 125), *supporting a successful state loan for Bay Area transit operations, advocating that the Legislature provide the Cap and Invest-supported transit and housing programs with the dollar amounts prescribed in the 2025 expenditure plan*, and seeking to avoid a reduction in State Transit Assistance funds for Bay Area transit agencies.
- Sustaining federal investment in Bay Area transportation by protecting current funding for California and the Bay Area in the reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program, which is set to expire on October 1, 2026;

- Support housing funding and housing-supportive policies, including supporting the state housing bond, seeking state resources for the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority (BAHFA) and engaging with regional partners and state leaders to position BAHFA and a future regional housing measure for success;
- Partner with CALCOG and regional partners to pursue a third round of Regional Early Action Planning Grants, i.e., “REAP 3.0”.
- Pursuing funding from SB 840’s proposed \$125 million Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)-funded “transit pass” set-aside to expand Clipper® BayPass access for Bay Area community college students, which could significantly improve mobility and grow transit ridership. *Additionally, seek opportunities for the Bay Area’s high-speed rail “bookend” projects to secure funds from the California High Speed Rail Authority’s GGRF allocation.*
- Monitor proposals and engage in discussions related to statutory updates that would impact future Bay Area Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) cycles, including empowering regions to balance ~~sometimes~~ competing priorities. Staff also proposed adding a final bullet to item #5 of the state advocacy program related to advocating for updates to RHNA that are: *Structured to increase transparency related to the Department of Housing and Community Development’s use of Department of Finance population projections and other adjustments in the preparation of the [regional housing needs determination] RHND.*

Other state and federal focus areas remain largely consistent with last year’s advocacy program.

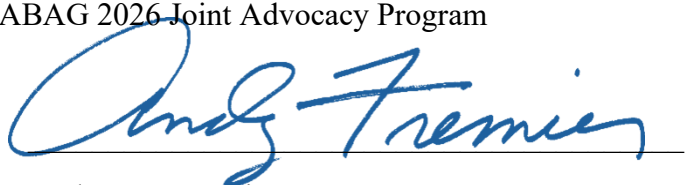
Recommendation:

ABAG Executive Board Approval

Commission Approval

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Final MTC and ABAG 2026 Joint Advocacy Program



Andrew B. Fremier