

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

**December 12, 2025**

**Agenda Item 3a**

**Final 2026 MTC and ABAG Joint Advocacy Program**

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**Subject:**

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

**Background:**

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 feedback from partner agency staff and other stakeholders. These clarifying revisions are shown in italics and strikeout.

**Proposed 2025 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 (SCS) – to better support progress toward the suite of state and regional environmental, housing, and transportation-related goals, including, but not limited to, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Other priorities largely reflect the recommendations from the November 2025 Legislation Committee item, with reprioritization and reframing based on committee feedback. Revisions are reflected in italics:

- Maintaining existing state transportation resources, including protecting against cuts to prior-year state funding commitments to transit (i.e., SB 125) and seeking to avoid a reduction in State Transit Assistance (STA) funds for Bay Area transit agencies.
- Pursuing funding from the Cap and Trade reauthorization's proposed \$125 million Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)-funded "transit pass" set-aside to expand BayPass access for Bay Area community college students, which could significantly improve mobility and grow transit ridership.
- 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 housing bond, seeking state resources for the Bay Area Housing Finance Authority 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,” which could help fund local technical assistance and other programs and projects to advance regional housing, transportation and climate goals described in the state advocacy item #3.*
- *Federal Housing Funding: Advocate to protect and enhance federal support for affordable housing and homelessness prevention, including, but not limited to, retaining policies designed to maximize the use of the federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit program, continued funding of housing vouchers (e.g., Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, HUD-VASH, etc.) and continued federal funding commitments towards permanent housing solutions.*

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

#### **Outreach on 2026 Advocacy Program**

In addition to seeking feedback from the Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee in November, staff presented the draft advocacy program to MTC’s Policy Advisory Council, MTC’s Partnership Legislative Committee, comprised of Bay Area transportation agency staff and other advocacy organizations involved in transportation policy and housing partners from around the region. Additionally, in developing advocacy priorities, staff conferred with Bay Area regional agency partners, regional transportation planning agencies from across the state and state and national transportation and housing partners.

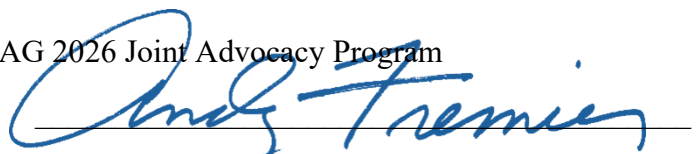
#### **Recommendation:**

ABAG Executive Board Approval

Commission Approval

#### **Attachments:**

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



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