

MTC-ABAG SB 375 Modernization Objectives

1. Streamline Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Development and Increase Capacity for Implementation

The process of developing the SCS should be more efficient so regions can devote more staff capacity to implementing strategies rather than technical exercises. Today, MPO/COGs spend substantial time and resources refining assumptions and navigating years of reviews across multiple state agencies. A streamlined process would allow MPO/COGs to shift bandwidth toward creating and administering policies and programs that advance housing, transportation, and climate goals, such as helping local jurisdictions put their housing elements into action, piloting new climate initiatives and coordinating efforts to get more people out of cars and into transit.

2. An SCS that Reflects a Balanced Set of Goals

California and the Bay Area have many important goals, from reducing greenhouse gas emissions to increasing affordability, improving mobility and making it safer to move around the region. The SCS should reflect this balance. That requires 1) the state considering multiple objectives when establishing GHG targets and 2) ensuring regions have flexibility in implementation to manage trade-offs and balance priorities while still advancing the state's climate goals.

3. A Stronger State Partner in Implementation

The State is an important partner in advancing the SCS's climate goal. Modernization should build on that partnership by a) providing new, dedicated resources to regions for implementation, b) strengthening alignment in how state funding is directed to the areas most essential for success today, including transit and housing, and c) modifying laws and regulations to allow MPOs and other partners to implement strategies like pricing, safety improvements, project delivery, and transportation system management.

4. The SCS Should Earn Trust and Drive Action

The SCS should serve as a trusted roadmap for real investments and decisions. To play that role, it must be understandable, engaging and grounded in reality. Today, CARB's modeling assumptions often fail to reflect actual conditions, which can make the plan and its impacts challenging both to explain and understand. By reflecting real-world trends – such as California's transition to cleaner vehicles and fuel standards – the SCS can function as a more credible, transparent planning tool, strengthening the foundation for more informed policy decisions.