

MTC's 2026 Public Participation Plan Update

Friday, June 5, 2026



ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Outreach, Participation and Engagement Defined

Outreach as Information Sharing

Outreach focuses on spreading awareness and helping people understand key information and updates clearly.

Participation in Decision Making

Participation invites input through structured processes like surveys and public comment periods for feedback.

Engagement and Relationship Building

Engagement creates two-way dialogue and collaboration, fostering trust and co-creation with communities.



MTC's Public Participation Program



- Guided by the Public Participation Plan
- Ongoing set of policies, practices and tools designed to support transparent decision-making informed by meaningful public consultation and engagement
- Shaped by MTC's commitment to reducing barriers to participation and prioritizing historically underserved populations that have been excluded from decision-making

What Is the Public Participation Plan?

Purpose of the PPP

The PPP serves as a manual for Bay Area residents on how to engage with MTC's decision-making effectively.

Legal and Regulatory Basis

The plan fulfills federal and state requirements for public involvement in major regional planning and funding efforts.

Public Input Process

It details where to find information, participation opportunities and how public comments are documented and reported back.

Engagement Goals

It outlines why and how engagement is done through the Guiding Principles for Engagement and Engagement Framework.

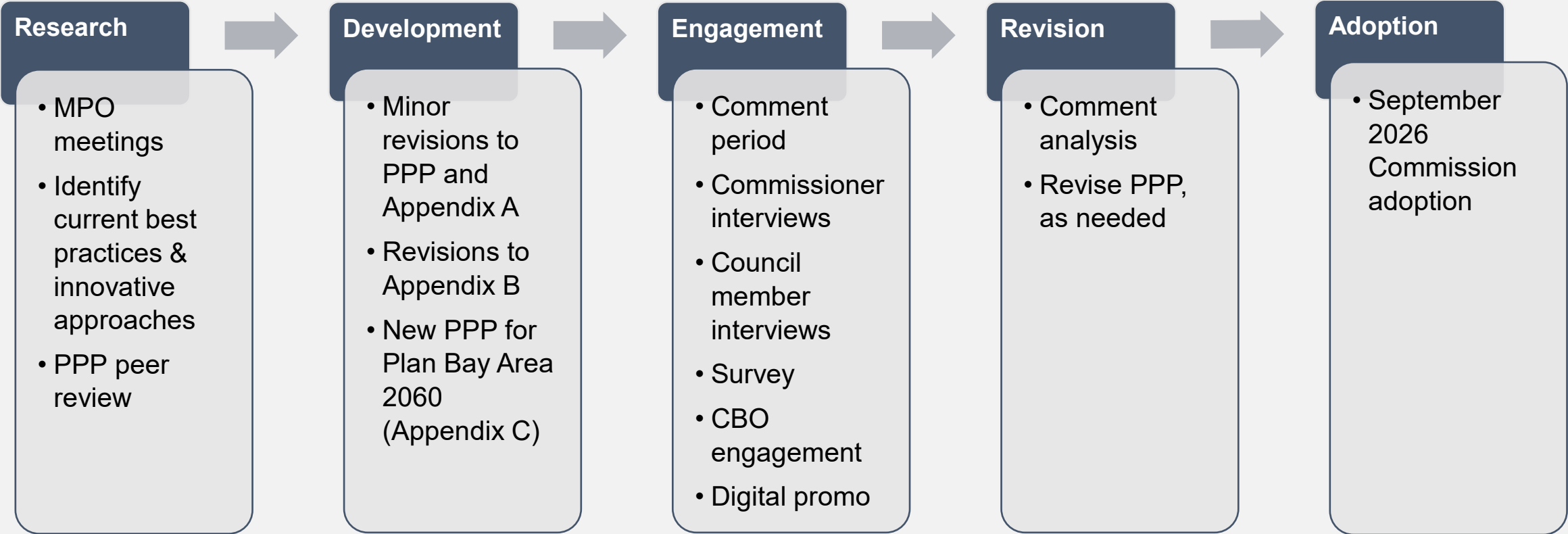
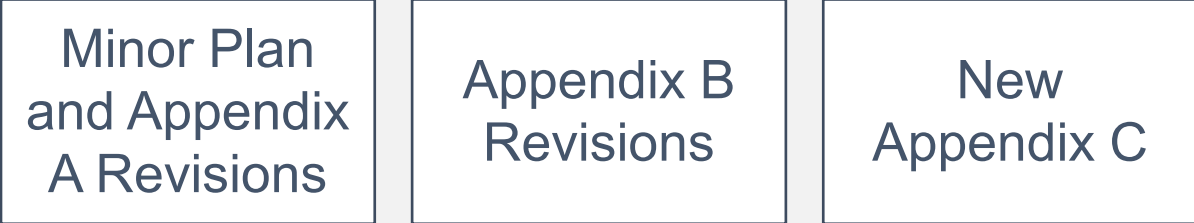
Access and Transparency

The PPP aims to simplify and clarify participation, making regional decision-making transparent and accessible to all residents.

Engagement Requirements

- Federal law (23 CFR 450.316) requires MTC to engage in a planning process that creates opportunities for public involvement, participation and consultation throughout the development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program.
- State law (SB 375) also requires MTC to develop an engagement plan for developing the RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategy — the region’s long-range plan, known as Plan Bay Area.
- MTC’s Public Participation Plan is an MTC-required document adopted by the Commission; while it does not impose legal participation requirements on ABAG, the integrated MTC–ABAG staff uses the PPP to guide public engagement for joint work, including Plan Bay Area.

2026 PPP Update Approach



Building from Lessons Learned

- Reducing **engagement fatigue** is critical and can be achieved through coordination and collaboration.
- **Education and raising awareness** is essential to meaningful engagement.
- Meaningful participation requires **clear, accessible and relatable information**.
- **Storytelling** can make regional planning more understandable and relevant.
- Public engagement must include **multiple ways** for people to engage and provide input.
- Strong partnerships require **ongoing collaboration** to build trust.
- **Transparency** includes showing how public input was used or why it was not used.



What's New

- **PPP**

- Incorporated MTC's Mission, Vision and Values
- New participation procedures for engaging Federal Land Management Agencies (Appendix B)

- **Plan Bay Area 2060 PPP**

- Continuous engagement between major plan milestones and phases.
- Ongoing collaboration with CBO partners to co-develop engagement approaches and build partnerships.
- Expanded focus on education, public information, storytelling and digital engagement.



Guiding Principles for Engagement

Purposeful Engagement

Engagement must have a clear purpose so participants understand their role and impact.

Two-Way Communication

Effective engagement involves listening and sharing information to build relationships.

Tailored Strategies

Engagement approaches are customized for each project, audience, and decision point.

Transparency and Accountability

Open communication and reporting back builds trust and shows how input influenced decisions.



Engagement Framework



Early and Ongoing Engagement

Engage early and often to allow public input to shape decisions rather than react to them.

Access and Inclusion

Reduce barriers related to language, disability, technology, time, and trust to enable access for all.

Co-Creation and Clear Communication

Prioritize co-creation and plain language to ensure collaboration and understanding among participants.

Feedback and Impact Assessment

Respond, report back, and assess impact to demonstrate accountability and improve engagement practices.

The Council's Role in Engagement

Bridging Community and Policy

The Council acts as a bridge connecting community perspectives with regional policy decisions.

Ensuring Policy Relevance

Councilmembers identify policy barriers and ensure alignment with community priorities and experiences.

Strengthening Accountability

The Council asks key questions about public input and its impact to hold processes accountable.

Public Participation Forum

Council meetings serve as an additional platform for public engagement and resident participation.



Key Milestones

Date	Milestone
Early June	Release draft PPP and open 45-day comment period
June 5	Present draft PPP at the June MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council meeting
June 12	Present draft PPP at the June Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee meeting
June–July	Conduct engagement on draft PPP
Mid July	Close comment period
September 4	Present public input summary and final PPP at the September MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council meeting
September 11	Present final PPP the September Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee meeting and recommend forwarding to the Commission for approval
September 23	Commission meets and considers approval

Questions for the Council

- Do the **Guiding Principles for Engagement** reflect what meaningful engagement across the Bay Area's diverse communities should look like to be effective?
- Does the **Engagement Framework** omit any key step necessary for diverse and meaningful community engagement?
- Does the **Engagement Framework** reflect the practical realities of conducting engagement across the Bay Area?