



Lou Ann Teixeira
Executive Officer

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September 11, 2024

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Agenda Item 8**

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission
40 Muir Road, First Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint and Transit 2050+ Draft Network Plan

Dear Commissioners:

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)’s and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)’s newly released [Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint](#) analysis outlines how the nine-county region can advance an affordable, connected, diverse, healthy and vibrant Bay Area for all residents by the year 2050. As the first draft of the Bay Area’s next long-range plan, the Draft Blueprint demonstrates significant progress toward reaching key goals for housing affordability, post-pandemic economic recovery and environmental health and sustainability. This includes the addition of 840,000 affordable homes, with a total of nearly one million permanently affordable homes regionwide by 2050; a 17 percent increase in the number of lower-income households living within a half-mile of transit service; and a gradual shift away from the use of single-occupancy cars and trucks. MTC and ABAG planning staff stress that the expected progress would only come about if all the strategies to be detailed in *Plan Bay Area 2050+* are implemented.

The full range of performance and equity outcomes from the *Plan Bay Area 2050+* Draft Blueprint analysis is found in the [Draft Blueprint Compendium](#), which also demonstrates how the Bay Area can accommodate some 1.3 million additional jobs and nearly one million new households by the year 2050.

These outcomes were first presented at the May meeting of MTC’s [Policy Advisory Council \(link is external, opens in a new window\)](#), and then at the June 14 joint meeting of the [MTC Planning Committee \(link is external, opens in a new window\)](#) and the [ABAG Administrative Committee \(link is external, opens in a new window\)](#).

The Draft Blueprint also identifies challenges that will have to be addressed as part of the Final Blueprint process over the coming months. More work is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as to identify transportation investment priorities for the plan’s fiscally constrained transportation project list.

The Draft Blueprint does not include significant transportation expansion or enhancement investments, as these will be identified through [Transit 2050+](#) and the Final Blueprint process.

What's Next?

In light of the pandemic's lasting impact to public transportation, MTC is collaborating with the region's transit operators on [Transit 2050+](#), a parallel planning effort to re-envision the future of public transit in the nine-county Bay Area. Two key updates in this process will be released in July: the Draft Project Performance Assessment and the Transit 2050+ Draft Network. The Draft Project Performance Assessment will analyze the costs and benefits of major capacity-increasing projects being considered for inclusion in *Plan Bay Area 2050+*, the vast majority of which are transit projects. These investments, including those adopted in *Plan Bay Area 2050*, now face a significantly reduced projected revenue stream. This is due largely to slow post-pandemic transit ridership recovery and other economic changes.

The Transit 2050+ Draft Network will identify strategies and investments (capital and operating) envisioned through 2035 and over the long term through 2050. Development of the Draft Network has been guided in part by public engagement conducted in summer 2023, when nearly 3,000 Bay Area residents provided input on the future of Bay Area transit. The Draft Network also is being informed by an existing needs and gaps assessment conducted in partnership with local transit agencies, the Draft Project Performance Assessment, local priorities and improvements to transit network connectivity and customer experience.

Summer 2024 Public Engagement

Beginning in August, MTC staff will conduct a second round of [public engagement](#) for *Plan Bay Area 2050+*, the content of which will focus on:

- Sharing both the Draft Blueprint outcomes and the Transit 2050+ Draft Network
- Gathering feedback to inform the development of the Final Blueprint and address identified Draft Blueprint challenges
- Identifying early priorities for implementing *Plan Bay Area 2050+*

There will be a variety of in-person and virtual opportunities for the public to participate. Stay up-to-date on upcoming engagement activities in your community by subscribing to the [Plan Bay Area 2050+ mailing list](#). There also will be dedicated engagement opportunities for technical partners and stakeholders, which will be publicized on the *Plan Bay Area* website's [Partner Engagement page](#). Following an analysis of public input, the Commission and the ABAG Executive Board are expected to consider approval of the Final Blueprint in late 2024.

The component of the Plan that is most relevant to LAFCO's is *Strategy EN4 – Maintain Urban Growth Boundaries*. This strategy assumes all future development within Urban Growth Boundaries with no expansion through the year 2050. This strategy is critical to meeting the regulatory requirements of the plan and continues to be a popular strategy among the public, stakeholders, and the ABAG Executive Board and MTC Commission. The strategy was included in the prior three iterations of *Plan Bay Area*, dating back to the 2013 adoption.

This is an informational item; no action by the Commission is required.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER