Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments

MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee

October 10, 2025 **Agenda Item 8a**

Preview of Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+ and Draft Implementation Plan

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Subject:

Preview of the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+, including a detailed overview of the Draft Implementation Plan, prior to public release and a final round of public engagement this fall.

Background:

In July 2023, MTC and ABAG kicked off Plan Bay Area 2050+, a limited and focused update to the regional vision for transportation, housing, economic development and environmental resilience. Plan Bay Area 2050+ is the region's fourth iteration of an integrated long-range plan since the adoption of Senate Bill (SB) 375 in 2008. Each long-range plan has adapted to meet the changing needs of the region, with Plan Bay Area 2050+ having a particular focus on navigating post-pandemic realities such as remote work, lower levels of transit ridership and rising office vacancies; dealing with a more constrained financial environment; and elevating resilience while balancing climate goals.

Following the kickoff of Plan Bay Area 2050+, staff completed multiple extensive engagement efforts touching all nine Bay Area counties, including more than 40 pop-up workshops, three online surveys, 22 partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs), and six webinars and technical workshops for technical stakeholders, among other activities. Informed by these engagement efforts, in January 2025, the Commission approved MTC Resolution No. 4687 and the ABAG Executive Board approved ABAG Resolution No. 04-2025, adopting the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Final Blueprint Growth Geographies and the Final Blueprint Strategies, including the Final Transportation Project List and the Final Resilience Project List. Subsequently, in June 2025, the Commission approved MTC Resolution No. 4715, and, in July 2025, the ABAG Executive Board approved ABAG Resolution No. 08-2025, advancing the Final Blueprint into the environmental process for the long-range plan, as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Staff have since transitioned to the final phase of the long-range planning process, including development of key deliverables such as the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+ Plan Document, Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and Draft Implementation Plan.

Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+ Release:

On October 20th, MTC and ABAG will release Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+, including the three aforementioned deliverables, for public review and comment, representing a major milestone in the nearly three-year planning process. The Draft Plan Document serves as the primary public-facing component of the regional long-range plan, setting the post-pandemic context for the Bay Area and outlining key planning assumptions, strategies, and expected outcomes. The Draft Plan will be accompanied by an additional 10 supplemental reports, offering further details and context on specific subject areas addressed by the plan. The Draft EIR includes such elements as a detailed project description; environmental impacts and mitigation measures; a comparison of the Draft Plan, a "No Project" Alternative, plus two additional alternatives scoped to reduce environmental impacts; and other CEQA-mandated sections. Finally, the Draft Implementation Plan will identify the concrete near-term actions (i.e., between 2026 and 2030) that MTC-ABAG can take to advance the long-range strategies included in the plan.

Draft Implementation Plan:

The Draft Implementation Plan includes 60+ targeted actions across transportation, housing, the economy, the environment, and cross-cutting areas to advance progress towards Plan Bay Area 2050+ goals. Draft implementation actions are organized across six vehicles – including planning, funding, coordination, advocacy, delivery and assistance – and can be summarized as follows:

- **Transportation**: The Implementation Plan prioritizes preparing for new funding measures, expanding Clipper Bay-Pass and regional wayfinding programs, improving project delivery and coordination, and supporting active transportation planning — all within a fiscally constrained framework.

- **Housing & Economy**: Actions include pursuing near-term and long-term funding, expanding and enhancing the Doorway Housing Portal, supporting local jurisdiction Housing Element implementation as well as Transit-Oriented Communities (TOC) policy implementation, revisiting how economic priorities should be incorporated in future long-range plans, and updating the regional goods movement plan to reflect emerging trends.
- **Environment**: The plan proposes expanding technical assistance for sea level rise adaptation and climate/hazards resilience, delivering new building efficiency programs, piloting conservation tools, and strengthening coordination on electrification.
- **Cross-Cutting**: Regional efforts focus on securing planning funds, advocating for state policy reforms, improving technical assistance, increasing engagement with the disability community, and updating key planning frameworks to further reflect post-COVID realities in the region.

A more detailed summary of Draft Implementation Plan actions, including tools to support local jurisdictions and partners with plan implementation, is included as **Attachment A**. A complete listing of all Draft Implementation Plan actions, including proposed timelines for completion and MTC-ABAG roles, is included as **Attachment B**. Please note that the Implementation Plan is the most dynamic component of the plan's final phase, with significant opportunity to revise proposed draft actions for the purposes of the Final Implementation Plan. Feedback, input and guidance from committee members regarding potential revisions to the Draft Implementation Plan is welcome.

Final Round of Public Engagement:

The Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+ and Draft EIR public review and comment period will run from October 20, 2025 through December 18, 2025. There will be a variety of touchpoints for members of the public and technical partners to learn more about the Draft Plan or to provide comments. In particular, staff will be hosting four subregional webinars in late October and early November, as well as three hybrid public hearings in mid-November and early December. The in-person component of the public hearings will be hosted in San Francisco, Fremont, and Novato. Detailed meeting information for the subregional webinars, as well as the public hearings, is included in **Attachment C**. In addition to these venues, there will also be

presentations to local elected officials, web resources, engagement with CBOs, and office hours for technical partners. For more information on how to submit comments, and to review the Draft Plan Bay Area 2050+ and Draft EIR starting October 20, 2025, please visit planbayarea.org.

Next Steps:

Following the conclusion of the comment period and final round of public engagement, staff will review and respond to comments as well as prepare revisions to the Draft Plan and Draft EIR. Staff envision returning to the Commission and the ABAG Executive Board in late winter 2026 to seek approval and adoption of the Final Plan Bay Area 2050+, as well as the certification of the Final EIR. Looking further ahead, in mid-2026 MTC and ABAG intend to kick off Plan Bay Area 2060, a major plan update that will include both "blue sky" and scenario planning, with the intention to explore varying policy and funding trajectories for the region, as well as many new and exciting topics.

Issues:

As the agencies approach Final Plan Bay Area 2050+ adoption, several regulatory milestones will remain regarding approval of the plan as the region's Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) by federal and state partners.

On the federal side, the June 2025 rescission of California's vehicle emissions waiver triggered a statewide air quality conformity "lockdown," due to the absence of a valid emissions model to demonstrate compliance with federal clean air standards. As a result, federal agencies cannot act on plans like Plan Bay Area until the issue is resolved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Ongoing uncertainty could delay federal approval of Plan Bay Area 2050+. In the meantime, MTC is actively working with regional and state partners to minimize conformity lockdown impacts. Additional details on the federal rescission of California Clean Air Act Waivers and impacts on Bay Area transportation projects were provided at the September 10, 2025, meeting of the MTC Programming and Allocations Committee.

On the state side, CARB holds final authority over the plan's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction methodologies and assumptions. Since mid-2023, staff have been working with CARB to address questions related to the plan's assumptions, strategies, and implementation progress. The SCS approval process could extend into 2027.

Recommendations:

Information.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Presentation
- Attachment B: Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Implementation Plan – Action Tables
- Attachment C: Subregional Webinars and Public Hearings

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