



DATE: February 11th, 2019

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Finance and Policy Executive Committee

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director
Derek McGill, Planning Manager

SUBJECT: MTC's Horizon/Plan Bay Area 2050 Update (Discussion), Agenda Item No. 8

RECOMMENDATION

This item is presented for discussion only.

BACKGROUND

Every four years, MTC and ABAG are required to develop and adopt a Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS), with the most recent plan adopted in 2017 (known as Plan Bay Area 2040). Prior to 2008, the regional transportation plan was required to respond to state imposed requirements including population and job growth numbers and would only include transportation project investments that fit within a reasonable fund estimate, among other requirements. Transportation projects that were included in the RTP were also included in air quality conformity requirements for the region, allowing projects to become eligible for state and federal funding. No funding was programmed, allocated or committed as part of this process. Those actions were separate from the regional planning process.

In 2008, SB 375 expanded the scope of the regional transportation plan with the development of a sustainable community strategy to coordinate land use planning and transportation planning to meet state greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets. The requirements under this bill mandated that the RTP/SCS must show how the region intends to meet two goals: to reduce GHG emissions, and to house the regions population.

MTC and ABAG's first RTP/SCS, Plan Bay Area, was developed in 2013 and then updated in 2017. These plans expanded the required goals of SB 375 to a total of 11 additional voluntary regional goals, ranging from housing affordability and anti-displacement to transportation system effectiveness goals. The ability of the plan (and the identified transportation investments) to reach these goals informs transportation policy at all levels, including the allocation of transportation funding and legislative platforms like the CASA Compact.

Plan Bay Area also included the development of the regional housing needs allocation (RHNA) process, establishing housing needs for each city in the bay area for the time period of 2014-2022. Plan Bay Area established transportation policy linking the RHNA process to transportation funding, specifically the federal gas tax funds it receives for distribution. The funding cycle, One Bay Area Grant Program, tied the distribution of transportation funding sources to the growth and progress met towards developing housing on a county level. This next iteration, Plan Bay Area 2050, will also include the RHNA process for the cycle 2023- 2031.

As part of the Plan Bay Area process, TAM is required to submit projects to the RTP/SCS on behalf of Marin county. TAM monitors the development of the plan's policies and procedures to ensure Marin is able to have

its highest priority needs included in the plan. TAM advocates for Marin County and partner agencies transportation funding needs throughout this process.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

In 2018, MTC announced significant revisions to the regional transportation planning process with the launch of a new initiative, Horizon, to serve as a scenario planning effort as the precursor to the next RTP/SCS, Plan Bay Area 2050.

Intended to address a number of uncertainties in transportation planning, including Autonomous Vehicles, Sea Level Rise, economic booms and busts, and political volatility, Horizon is a planning process that assesses various investments and policies that support multiple divergent scenarios of the future. Horizon is made up of a number of sub-processes described below.

Guiding Principles

In order to develop the scenarios, MTC and ABAG developed a list of guiding principles to set as a goal for the region:

- **AFFORDABLE** All Bay Area residents and workers have sufficient housing options they can afford – households are economically secure.
- **CONNECTED** An expanded, well-functioning transportation system connects the Bay Area – fast, frequent and efficient intercity trips are complemented by a suite of local transportation options, connecting communities and creating a cohesive region.
- **DIVERSE** The Bay Area is an inclusive region where people from all backgrounds, abilities, and ages can remain in place – with access to the region’s assets and resources.
- **HEALTHY** The region’s natural resources, open space, clean water and clean air are conserved – the region actively reduces its environmental footprint and protects residents from environmental impacts.
- **VIBRANT** The Bay Area region is an innovation leader, creating quality job opportunities for all and ample fiscal resources for communities.

Future Scenarios

Then, MTC and ABAG convened a peer exchange to review 11 potential Future Scenarios and narrow the Futures down to three. The three proposed Futures for Horizon are listed below, and each can be distilled to a central “what-if” question:

- *Clean and Green: what if... new technologies and a national carbon tax enabled telecommuting and distributed job centers?* Recognizing the growing impacts of climate change, the federal government significantly tightens environmental regulations and implements an ambitious, nationwide carbon tax. New technologies thrive, with virtual reality enabling telecommuting and smaller-scale workplaces distributed across town centers. While high-tech manufacturing thrives in the United States, economic growth slows for other more energy-intensive sectors.
- *Rising Tides, Falling Fortunes: what if... the federal government cuts spending and reduces regulations, leaving decisions to states and regions?* Nationwide tax cuts and spending caps result a significant reduction in federal infrastructure funding. Combined with autonomous vehicles failing to live up to the hype, cities, regions, and states are forced to pay for much-needed traditional infrastructure projects themselves. Lack of regulatory action on climate change worldwide results in sea levels rising by three feet by 2050 – creating a new set of infrastructure needs in an era of slow growth.
- *Back to the Future: what if... an economic boom and new transportation options spur a new wave of development?* The U.S. experiences continued prosperity and renewed respect on the world stage, thanks to smart and strategic policy decisions on the national level. Rapid job growth means more people want to move to the U.S., and increased public investment in infrastructure makes the nation

more attractive for businesses. Silicon Valley technologies are dominant worldwide in everything from cars to e-commerce. Wealthy Americans seek larger suburban homes and many depend on new technologies such as autonomous vehicles and hyperloop lines to access urban job centers.

Each of the three Future Scenarios has a broad spectrum of approximately 24 inputs, one for each external force or uncertainty. Each Future Scenario represents a range of possibilities and the preferred scenario will be a combination of the three Future Scenarios, similar to past rounds of Plan Bay Area.

In a new approach under this process, each Future Scenario has its own forecasts, allowing for a broader perspective on the levels of growth the region might experience as a result of these external forces. For example, if sea level rise occurs at higher than anticipated levels, what would the results mean for population growth?

Perspective Papers

In order to explore key topics in detail and identify high impact policies that can support reaching the Guiding Principles, MTC is developing a series of perspective papers. These papers identify likely opportunities and challenges for each topic, and actionable strategies that can be considered as part of the Horizon planning process and Plan Bay Area. These papers include:

- Autonomous vehicles – June 2018
- Towards a Shared Future – September 2018
- Regional growth strategies - December 2018
- Bay Crossings - Upcoming
- Future of jobs - January 2018
- Regional Governance - Upcoming
- Sea Level Rise - Upcoming

Each of these perspective papers provide a deeper dive into policy considerations the region may make to reduce the risks associated with each topic. For example, automated vehicle adoption may increase on-demand transit service but increase congestion. What policies would need to be considered to maximize the opportunity while minimizing the risk to congestion? These actionable strategies will feed into the futures and preferred scenario.

Transformative Projects and Investments

In June of 2018, MTC launched a new transformative projects call, focused on major transportation and resiliency investments (\$1 Billion plus) that were not previously assessed in Plan Bay Area 2040. TAM, working with partner Congestion Management Agencies, SMART and MTC, submitted two major initiatives for consideration in this process, including:

- State Route 37 – Multimodal Corridor Improvements including Bike/Ped and Rail Access and Adaption to address Sea Level Rise
- Marin County Sea Level Rise Adaption – Adaption and protection of existing transportation infrastructure throughout Marin County identified as vulnerable in the C-SMART and BayWave Vulnerability studies.

In addition to these two projects submitted by TAM and Partners, 12 public solicitations are included in the horizon effort, 6 capacity increasing projects and 6 operational strategies. Depending on the performance of these projects in the future scenario's they will be considered for inclusion in the preferred scenario. The 6 capacity increasing projects are:

- **Optimized Express Lane Network + Regional Express Bus Network** – SPUR and TransForm
- **Bus Rapid Transit on All Bridges** – Tony Breslin

- **SMART to Richmond via a New Richmond-San Rafael Bridge** – William Manley, Joseph Naujokas, Christopher Sork and Sonoma County Transportation & Land Use Coalition
- **Interstate 80 Corridor Overhaul** – Arup
- **Regional Bicycle Superhighway Network** – Arup
- **Bay Trail Completion** – Jim Stallman

The six finalists for transformative operational strategies consist of:

- **Integrated Transit Fare System** – Eddy Ionescu & Jason Lee, Seamless Bay Area and SPUR
- **Free Transit** – Mark Apton, Christian Rodgers, Danielle Venton and Gabriela Zuniga
- **Higher-Occupancy HOV Lanes** – 3 Revolutions Book Club
- **Demand-Based Tolls on All Highways** – Jeremy Besmer and City of San Jose
- **Reversible Lanes on Congested Bridges and Freeways** – City of San Jose
- **Freight Delivery Timing Regulation** – Daniel Ayers, Marc Brenman, Kevin Brooks and Cesar Plata

Projects that perform well across the set of potential Future Scenarios may be considered for inclusion in the upcoming Regional Transportation Plan, Plan Bay Area 2050.

Congestion Management Agencies Role

MTC will request Congestion Management Agencies including TAM, to submit projects for consideration into the Regional Transportation Plan. Transportation projects that are included in the RTP are included in air quality conformity requirements for the region, allowing projects to become eligible for state and federal funding. No funding is programmed, allocated or committed as part of this process. An initial project list will be due to MTC in June, and based on forecasted revenues, a revision to this list will occur by October 2018 to fit within forecasted revenues.

TAM has recently conducted a number of county-level planning efforts that encompass all modes of travel and provide a comprehensive approach to addressing transportation needs for Marin County. These efforts include the development of the Strategic Vision Plan (2017), the formation of Marin's Regional Measure 3 candidate pool (2017) and the Measure AA Expenditure Plan (2018). This basis of county-level planning efforts provides TAM the foundation for the regional transportation plan and TAMs submittal of projects. As MTC is scheduled to release their Call for Projects in March 2019, TAM will bring more information regarding the call for projects process in March.

MTC will evaluate both the transformative projects and the county project submittals against each of the Future Scenarios to determine performance of these projects. This is a departure from previous RTPs, and TAM is closely monitoring this process for applicability to Marin's projects and programs.

Public Outreach

In March MTC will be conducting public outreach efforts to discuss Horizon. The goal of the public outreach is to:

- Share the findings about the Future Scenarios developed for the plan
- Share the actionable strategies developed in the perspective papers to address the challenges of the future scenarios
- Receive input on the prioritization of actionable strategies *developed in the perspective papers* that the region should consider.

MTC will be hosting three workshops throughout the region and online engagement, in addition to the stakeholder engagement efforts TAM staff is participating in. MTC will be hosting the North Bay public outreach meeting in Petaluma on Saturday March 16th between 10 and 12am. The Petaluma event is an open house workshop with stations about elements of the planning process. There is not any presentations or open question time planned for this event.

Additionally, online outreach will be occurring in March, as an online tool will be launched. TAM will announce these tools as they become available to encourage Marin County public input.

Development of Preferred Scenario and Plan Bay Area 2050

MTC expects to begin developing the Preferred Scenario in the Fall of 2019, with transportation investments and jurisdictions growth forecasts of jobs, population and housing identified. This preferred scenario will then be carried forward into Plan Bay Area 2050. In 2020, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process is expected to begin. The RHNA process will be influenced by recent housing legislation, including legislation considered in the 2019 legislative cycle.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION

None. This is a discussion item.

NEXT STEPS

MTC will provide TAM with guidance for identifying projects to be considered for inclusion into the regional transportation plan in February. TAM staff will begin identifying Marin County projects with local agencies and prepare a presentation in March regarding the upcoming process.

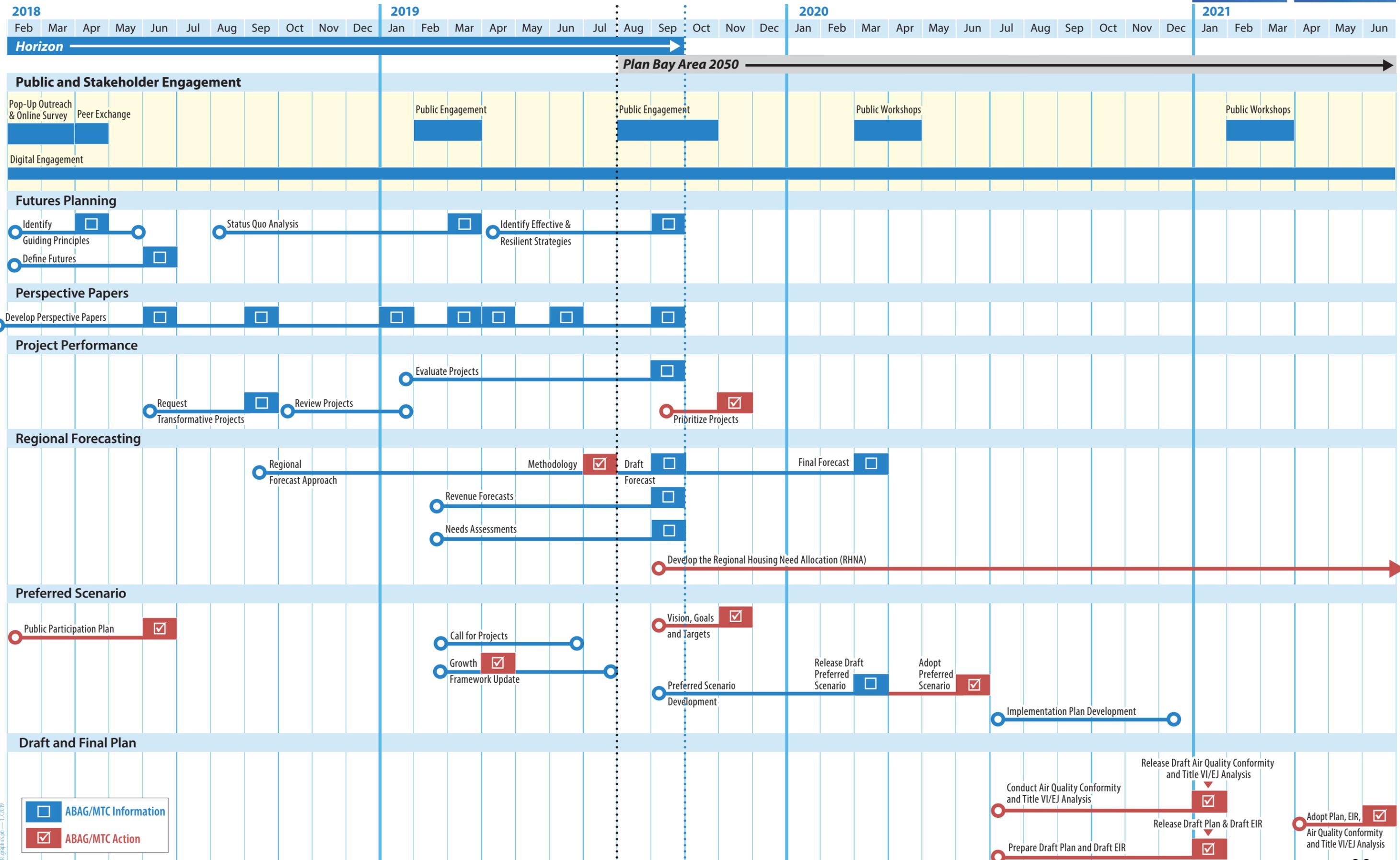
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Horizons and Plan Bay Area 2050 Roadmap

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Horizon and Plan Bay Area 2050 (RTP/SCS): Key Milestones 2018–2021

(Dates are tentative and subject to change.)



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