



TO: Joint MTC Planning with the ABAG Administration
Committee

DATE: June 5, 2015

FR: MTC Deputy Executive Director, Policy and ABAG
Executive Director

W. I.

RE: Release of Draft Amendments to Plan Bay Area and 2015 Transportation Improvement Program,
Draft Transportation Conformity Analysis and Draft Plan Bay Area Environmental Impact Report
(EIR) Addendum for Public Review and Comment

Background

Adopted in July 2013, Plan Bay Area (Plan) is the region's first integrated long-range land use and transportation plan prepared by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). In addition to its focus on supporting housing and job growth around high-quality transit corridors, the Plan specifies the strategies and investments to maintain, manage, and improve the region's transportation network – which includes bicycle and pedestrian facilities, local streets and roads, public transit systems, and highways. Projects cannot be programmed for state or federal funding nor implemented unless identified in the long-range plan.

The federally required Transportation Improvement program (TIP) is a comprehensive listing of Bay Area surface transportation projects that are to receive federal funding or are subject to a federally required action, or are considered regionally significant for transportation/air quality conformity purposes. MTC is required to prepare and adopt an updated TIP every four years. The 2015 TIP was adopted by the Commission in September 2014 and approved by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration in December 2014. The 2015 TIP is valid for four years from fiscal year 2014-15 through fiscal year 2017-18. The TIP may be revised to make necessary changes prior to the next update.

MTC staff proposes to amend the long-range plan and TIP to add the I-580 Access Improvements Project which aims to reduce traffic congestion on eastbound I-580 in Marin County and provide bicycle and pedestrian access between Contra Costa and Marin Counties. This Project will reduce congestion on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge by converting the existing shoulder on eastbound I-580 to a peak period use lane between Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (Marin County) and Marine Street (Contra Costa County). It will upgrade the current bicycle access that relies on the I-580 shoulder with a separate bicycle/pedestrian path on the north side of I-580 adjacent to westbound traffic. For the first time ever, the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge will connect the Bay Trail between Contra Costa and Marin Counties for bicyclists and pedestrians. The estimated project cost is \$74 million, which is fully funded with Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) toll funds already identified in Plan Bay Area. The project is sponsored by the BATA, Caltrans, Transportation Authority of Marin, and Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

MTC staff is preparing the proposed amendments to the Plan Bay Area and 2015 TIP, along with two companion technical documents, for consideration and approval in September 2015 by the entities noted below:

MTC Commission and ABAG Executive Board

- Draft Amendment to Plan Bay Area
- Draft Addendum to the Environmental Impact Report for Plan Bay Area

MTC Commission

- Draft Amendment to 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP Amendment 2015-18)
- Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for Plan Bay Area and 2015 Transportation Improvement Program

Consistent with the performance framework established in Plan Bay Area for all major regional transportation projects, the I-580 Access Improvements Project will be evaluated using the performance framework established in Plan Bay Area. This will include a benefit-cost assessment to identify the cost-effectiveness of the proposed investment, as well as a targets assessment to evaluate the project's support for the adopted targets included in the Plan. Performance results for the project will be presented to MTC and ABAG in September 2015 in advance of their consideration and approval.

Attachment A provides details on each of the amendments and technical documents as well as the project schedule for releasing them for public review and the MTC and ABAG review and approvals.

Committee Actions

Staff recommends that the Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee authorize the release of the Draft Amendment to the Plan Bay Area and Draft Plan Bay Area EIR Addendum for public review and comment beginning on June 19, 2015 and ending on July 20, 2015.

Staff recommends that the MTC Planning Committee authorize the release of the Draft Amendment to the 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP Amendment 2015-18) and Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for public review and comment beginning on June 19, 2015 and ending on July 20, 2015.

All four documents will be available on the internet at: www.mtc.ca.gov and at the MTC/ABAG Library. Key dates leading up to approval of these amendments and technical documents are listed in Attachment A.


Alix Bockelman


Ezra Rapport

Attachment A

Document Descriptions and Review/Approval Schedule

Draft Amendment to Plan Bay Area

The proposed Amendment to Plan Bay Area adds the I-580 Access Improvement Project into the financially constrained element of the long-range plan. The \$74 million in BATA toll funds for this project are derived from the larger \$1.2 billion Bay Area state-owned toll bridge program (RTP ID 21013). The committed funds for this toll bridge program will be reduced by \$74 million. The revision made pursuant to this amendment will not conflict with the financial constraint requirements of the Plan. The Amendment will require the joint approval of the MTC Commission and ABAG Executive Board.

Draft Plan Bay Area EIR Addendum

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) permits the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments, as the co-lead agencies, to prepare an Addendum to a previously certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) if proposed changes or additions would not result in new significant environmental effects. Per CEQA, the Addendum does not need to be circulated for public review. The decision-making body (i.e., the MTC Commission and ABAG Executive Board) must consider the Addendum with the Final EIR prior to making a decision on the proposed project (i.e., this proposed Amendment to Plan Bay Area). Staff anticipates that changes addressed in the Addendum will not raise any new issues or new significant regional environmental impacts. Except for minor technical revisions, the environmental assessment for Plan Bay Area remains unchanged as a result of this proposed Plan Amendment. The Addendum will require the joint approval of the MTC Commission and ABAG Executive Board.

Draft Amendment to Transportation Improvement Program

This TIP Amendment (2015-18) adds the I-580 Access Improvement Project to the financially constrained 2015 TIP. The revision made pursuant to this Amendment will not conflict with the financial constraint requirements of the Plan. The TIP Amendment will require MTC Commission approval. This Amendment will be transmitted to Caltrans after the Commission's approval; after its review, Caltrans will forward the Amendment to FTA/FHWA as required for final federal agency review and final approval.

Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis

Plan Bay Area and the 2015 TIP, including the proposed amendments, must be consistent with ("conform to") the purpose of the federal air quality plan (known as the State Implementation Plan). A conformity finding demonstrates that the total emissions projected for a long-range or funding program are within the emission limits ("budgets") established in the federal air quality plan. The Draft Conformity Analysis will be prepared in accordance with U.S. EPA's conformity regulations and MTC Resolution 3757. It will also be reviewed by the Air Quality Conformity Task Force comprised of staffs from the Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Caltrans, and participating Congestion Management Agencies and transit operators. Staff anticipates that this project will likely produce negligible changes in the Conformity Analysis. The Conformity Analysis will require MTC Commission approval. After the Commission's approval, this Conformity Analysis will be transmitted to FTA/FHWA as required for final federal agency review and final approval.

Project Schedule	
Activity	Tentative Dates
Release of the Draft Amendments to Plan Bay Area and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP Amendment 2015-18), Draft Conformity Analysis, and Draft Plan Bay Area EIR Addendum for public review and comment	June 19, 2015
30-Day Public Review and Comment Period	June 19, 2015 through July 20, 2015
Review and approval by MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee of the Amendment to Plan Bay Area and Plan Bay Area EIR Addendum	September 11, 2015
Review and approval by MTC Planning Committee of TIP Amendment 2015-18 and Conformity Analysis	
Review and approval by MTC Commission and ABAG Executive Board of the Amendment to Plan Bay Area and Plan Bay Area EIR Addendum	September 23, 2015 And September 17, 2015
Review and approval by MTC Commission of TIP Amendment 2015-18 and Conformity Analysis	September 23, 2015
Review and approval by Caltrans of TIP Amendment 2015-18	October 2015
Review and approval of Federal Highway Administration/Federal Transit Administration (FHWA/FTA) of TIP Amendment 2015-18 and the Conformity Analysis for Plan Bay Area and 2015 Transportation Improvement Program	November 2015