

ABAG
Sept/Oct 2007



Service Matters

“Bay Area on the Move”

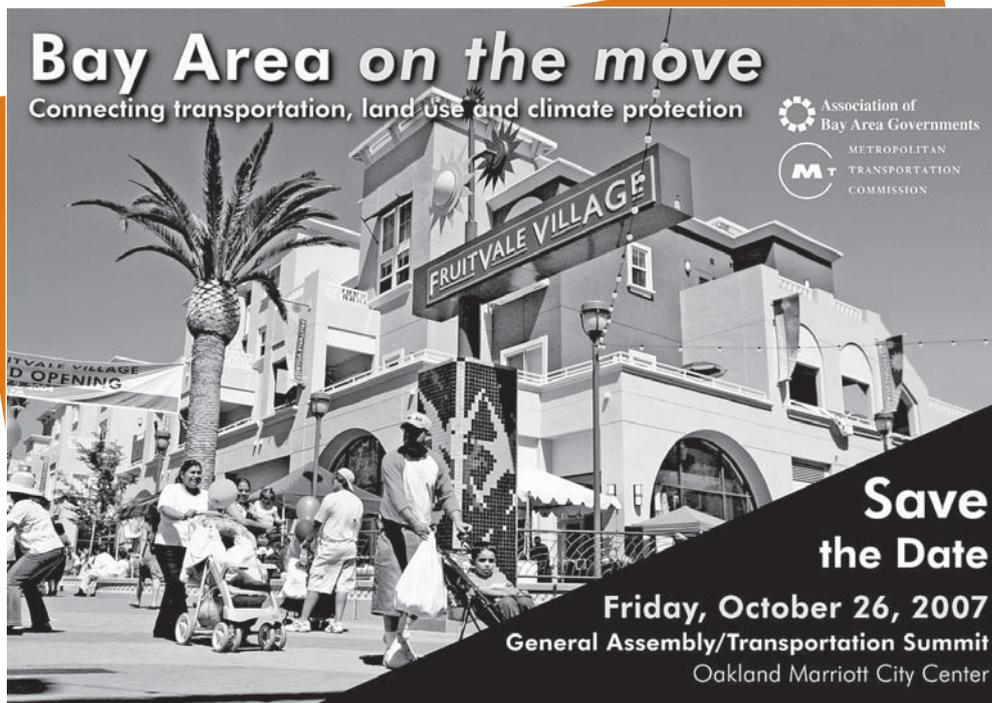
ABAG Fall General Assembly joins MTC Transportation 2035

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) invite elected officials, community and business leaders, planners, transportation and smart growth advocates to bring their ideas for connecting land use, transportation, and climate protection to the Oakland Marriott City Center on **Friday, October 26th.**

Transportation 2035, and hear about FOCUS efforts to identify priority development and priority conservation areas, and other land use-transportation connections. They will also hear from prominent local and national leaders. Interactive breakout sessions will be featured on linking transportation investments to FOCUS, defining regional role in climate change, pricing our transportation network, and

addressing transportation equity. Attendees will help shape the regional dialogue by registering their opinions through keypad-style electronic voting throughout the conference.

Registration is **free, but pre-registration is required since space is limited.** The General Assembly/Transportation 2035 conference agenda and on-line registration will be available after September 5th at www.abag.ca.gov and by calling 510/464-7900 or 510/817-5700.



Entitled “*Bay Area on the Move*,” this significant summit joins ABAG’s Fall General Assembly with discussions about MTC’s Transportation 2035 Plan.

Attendees will preview some of the major decisions anticipated as part of the updates to MTC’s long-range transportation policy and investment blueprint,

Oakland Marriott City Center

1001 Broadway (12th Street BART across the street)

Friday, October 26, 2007

8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Ride Share available online

www.abag.ca.gov/abag/events/ga/rideshare.html

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Bay Trail Project Solicits Grant Applications

In partnership with the State Coastal Conservancy, the San Francisco Bay Trail Project is now accepting applications for trail planning and construction projects to complete gaps in the Bay Trail, a planned 500-mile, multiple-use trail administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments. When complete, the trail will encircle San Francisco Bay, linking the shorelines of 47 cities and nine counties. Currently, 290 miles of Bay Trail are complete.

Approximately \$2.5 million is available from Proposition 84 to fund projects that complete Bay Trail gaps, provide strong leverage with local matching contributions, incorporate partnerships, encourage creative solutions, and demonstrate readiness. Cities, counties, special districts, state and federal government agencies, land trusts, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive grants through this program.

The grant program is structured to fund construction of new Bay Trail segments, trail design, and trail alignment/feasibility studies. Trail projects required as part of a permit approval or as mitigation for another project are not eligible. There are no established minimum or maximum grant amounts for this program. Grants will be awarded at the discretion of the selection committee to projects judged to best meet the objective of completing

the Bay Trail, and are ready to begin. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2012.

The grant application form is available to download in PDF format from www.baytrail.org. **The application period is open until all funds are allocated.**

For more information, contact Bay Trail staff:
Laura Thompson, Project Manager, 510-464-7935; laurat@abag.ca.gov
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Public Workshop Addresses Airport Efficiency

The Bay Area will face increasing flight delays, unless local governments and the region's airports take steps to ease congestion. A recently published FAA study states that by 2015 air traffic at Oakland International Airport will exceed existing runway capacity and by 2025 San Francisco International Airport will exceed runway capacity as well. To address airport



efficiency and current and future aviation congestion, the Regional Airport Planning Committee (RAPC) will hold a Public Workshop on **September 19th from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** at the MetroCenter Auditorium in Oakland. The workshop will provide information on aviation industry

trends and emerging technologies that improve runway capacity at Bay Area commercial airports. RAPC is comprised of representatives from ABAG, MTC, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and other public stakeholders.

The public workshop is part of RAPC's efforts to update the Regional Airport Systems Plan and explore planning solutions. The FAA has provided RAPC with a grant of \$585,000 to support the second phase of its planning effort. The workshop will help solicit public opinion for Phase Two tasks and recommendations for ways to increase efficiency at our existing airports and possibly divert some traffic to other airports in the region. Phase Two involves developing consensus on a long-range aviation plan for the region. New air traffic control technology and demand management strategies at existing airports will be explored further and the impacts of a proposed California High Speed Rail System will be assessed. *For more information, contact Patricia Perry, ABAG Senior Regional Planner, 510/464-7957 or patriciap@abag.ca.gov.*

FOCUS Moves Toward Coordinated Regional Strategy

During this past summer as part of the FOCUS Initiative, over 50 jurisdictions, in eight of the nine Bay Area counties, submitted applications for over 100 Priority Development Areas (PDAs). The resulting PDAs demonstrate that cities of all types are actively targeting new development around transit stations and urban centers. Designated PDAs include areas around most stations along all existing or proposed rail lines in the region (BART, Caltrain, Capitol Corridor, VTA Light Rail, MUNI, Dumbarton Rail, SMART, and ACE Train). It is estimated that, with the existing planning in place, the PDAs could accommodate around 40 percent of the region's projected growth into 2035. These encouraging facts suggest that the region is well on its way to developing a coordinated strategy with new patterns of growth sensitive to local community needs.

While PDAs address the region's housing need in a way that promotes transportation choices, FOCUS regional partners (ABAG, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission [MTC], the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation Development Commission) recognize that new housing *alone* will not improve the quality of life for all residents. FOCUS staff has assembled the FOCUS Working Group, composed of nearly 50 local staff and stakeholder representatives, to identify for consideration the other critical local equity, environmental, and economic issues, and assist in the development of a financial and technical assistance package.

Financial and Technical Assistance

The financial and technical assistance package is an important benefit of the FOCUS Initiative and will consist of three pieces: planning grants, capital grants, and technical assistance. Regional agencies are currently working together to secure funding for the first round of planning grants for designated PDAs, slated for late 2007 or early 2008. Capital grants and future planning grants are also in the works, largely through the development of the 2009 MTC Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Regional staff is committed to linking the new RTP with FOCUS PDAs to create a coordinated transportation and land use plan for the region. Capital and planning grants will be distributed through competitive processes to help ensure that future development money goes only to projects of high quality that address both local and regional needs. The suite of technical assistance, available to local jurisdictions through regional agencies and nonprofit partners, will include such services as photosimulation, market analysis, technical workshops and trainings, policy analysis, and assistance with community engagement activities.

Priority Conservation Areas

The other half of the FOCUS Initiative is the identification of Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs), which will become the region's short-term conservation priorities. Priority Conservation Areas are considered areas of regional significance that have broad community support, an urgent need for protection, and contain important agricultural, natural resource, watershed, historical, scenic, cultural, recreational, or ecological functions. In August, jurisdictions and open space agencies submitted applications for over 100 PCAs that ranged from one-acre

pocket parks in San Francisco to 169,000 acres of redwood, pine and oak forests along the Sonoma County coast.

PCAs will be reviewed by staff and presented for comment throughout

September at a series of county-wide meetings hosted by the State Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Area Conservancy Program, and then presented to a review panel composed of open space experts, local jurisdictions, and stakeholder representatives in October. Final nominations will be recommended to ABAG's Executive Board in November 2007. Jurisdictions and organizations can use this PCA designation to forge new partnerships and leverage public and private resources. One source of land acquisition funds is Proposition 84, managed partly through the California Coastal Conservancy. PDAs and nominated PCAs will also be presented at the ABAG General Assembly/MTC Regional Transportation Summit on October 26, 2007.

Moving Forward

FOCUS outreach for the developing regional plan began in summer 2006 and has consisted of meetings with local jurisdictions and stakeholders, and a series of public stakeholder forums. FOCUS will continue outreach efforts with all interested parties in the coming months. All public comments are welcome during this process.

For updates on the FOCUS Initiative and workshop dates, visit www.bayareavision.org/focus, or contact FOCUS staff at (510) 464-7993.



Photo: Downtown Novato

ABAG Staff

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SEPTEMBER 2007

September 20

**Legislation & Governmental
Organization Committee** 3:30 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

**Finance & Personnel
Committee** 5:00 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

ABAG Executive Board 7:00 pm
MetroCenter, Auditorium

September 21

**ABAG / BAAQMD / MTC Joint
Policy Committee** 10:00 am
MetroCenter, Auditorium

September 28

**Regional Airport Planning
Committee** 9:30 am
MetroCenter, Auditorium

"A Greener Shade of Blue" 8th Biennial State of the Estuary Conference

October 16-18th at
Scottish Rite Center in Oakland

Important three-day environmental forum for scientists, resource managers, environmentalists, elected officials, stakeholders, and members of the public to assess the ecological health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. Registration fee: \$270 (due by September 28th). Special rates available for students and groups.

Visit conference website: <http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/soe/>

Sponsored by ABAG's San Francisco Estuary Project, CALFED Science Program, and dozens of federal, state and local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders

OCTOBER 2007

October 3

**Regional Planning
Committee (RPC)** 1:00 pm
MetroCenter, Auditorium

October 11

**Bay Trail Steering
Committee** 1:30 pm
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

October 16, 17, and 18

**8th Biennial State of the Estuary
Conference — "A Greener Shade
of Blue"** 8:00 am
Scottish Rite Center,
1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland

October 17

**ABAG POWER Annual
Board Meeting** 12 Noon
MetroCenter, ABAG Conference B

October 26

**ABAG General Assembly/MTC
Transportation Summit** 8:30 am
Oakland Marriott City Center

**Regional Airport Planning
Committee** 9:30 am
MetroCenter, Auditorium



Notable Numbers

ABAG Programs & Services

17,000

students have taken ABAG Training Center's online training courses to meet Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Department of Transportation certification requirements since 1999.

275

miles (50%) of the Bay Trail have been completed, making 130 parks and preserves totaling 57,000 acres of open space accessible.

88

local governments have adopted the ABAG Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan—part of regional efforts to create a more disaster-resistant Bay Area.

1,000

small to medium-sized Bay Area businesses and public agencies have received Green Business Program certification.

\$20 million

in dividends have been returned to ABAG Pooled Liability Assurance Network (PLAN) members since the insurance and risk management program was launched in 1986.

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