

Plan Bay Area 2050: Draft Amendment

August 2024

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Introduction

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) jointly adopted Plan Bay Area 2050 on October 21, 2021 (MTC Resolution No. 4485 and ABAG Resolution No. 09-2021). Plan Bay Area 2050 is the updated long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

Plan Bay Area 2050 is a 30-year plan designed to chart a course to make the Bay Area affordable, connected, diverse, healthy, and vibrant for all residents through 2050 and beyond. It includes thirty-five strategies across four key elements: housing, the economy, transportation, and the environment. These strategies provide a blueprint for future growth, enhance regional equity and resilience, and aim to achieve regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets set by the California Air Resources Board pursuant to Senate Bill 375. Plan Bay Area 2050 includes supplemental reports for more details. You can find these documents and the adopted final plan at <https://planbayarea.org/finalplan2050>.

MTC and ABAG propose an amendment to Plan Bay Area 2050, revising the transportation element to include the scope and cost of the Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) passenger rail extension to Healdsburg in Sonoma County.

Transportation Element

The transportation element of Plan Bay Area 2050 includes 12 strategies with a total investment of \$578 billion, charting the course for the region's roads, highways, bridges, transit, and active transportation infrastructure. The list of projects and programs included in these strategies is fiscally constrained and is documented in the Plan Bay Area 2050 Transportation Project List.

The Plan Bay Area 2050 Transportation Project List categorizes transportation projects into two types: exempt projects and regionally significant capacity-increasing projects. Regionally significant capacity-increasing projects must be included in the regional transportation-air quality conformity determination and be listed with their scopes and costs in the Plan Bay Area 2050 Transportation Project List to progress from concept to construction.

Amendment to Plan Bay Area 2050

An amendment is a major revision to the plan's transportation project list for major changes in project costs or scope, including adding or deleting a project, changing project locations or the number of through traffic lanes. As stipulated in MTC's Public Participation Plan (MTC Resolution No. 4590), an amendment requires public review and comment, demonstration that the project can be completed based on expected funding, and/or a finding that the change is consistent with federal transportation conformity mandates. Amendments that require an

update to the air quality conformity analysis will be subject to the conformity and interagency consultation procedures described in MTC Resolution No. 3757.

In spring 2024, the California Department of Transportation District 4 requested an amendment to Plan Bay Area 2050. The request was to add a new regionally significant project to the plan by extending SMART passenger rail service northward from the Town of Windsor in Sonoma County.

The increased costs for the SMART rail extension project to the City of Healdsburg will be offset by equivalent reductions in the costs and scope of other Sonoma County projects and programs in the plan's fiscally constrained transportation project list. No additional funds are being added to the transportation revenue forecast. As a result, the plan remains fiscally constrained as required by federal and state planning laws. Table 1 below details the revisions to the Plan Bay Area 2050 Transportation Project List.

The changes reflected in this amendment, as reflected in Table 1, have been incorporated into the latest planning assumptions for regionally significant capacity-increasing projects, as reflected in the regional emissions analysis for the Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis for the Amended Plan Bay Area 2050 and 2025 Transportation Improvement Program, released on August 12, 2024.

Table 1. Transportation Project List Revision Summary (in billions of YOES)

RTP ID	Title	Scope	Open Period	Funding* (millions)
<u>21-T11-202</u>	<u>Rail Service Expansion SMART to Healdsburg</u>	<u>This program includes funding to extend SMART rail service from Windsor to Healdsburg.</u>	<u>2021 – 2035</u>	<u>\$259</u>
21-T11-113	Rail Service Expansion SMART to Windsor	This program includes funding to extend SMART rail service from the Sonoma County Airport in Santa Rosa to Windsor.	2021 – 2035	\$142 <u>\$70</u>
21-T06-029	Corridor & Interchange Improvements US-101 Sonoma County	This program includes funding to implement interchange improvements at Arata Ln, Hearn Ave, Railroad Ave , and Rainier Ave and new HOV lanes through Petaluma ("Marin-Sonoma Narrows").	2021 – 2035	\$239 <u>\$183</u>
21-T07-056	Minor Roadway Improvements Regional	This program includes funding to implement minor roadway improvements. This program generally implements	Various	\$5,700 <u>\$5,569</u>

		<p>projects exempt from regional air quality conformity, but it does include non-exempt local roadway widenings or extensions. Improvements include local road extensions or new lanes, and intersection improvements such as channelization and signalization. Example projects include improvements to Oakland Army Base, Quarry Lakes Pkwy (East-West Connector), Decoto Rd, Dublin Blvd, El Charro Rd, and Auto Mall Pkwy (ALA); Newell Dr and Airport Junction (NAP); implementation of Envision Expressway program, Calaveras Blvd, and Mary Ave (SCL); Hunters Point Shipyard and Candlestick Point local roads, Alemany Rd, Treasure Island (SF); and Farmers Ln (SON).</p>		
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Note: Original entries are shown with a ~~strikeout~~, while revised entries are shown in italics and underlined.

No other changes or revisions are proposed with this amendment.

Comments & Responses to Comments

Following MTC’s Public Participation Plan, MTC and ABAG will release the Draft Amendment to Plan Bay Area 2050 for a 30-day public review and comment period, starting on August 12, 2024, and ending on September 11, 2024.

Approval of the Amendment

This amendment is scheduled for review and approval of the governing boards of the MTC and ABAG in October/November 2024.