

Policy Advisory Council

July 23, 2024

Agenda Item 6a

Transit 2050+: Draft Project Performance and Draft Network

Subject:

Update on the Transit 2050+ long-range plan, including draft findings from the assessment of major transportation projects and how analyses to date helped inform the development of a draft transit network for public review this summer.

Background:

In spring 2023, staff from MTC/ABAG and a Project Management Team (PMT), comprised of staff from seven large and four small transit operators, initiated development of Transit 2050+. Transit 2050+ applies a connected network planning approach to update the transit-related strategies in Plan Bay Area 2050's Transportation Element. Transit 2050+ will ultimately flow into Plan Bay Area 2050+, a limited and focused update to the regional vision for transportation, housing, economic development, and environmental resilience currently underway.

In summer 2023, staff sought feedback on the Transit 2050+ problem statement, goals, and outcomes and conducted an initial round of public and stakeholder outreach in conjunction with Plan Bay Area 2050+. In early 2024, staff presented key findings from the Transit 2050+ Existing Conditions, Needs, and Gaps Assessment. This early phase of the process identified projects that could address near-term intraregional transit service gaps (e.g., corridors where existing transit service may not be sufficient to serve travel demand for both the general and equity priority populations) and transit speed gaps (e.g., corridors where surface transit operating speeds are too slow and inefficient due to a lack of transit priority infrastructure). These service and capital projects, in addition to others included in Plan Bay Area 2050 or submitted from local plans adopted after Plan Bay Area 2050, were considered in development of the Draft Transit 2050+ Network.

In parallel with Transit 2050+, the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Draft Blueprint strategies (including all other elements of the plan *except* the transit strategies and investments) and growth geographies were approved by the Joint MTC Planning Committee with the ABAG Administrative Committee for further study in January 2024. After conducting technical and modeling analyses

in the spring, staff released the Draft Blueprint key performance and equity findings in June 2024. The Transit 2050+ Draft Network, consisting of transit strategies and service and capital investments, will be integrated into the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Final Blueprint at the end of 2024.

Draft Project Performance Assessment:

The Project Performance Assessment provides a key lens to understand the potential future benefits and limitations of major infrastructure and service projects in a fiscally-constrained planning context, focusing on investments with total lifecycle costs of greater than \$250 million. Similar to Plan Bay Area 2050, the Project Performance Assessment is used to understand three primary elements of project performance:

1. **Benefit-Cost:** the monetized benefits and costs of a given project across three possible 2050 Futures¹ with differing demographic, economic, and environmental assumptions.
2. **Equity:** the potential distributive impacts of project-level accessibility benefits across income groups for three possible 2050 Futures and whether projects directly serve Equity Priority Communities.
3. **Guiding Principles:** evaluation of alignment with Plan Bay Area's five Guiding Principles using specific project-focused criteria, flagging areas of potential concern.

Please refer to the presentation included in **Attachment A** for a summary of key findings from the Project Performance Assessment and to **Attachment B** for a tabular summary of the Draft Project Performance results. Staff has maintained the same methodology² as in Plan Bay Area 2050, but in consultation with the Transit 2050+ PMT, benefit valuations saw minor updates based on the most recent research and available guidance. Project sponsors also provided updated project cost and scope information, which was integrated into draft results.

¹ See <https://planbayarea.org/2050-plan/horizon> for details on how the three 2050 future scenarios were developed and their assumptions.

² The detailed Project Performance Assessment Methodology is included in Appendix 1 of the October 2021 Performance Report for Plan Bay Area 2050, available at https://planbayarea.org/sites/default/files/documents/Plan_Bay_Area_2050_Performance_Report_October_2021.pdf

Draft Transit Network:

The Draft Transit Network is organized into six transit strategies that include programmatic investments and specific transit service and infrastructure projects nested within each strategy. The draft transit strategies reflect input received to date from stakeholders and the public, as well as the desired outcomes from the [Transit Transformation Action Plan](https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021-09/Transit_Action_Plan_1.pdf)

(https://mtc.ca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021-09/Transit_Action_Plan_1.pdf). Short descriptions and preliminary costs for each of the strategies are included in the presentation in **Attachment A**, while **Attachment C** provides the full description of each transit strategy.

The Transit 2050+ Network will ultimately be included in the Plan Bay Area 2050+ fiscally-constrained Transportation Element. Even with the addition of significant new revenue sources over the 25-year planning horizon, there is approximately half as much revenue available for expansion projects when compared to Plan Bay Area 2050, reflecting the prioritization of operations and maintenance in Plan Bay Area 2050+. The presentation included in **Attachment A** provides further detail on anticipated transportation revenues and their initial allocation within the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Transportation Element.

To address both funding constraints and the goals and objectives of Transit 2050+, the PMT developed the following organizing principles to guide the selection of specific service and infrastructure projects to include in the Draft Transit 2050+ Network:

- Focus on “quick and impactful upgrades” during the first half of the planning period (2025 through 2035)
- Focus on “expansion for future generations” in the longer term (2036 through 2050)

Project selection was further informed by the Draft Project Performance Assessment; the Existing Conditions, Needs, and Gaps Assessment; local investment priorities; anticipated revenue for both operating and maintaining the existing system as well as enhancing and expanding it; and the potential to advance transit network connectivity and improve transit customer experience. The presentation included in **Attachment A** summarizes the benefits the Draft Transit 2050+ Network would provide to transit customers, which will be further quantified in the Network Performance Assessment phase in early 2025. **Attachment D** provides a summary of the factors considered in selecting projects to include in the Draft Transit 2050+

Network, the draft list of major projects, and the draft list of projects that are **not** included for full construction within the planning horizon but are eligible for ongoing project development. Additionally, funding is reserved for several programmatic categories for smaller and/or non-capacity increasing transit investments. These have not yet been fully developed but will be included as part of the Final Plan Bay Area 2050+ Blueprint.

Next Steps:

MTC/ABAG staff and the Project Management Team will use feedback received from partner agencies and project sponsors, the Regional Network Management Council, the MTC Policy Advisory Council, and the MTC Planning Committee, as well as input from Round 2 Plan Bay Area 2050+ public engagement activities commencing in late summer, to develop the final Transit 2050+ Network in fall 2024. As noted earlier, this network will flow directly into the development of the Plan Bay Area 2050+ Final Blueprint, which the Commission and the ABAG Executive Board are anticipated to consider for approval at the end of 2024.

Action:

Information and Feedback

Attachments:

- Attachment A: PowerPoint Presentation
- Attachment B: Draft Project Performance Assessment Summary Table
- Attachment C: Draft Transit 2050+ Network Strategies
- Attachment D: Summary of Draft Network and Fiscally-Unconstrained Projects (i.e., projects that do not fit within the fiscally-constrained Transportation Element and its composite strategies)