

Report on ABAG to MCCMC

January 28, 2016

MTC PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING AND RESEARCH STAFF FROM ABAG TO MTC: On October 28, 2015, the MTC Commission adopted Resolution 4210 which:

- 1) Fully funds ABAG until June 30, 2016;
- 2) Retention of a consultant to conduct a jointly-funding merger study and a merger implementation plan to be completed by June 1, 2016. The study shall examine the policy, management; financial and legal issues associated with further integration, up to and including institutional merger between MTC and ABAG, and shall set forth the specific plans, benchmarks and milestones for implementation. This plan shall be referred to as the proposed ABAG/MTC Merger Implementation Plan (MIP); and,
- 3) States that if the MIP is approved prior to July 1, 2016, the MTC proposal for functional consolidation of planning departments shall be preempted and voided.

On November 13, 2015, the joint MTC Planning/ABAG Administrative Committees discussed the Request for Qualifications (SOQ) which was released on November 5, 2015 and closed on November 20. Two SOQs were submitted and after a December 4, 2015 interview by a panel of 4 (2 elected officials and 2 Deputies) recommended the selection of the Management Partners. On December 11, 2015, the ABAG Administrative Committee (on behalf of the ABAG Executive Board) and on December 16, 2015 the MTC Commission approved the recommendation. While the contract is being negotiated, Management Partners has begun their interviews with the elected officials and gathering information on past studies/efforts and other Regional agencies in California and the US.

On December 4th, the ABAG Administrative/MTC Planning Committees discussed the draft scope of work prepared for assessing qualifications to select a consultant. On January 8, 2016, the Committees met and provided feedback on the preliminary study work plan (see attached). On January 22, 2016, the Committees will meet from 9 to 12:00 to further discuss the study work plan. As of the writing of this report, the agenda for that meeting has not been posted. Another important step will be getting input from elected officials, stakeholders and the public. The actual scope of work will be finalized by the joint MTC Planning/ABAG Administrative Committees in the coming months.

Plan Bay Area 2040:

- a. Scenarios. The schedule leading to completion of the Plan Bay Area 2017 has changed to allow for additional detail and analysis into the 3 transportation and land use scenarios and to allow sufficient time for policy makers, stakeholders and the public to provide input into the scenarios. Following is the revised schedule:

Release Defined Land Use and Transportation Scenarios – May 2016

Release Scenario/Targets Evaluation – May 2016

Public Workshops/Open Houses – May/June 2016

Adoption of Preferred Scenario – September 2016

For a brief overview of the three Scenarios' that are framing the alternatives that will be released in May 2016, please refer to the November 2015 MCCMC ABAG written report.

As previously mentioned, ABAG and I recommended that city/town Councils have staff present these scenarios to get Council and public input. Since the more detailed information and analysis has been delayed, you might want to consider this revised schedule (see above) in establishing a date.

- b. Public Outreach. The Marin ABAG delegates are interested in conducting a public workshop preceded with an open house on the scenarios, regional forecasts and other aspects of PBA 2017 before decisions are made by ABAG and MTC in September. This would be similar to the May 2015 public workshop/open house conducted in Novato.

I, along with Damon Connolly, reached out and on December 17th, met with Supervisor Kinsey, Council Member Stephanie Moulton-Peters who is Chair of TAM and Dianne Steinhauser, TAM Executive Director to discuss joint efforts for public outreach in Marin and coordination on Plan Bay Area 2017. After some discussion, Supervisor Kinsey agreed to meet with MTC staff and ascertain whether MTC would participate in an open house/public workshop on a Saturday in April/May in Marin County.

On January 15th, Supervisor Kinsey told me that MTC staff was receptive to adding a public comment component to the open house. I reiterated that we requested MTC present the transportation components of the scenarios for PBA 2017 in a public workshop along with a brief analysis of the how the scenarios achieve the performance targets. Since there appeared to be a difference of opinion on what was being expected, I suggested that I send him a draft agenda for the public workshop/open house which he would use to meet with MTC staff again about our request. After the Marin ABAG delegates/alternates review the draft agenda, I will send it along to Supervisory Kinsey and ask for another meeting.

Roadmap for Economic Resilience: Two years ago, the Bay Area Council expressed concern about lack of input from the business community on Plan Bay Area 2013. To address this concern, MTC partially funded (\$275,000) with the Bay Area Council Economic Institute and the Bay Area Council a report entitled “A Roadmap for Economic Resilience” which was finalized in November 2015. This report offers a regional economic vision by the business community for strengthening the Bay Area’s competitiveness, broadening prosperity, and building resilience against economic swings. It outlines a series of proposed solutions for addressing the region’s housing and traffic crises, streamlining regional governance, promoting the region economically, and closing the workforce gap between universities and employers. Even though ABAG did not provide any funding for the report, the ABAG Executive Director, Ezra Rapaport served on the oversight board; as did the MTC Executive Director, Steve Heminger.

ABAG staff indicated that some aspects of this report may be incorporated into Plan Bay Area 2017. Since, **I have serious concerns about the recommendations that will adversely affect local control**; I will be monitoring which aspects of the report that are incorporated into the Plan Bay Area 2017 and keep everyone informed.

I highly recommend you read this report which can be accessed electronically by: <http://www.bayeconfor.org/>. If you would like me to send you an electronic copy, let me know.

ABAG Bylaws: On January 21, 2016, the Executive Board will consider a proposal to request the General Assembly vote on changing the Bylaws to lower the threshold for a quorum of the City Delegates to 40%. This change is being proposed to address concerns regarding ABAG’s ability to convene a quorum of the City Delegates to conduct the annual business meeting of the General Assembly. Following is example: At the General Assembly, there are 101 City Delegates. To convene the City Delegates, 40%, or 41 City Delegates must be present. To adopt the summary work plan and general budget a majority of the normal quorum or 26 City Delegates/ must cast affirmative votes. If the Executive Board approves this item, it will need an affirmative vote at the 2016 General Assembly.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- ABAG Executive Board meeting: January 21, 2015
- ABAG Administrative Committee meetings: January 22, February 12 and 26, 2016
- ABAG Legislative Workshop in Sacramento: February 10, 2016
- Marin ABAG delegates: February 29, 2016

Please direct questions to Pat Eklund, Mayor, City of Novato (phone: 415-883-9116; email: peklund@novato.org or pateklund@comcast.net)

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
Merger Study and Merger Implementation Plan
Preliminary Work Plan Overview
January 4, 2016



	2016 Q1			2016 Q2		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Task 1 Work Plan and Schedule	<p>Activity List:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Conduct interviews 2 Facilitate Joint Committee workshop 3 Develop stakeholder/community engagement plan 4 Complete work plan and schedule <p>Deliverable:</p> <p>Summary of comments and themes from interviews Engagement objective, options evaluation criteria, and ground rules (results of workshop) Stakeholder/community engagement plan Work plan and schedule</p>					
Task 2 Regional Transportation and Planning Organization Model/Options	<p>Activity List:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Implement stakeholder/community engagement plan 2 Document/research past merger efforts 3 Analyze existing transportation and regional planning models (California and nationally) 4 Document statutory mandates, governance structures, agency missions and other organization programs 5 Obtain financial and human resources information for the two agencies 6 Document stakeholder/community engagement input 7 Develop alternative models for analysis <p>Deliverables:</p> <p>Summary of stakeholder/community engagement comments, themes, suggestions Existing transportation and regional planning models Alternative models/options for analysis</p>					
Task 3 Alternative Options Analysis				<p>Activity List:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Conduct analysis with respect to: Project objective, evaluation criteria, mission, governance, organizational structure implications, human resources/employee relations issues, cost 2 Develop alternative models/options from functional integration to full merger 3 Develop five-year ABAG financial forecast under alternative options <p>Deliverable:</p> <p>Alternative options analysis</p>		
Task 4 Merger Implementation Plan				<p>Activity List:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Develop task and timing schedule to implement alternatives <p>Deliverable:</p> <p>Merger Implementation Plan for options selected</p>		

Joint Committee Communications Plan

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Joint Committee Meetings	January 22, 2016	February 26, 2016	March 25, 2016	April 22, 2016	May 27, 2016	June 26, 2016