

Report on ABAG to MCCMC

February 25, 2015

PLAN BAY AREA UPDATE 2017 -- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: On February 13, 2015, the MTC Planning and ABAG Administrative Committees jointly met to discuss the revised draft of MTC's public participation plan. This revision included additional input from ABAG staff and is now being considered a joint framework for public participation between MTC and ABAG. The next step is to develop a public participation implementation strategy which will be discussed at the next MTC Planning and ABAG Administrative Committees in April 2015. Attached is Attachment B which highlights the roles and responsibilities for the 2017 Plan Bay Area between ABAG and MTC.

PDA'S FOR THE 2017 UPDATE PLAN BAY AREA: On February 13, 2015, the MTC Planning and ABAG Administrative Committees met to discuss whether the ½ mile criteria for PDA's should be changed to 1 mile. In the staff report, it indicated that the rationale for setting a ½ mile boundary was to ensure that PDA residents and employees of PDA businesses have convenient access to reliable transit service and to improve the use and cost-effectiveness of public transit. This approach is consistent with MTC's Resolution 3434 transit oriented development policy which is designed to ensure that local jurisdictions plan for transit-supportive land uses and densities around the region's transit investments. Locating a jurisdiction's high and medium density development closest to transit makes sense economically (larger employers seek locations within walking distance of transit and density supports small local businesses); environmentally (increased transit use reduces the need to drive and greenhouse gas emissions); and in terms of public health (people that live or work close to transit are more likely to walk or bike to and from the transit station or stop). A large body of peer-reviewed research including the Transportation Research Board's Report 95 on Transit Oriented Development, has found that residents or employees of an area are less likely to use transit service beyond approximately ¼ mile of a station or stop. By electing to allow PDAs to extend ½ mile from transit (as opposed to ¼ mile), the ABAG Executive Board provided flexibility to jurisdictions and transit agencies to maximize the development potential around the station, consistent with adopted regional policy. While a limited number of transit users will access transit without a car beyond the ½ mile, the radius helps identify the highest priority land around key transit investments. After extensive discussion, The MTC Planning and ABAG Administrative Committees supported MTC and ABAG staff recommendation that the PDA criteria retain the ½ mile criterion. This item will be brought back to the ABAG Executive Board for consideration in March 2015.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

State of the Region Symposium -- Friday, March 6, 2015 8:30am to 12:00pm
MetroCenter Auditorium, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) State of the Region Symposium will address 1) employment growth—a diverse set of industries replace lost jobs and create new enterprises; 2) shifting population base—our residents are aging, but younger workers move in for growing economic opportunities; 3) Housing prices rebound—rents shift upward and construction begins to respond; and, 4) Challenges with the reemergence of affordability—uneven gains and some losses.

The event will provide a concise summary of the ABAG Planning and Research Department's analysis of recent trends and current conditions of the economy, population base, and housing. Panelists, representing diverse experiences and viewpoints, will address questions such as how to use scarce housing dollars to improve affordability and revitalize neighborhoods, or where the new jobs will locate and how to maintain regional competitiveness while broadening opportunities. There will be opportunities for Q&A toward the end of each session.

To register: <https://store.abag.ca.gov/authorizenet/sotr.html>. <http://reports.abag.ca.gov/sotr/2015/>

ABAG Spring General Assembly and Business Meeting -- Thursday, April 23, 2015 2:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Oakland
Asian Cultural Center 388 Ninth Street, Ste. 290.

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