

Project Selection and Prioritization

Project selection and prioritization for the 2027 TIP is guided by Plan Bay Area 2050+ (PBA 2050+), the region's long-range transportation and land use plan. PBA 2050+ establishes the transportation vision – a Bay Area that is more affordable, connected, diverse, healthy, and vibrant – and identifies regionally significant transportation investments and strategies to make progress towards that vision.

MTC implements these strategies through a combination of regional policies and funding programs. Regional policies establish priorities and expectations for transportation investments, while funding programs apply project selection criteria that help direct available resources toward projects that advance regional goals.

Together, these policies and funding programs shape how projects are selected and ultimately incorporated into the TIP.

Regional Policies

MTC has adopted multiple regional policies (Table 1) that guide transportation planning, project development, system operations, and investment decisions throughout the Bay Area. Collectively, these policies help ensure transportation investments support the goals and strategies identified in PBA 2050+.

While individual policies address specific transportation issues, they generally fall into four categories:

- **Project Selection & Advancement** – policies governing project review, funding eligibility, delivery, coordination, and advancement through the regional planning and programming process.
- **Multimodal Network Development** – policies supporting the expansion, modernization, operation, and integration of the Bay Area's transportation network.
- **Community Outcomes** – policies advancing safety, accessibility, economic vitality, transit-oriented development, and other community-focused outcomes.
- **Regional Performance & Accountability** – policies focused on improving system coordination, performance, financial sustainability, and accountability.

Project Selection & Advancement

MTC has adopted several policies that guide how transportation projects are evaluated, coordinated, and delivered. These policies help ensure that transportation investments are consistent with regional priorities, coordinated across jurisdictions, and implemented in a timely manner. Examples include the Regional Project Delivery Policy, which establishes delivery and accountability requirements for federally funded projects, and the Major Project Advancement Policy (MAP), which establishes the framework for prioritizing and advancing the region's largest transportation investments.

Multimodal Network Development

Many of MTC's regional policies support the development, modernization, and effectiveness of the Bay Area's transportation network. These policies address transit expansion, rail modernization, system operations, corridor management, and major capital investments. Examples include the Regional Transit Expansion Program, the BART Car Replacement Program, and policies supporting regional transportation systems management and technology integration.

Community Outcomes

Several regional policies are intended to advance broader community outcomes through transportation investments. These policies promote reliable and affordable access to transportation, improve safety for all roadway users, support transit-oriented development, strengthen economic competitiveness, improve mobility for communities with demonstrated need, and encourage environmentally sustainable transportation solutions. Examples include the Transit-Oriented Communities Policy, Goods Movement Investment Strategy, and Complete Streets Policy.

Regional Performance & Accountability

MTC also has policies focused on improving transportation system performance and ensuring accountability for regional investments. These policies emphasize transit coordination, customer experience, financial sustainability, service efficiency, performance monitoring, and operator accountability. Examples include the Senate Bill (SB) 125 Transit Operations Funding Framework, which ties regional operating assistance to accountability measures and performance outcomes. They help ensure that transportation investments deliver measurable benefits and support a connected, reliable, and well-coordinated regional transportation system.

Table 1. Regional policies that guide MTC project selection and programming. Resolutions can be referenced digitally by searching in the [MTC digital library](https://mtc.ca.gov/digital-library) (mtc.ca.gov/digital-library)

Name	MTC Res. No.	Summary	PBA 2050+ Nexus
Project Selection & Advancement			
Project Review Criteria and Procedures	3115	Establishes MTC procedures for reviewing transportation projects and grant applications for consistency with the RTP and regional priorities.	Provides the regional conformity and project-screening framework that ensures investments are consistent with the adopted regional plan, now PBA 2050+.
Regional Project Delivery Policy	3606	Establishes project delivery requirements, deadlines, and accountability measures for federally funded transportation projects.	Supports PBA 2050+ by improving the timely delivery and efficient use of regional transportation investments.
Interregional Project Funding and Coordination	4399	Establishes requirements for funding, coordination, and policy consistency for projects crossing regional boundaries.	Supports PBA 2050+ by ensuring interregional projects align with regional plans, policies, and transportation priorities.

Name	MTC Res. No.	Summary	PBA 2050+ Nexus
Major Project Advancement Policy (MAP)	4537	Establishes regional principles, project eligibility, funding endorsement process, and stage-gate requirements for major transportation projects.	Functions as a key implementation mechanism for prioritizing major PBA 2050+ transportation investments.
Multimodal Network Development			
Regional Transit Expansion Program	3434	Establishes the Bay Area's major transit expansion program and includes the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) policy linking transit investments to supportive land use. Much of the TOD approach of this resolution has been expanded through Resolution 4530.	Direct precursor to PBA 2050+ transit-oriented growth strategies and the later TOC policy.
Peninsula Corridor High-Speed Rail Early Investment Strategy	4056	Establishes the funding framework and MOU for the blended Caltrain/California High-Speed Rail approach in the Peninsula Corridor.	Advances PBA 2050+ strategies supporting rail modernization and intercity/regional connectivity.
Traffic Operations System (TOS) Element Policy	4104	Establishes regional policies and standards for transportation operations systems, technology integration, and corridor management.	Advances PBA 2050+ goals for system efficiency, multimodal operations, reliability, and coordinated network management.
BART Rail Car Replacement Program	4126	Establishes funding commitments and program framework for replacing BART's legacy rail fleet.	Supports PBA 2050+ state-of-good-repair and transit reliability objectives.
Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project Updated Funding Plan	4241	Updates the funding plan and regional funding commitments for the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project.	Supports PBA 2050+ goals for rail modernization, transit capacity, regional connectivity, and GHG reduction through electrified rail service.
Community Outcomes Policies			
Transit-Oriented Communities Policy	4530	Establishes regional standards for density, affordable housing, parking management, and station access around major transit facilities.	One of the clearest implementation tools for PBA 2050+ land use, housing, accessibility, and sustainable growth strategies.
Equity Platform	4559	Adopts MTC's Equity Platform and defines equity principles for investment and policy decisions.	Supports PBA 2050+ objectives related to access, mobility, and transportation investments in communities with transportation needs.
2024 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan	4680	Updates the regional coordinated plan for seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income populations.	Advances PBA 2050+ goals around accessibility and mobility for seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income populations.

Name	MTC Res. No.	Summary	PBA 2050+ Nexus
Goods Movement Investment Strategy	4244	Establishes a regional freight investment strategy to improve goods movement, economic competitiveness, and environmental performance.	Advances PBA 2050+ economic, mobility, and environmental performance goals through freight efficiency, emissions reduction, and supply-chain resilience.
MTC's Regional Safety/Vision Zero Policy	4400	Establishes MTC's Regional Safety and Vision Zero Policy to support the elimination of traffic fatalities and serious injuries through data-driven safety improvements.	Advances PBA 2050+ safety, accessibility, and active transportation goals by prioritizing safer travel for all users and aligning investments with Vision Zero principles.
Complete Streets Policy	4493	Requires accommodation of walking, bicycling, rolling, and transit users in funded projects.	Directly advances PBA 2050+ goals around mode shift, safety, accessibility, reduced VMT, and active transportation.
Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways	4739	Establishes requirements for considering transit priority in roadway projects to improve transit travel times, reliability, and interagency coordination.	Advances PBA 2050+ goals for transit performance, mode shift, and a more connected, efficient regional transit network.
Regional Performance & Accountability			
Transit Coordination Implementation Plan	3866	Requires regional coordination of fares, schedules, transfers, information systems, Clipper, and other transit integration measures.	Supports PBA 2050+ goals for seamless regional mobility and transit modernization.
Transit Sustainability Project	4060	Adopts transit performance, financial sustainability, service efficiency, and institutional reform recommendations.	Forms the policy foundation for improving transit effectiveness and upgrading transit performance metrics reflected in PBA 2050+.
Senate Bill 125 Transit Operations Funding Framework	4619	Establishes principles, funding distribution methods, and accountability measures for regional transit operating assistance.	Supports PBA 2050+ goals for transit reliability, network performance, and long-term transit viability.

Regional Discretionary Fund Programs

MTC advances the goals of PBA 2050+ by incorporating regional priorities into the programming policies and criteria used to select projects for regionally discretionary fund programs.

The specific selection process varies by funding source. Table 2 summarizes major regional funding programs and resolutions that establish their project selection frameworks. Key examples include:

- One Bay Area Grant (OBAG):** The OBAG program is MTC's primary framework for programming federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program funds. Projects are selected using performance-based criteria that support implementation of PBA 2050+.

- **Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP):** County Transportation Agencies (CTAs) develop RTIP investment proposals that MTC evaluates for consistency with statewide requirements and PBA 2050+ before submitting the program for inclusion into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
- **Active Transportation Program (ATP):** Active transportation projects are selected through a state and regional competitive process that emphasizes safety, connectivity, access, and project readiness.
- **Transit Capital Priorities (TCP):** TCP policies guide the programming of FTA formula funds for transit state of good repair, fleet replacement, modernization, and system improvements.
- **Other State and Regional Programs:** MTC also selects projects using state and regional funds, such as Cap and Trade / Cap and Invest and bridge toll revenue programs. Projects selected for these fund sources must support projects in PBA 2050+. For some of the bridge toll revenue, project selection is outlined in state statute.

Table 2. Summary of discretionary fund programs to program federal funds and some state and regional funds. Resolutions can be referenced digitally by searching in the [MTC digital library](https://mtc.ca.gov/digital-library) (mtc.ca.gov/digital-library)

Name	MTC Res. No.	Fund Source	Summary	PBA 2050+ Nexus
FHWA Funds				
Project Selection Policies and Project Programming for the Second Round of the One Bay Area Grant Program (OBAG 2)	4202	STP, CMAQ, FHIP	Establishes the second generation of the One Bay Area Grant program, linking federal transportation funding with housing, land use, climate, and transportation objectives through regional and county programs.	Advances the integrated transportation and land use framework that laid the foundation for many of the growth, climate, and housing strategies later incorporated into PBA 2050+.
OBAG 3 Project Selection Policies and Project Programming	4505	STP, CMAQ	Updates the OBAG framework to further emphasize access, safety, housing production, emissions reduction, and implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050.	Serves as one of MTC's primary implementation tools for PBA 2050+, directing investments toward the plan's transportation, environmental and housing objectives.
OBAG 4 Project Selection Policies and Project Programming	4740	STP, CMAQ	Further evolves the OBAG program with stronger connections to Transit-Oriented Communities, sustainable transportation, housing, and multimodal transportation investments.	Directly implements major PBA 2050+ strategies related to transit-oriented growth, emissions reduction, and community development.

Name	MTC Res. No.	Fund Source	Summary	PBA 2050+ Nexus
Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Project Selection and Programming Policies	4540	CRP	Establishes policies and programs projects using federal carbon reduction funds to reduce transportation-related emissions.	Supports PBA 2050+ electrification, mode shift, and transportation demand management strategies.
2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Program Policies, Procedures, Project Selection Criteria, and Program of Projects	4603	NHPP, STP	Establishes project selection policies and programs regional priorities for inclusion in the 2024 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).	Prioritizes transportation investments identified in and consistent with PBA 2050+.
2026 RTIP Program Policies, Procedures, Project Selection Criteria, and Program of Projects	4728	NHPP, STP	Updates regional project selection policies and programs transportation investments for the 2026 STIP cycle.	Continues implementation of PBA 2050+ through state-funded transportation investments and performance-based project selection.
Regional Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycles 5-8 Guidelines and Program of Projects	4403, 4487, 4633, 4744	STP (TAP), Recreational Trails, Other	Programs active transportation projects across successive ATP cycles, including bicycle, pedestrian, trail, and Safe Routes investments, with increasing emphasis on access, connectivity and implementation readiness.	Advances PBA 2050+ goals for mode shift, safety, accessibility, active transportation connectivity, and emissions reductions.
SB 125 Transit Operations Funding Framework	4619, 4678	Various	Establishes principles, distribution formulas, and accountability measures for transit rescue and operating support funding.	Supports PBA 2050+ goals for transit reliability, service preservation, ridership recovery, and long-term network transformation.
FTA Funds				
Transit Capital Priorities (TCP) Process, Criteria, and Programs of Projects	4444, 4510, 4674	FTA Sections 5307, 5337, 5339; FHWA STP and CMAQ	Establishes regional policies and funding priorities for federal transit formula funds, emphasizing state of good repair, fleet replacement, zero-emission transition, system modernization, accessibility, safety, and strategic capacity investments.	Directly advances PBA 2050+ strategies to maintain and optimize the existing transportation system while supporting development of a more reliable, modern, resilient, and customer-focused transit network.

Name	MTC Res. No.	Fund Source	Summary	PBA 2050+ Nexus
FTA Section 5311 Nonurbanized Area Formula Program Policies and Programs of Projects	4036, 4511, 4649	FTA Section 5311	Establishes funding policies and programs formula funds for transit services and capital investments serving rural and nonurbanized portions of the Bay Area.	Supports PBA 2050+ goals to maintain essential mobility, preserve transit service, and improve transportation access for historically underserved and geographically isolated communities.
Emergency Transit Operations Assistance Programs	4420, 4453, 4481	FTA Sections 5307 and 5311 (CARES Act, CRRSAA, ARP)	Programs federal pandemic relief funds to sustain transit operations, prevent service reductions, preserve workforce capacity, and support transit agency financial stability during and after the COVID-19 emergency.	Supports PBA 2050+ by preserving the transit network, maintaining mobility options, and protecting access to essential services during a period of unprecedented disruption.
Lifeline Transportation Program Cycle 6 Guidelines and Program of Projects	4416, 4446	FTA Section 5307	Establishes program guidelines and funds targeted mobility improvements that address transportation barriers faced by low-income residents and communities.	Directly advances PBA 2050+ objectives by improving access to jobs, services, education, and transit for Equity Priority Communities.
Transit Core Capacity Challenge Grant Program	4123	FTA New Starts, FTA formula, STP, Cap and Trade, BATA savings, AB664 Bridge Toll funds	Provides competitive funding for major transit capacity, expansion, modernization, and system performance projects in the region's highest-demand transit corridors.	Advances PBA 2050+ strategies to build a next-generation transit network and improve transit capacity, reliability, and regional connectivity.
Blue Ribbon Transit Transformation Action Plan Funding Framework and Program of Projects	4519	ARP (FTA Sections 5307 and 5311)	Provides transit funding linked to implementation of regionally coordinated transit transformation initiatives and near-term financial stabilization efforts.	Supports PBA 2050+'s vision for a more integrated, customer-focused, and financially sustainable regional transit network.
State and Regional Funds				
Cap and Trade Funding Framework and Process Development Guidelines	4130	State	Establishes the regional framework for distributing Cap-and-Trade revenues to projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, support transit, promote sustainable communities, and advance regional planning goals.	Directly supports PBA 2050+ housing and transportation objectives, particularly emissions reduction and sustainable growth strategies.

Name	MTC Res. No.	Fund Source	Summary	PBA 2050+ Nexus
Regional Early Action Planning (REAP 2)	4650	State	Programs state funds to support housing, transportation, environmental, and land use initiatives that advance regional planning priorities.	Supports implementation of PBA 2050+ strategies related to housing, transit-oriented communities, emissions reductions, and sustainable growth.
Policy and Procedures for the Regional Traffic Relief Plan of Regional Measure 2 (RM2)	3636	Regional	Establishes policies for programming and allocating RM2 bridge toll revenues to eligible transit, corridor, and congestion-relief projects identified in state law.	Supports implementation of transportation investments that improve mobility, transit performance, and regional connectivity consistent with PBA 2050+.
RM2 Safe Routes to Transit Grant Program	3735	Regional	Funds bicycle, pedestrian, and first/last-mile access improvements that enhance safe access to transit facilities.	Advances PBA 2050+ goals related to active transportation, safety, mode shift, greenhouse-gas reduction, and transit access.
AB 664 Net Bridge Toll Revenues and Related Transit Funding Programs	4015	Regional	Establishes policies for use of bridge toll revenues and related regional transit funding sources to support transit capital, operations, matching funds, and other regional transportation priorities.	Supports PBA 2050+ strategies to maintain and optimize the transportation system and sustain critical transit investments.
BATA Project Savings Program of Projects and Allocation of Funds	4169	Regional	Directs uncommitted regional transportation funds toward high-priority transit capital investments and regional transportation initiatives.	Supports implementation of PBA 2050+ transportation investments, particularly transit modernization and system preservation projects.
Policies and Procedures for Implementation of the Expenditure Plan of Regional Measure 3 (RM3)	4404	Regional	Establishes the framework for administering RM3 bridge toll revenues and delivering voter-approved transit, highway, ferry, rail, and active transportation improvements.	Provides a major regional funding mechanism supporting many transportation investments identified in and consistent with PBA 2050+.
AB 664 Net Bridge Toll Revenues Program of Projects for FY 2021-22 thru FY 2023-24	4513	Regional	Allocates bridge toll revenues to public transit operators and eligible transportation projects throughout the region.	Supports PBA 2050+ by helping sustain transit service, system maintenance, and regional mobility investments.

Name	MTC Res. No.	Fund Source	Summary	PBA 2050+ Nexus
RM3 Operating Program	4579, 4625, 4644, 4706	Regional	Establishes and programs RM3 operating funds for regional transit services, including ferry, express bus, and Transbay Transit Center operations, using voter-approved bridge toll revenues.	Supports PBA 2050+ strategies to maintain and enhance regional transit service, improve connectivity, and sustain the multimodal transit network needed for future growth.
RM3 Safe Routes to Transit and Bay Trail Program Guidelines and Program of Projects	4639	Regional	Establishes a competitive grant program funding bicycle, pedestrian, and Bay Trail improvements that improve access to transit, close active transportation gaps, and strengthen connections around major bridge corridors.	Directly advances PBA 2050+ goals for active transportation, safety, transit access, emissions reduction, and creation of a more connected regional trail network.

Other State and Local Funds

For transportation programs administered by Caltrans and other State agencies, MTC serves primarily in an advisory and coordination role. MTC provides feedback on proposed program guidelines, participates as an MPO representative on statewide advisory committees, and coordinates with Caltrans during the development of programs such as the State Highway Operation Protection Program (SHOPP). MTC plays a limited role on the Caltrans-managed FTA 5310 and 5311 programs.

For locally funded projects of regional significance, project prioritization begins during development of Plan Bay Area 2050+. As part of the plan update process, MTC evaluates candidate projects using quantitative and qualitative performance assessments. These assessments evaluate impacts of projects and provide a data-driven approach to prioritize projects during the development of the PBA 2050+ investment strategy, informing regional investment strategies and provide a framework for future project prioritization and programming decisions.