MTC's 2026 Public Participation Plan Update

Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee

Friday, June 12, 2026

ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

What Is the Public Participation Plan?

Purpose of the PPP

The PPP serves as a manual for Bay Area residents on how to engage with MTC's decision-making effectively.

Legal and Regulatory Basis

The plan fulfills federal and state requirements for public involvement in major regional planning and funding efforts.

Public Input Process

It details where to find information, participation opportunities and how public comments are documented and reported back.

Engagement Goals

It outlines why and how engagement is done through the Guiding Principles for Engagement and Engagement Framework.

Access and Transparency

The PPP aims to simplify and clarify participation, making regional decision-making transparent and accessible to all residents.

Engagement Requirements

- Federal law (23 CFR 450.316) requires MTC to engage in a planning process that creates opportunities for public involvement, participation and consultation throughout the development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program.
- State law (SB 375) also requires MTC to develop an engagement plan for developing the RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategy — the region's long-range plan, known as Plan Bay Area.
- MTC's Public Participation Plan is an MTC-required document adopted by the Commission; while it does not impose legal participation requirements on ABAG, the integrated MTC–ABAG staff uses the PPP to guide public engagement for joint work, including Plan Bay Area.

2026 PPP Update Approach

Minor Plan and Appendix A Revisions

Appendix B Revisions

New Appendix C

Research

- MPO meetings
- Identify current best practices & innovative approaches
- PPP peer review

Development

- Minor revisions to PPP and Appendix A
- Revisions to Appendix B
- New PPP for Plan Bay Area 2060 (Appendix C)

Engagement

- Comment period
- Commissioner interviews
- Council member interviews
- Survey
- CBO engagement
- Digital promo

Revision

- Comment analysis
- Revise PPP, as needed

Adoption

- September 2026 Commission adoption

What's New

- **PPP**
  - Incorporated MTC's Mission, Vision and Values
  - New participation procedures for engaging Federal Land Management Agencies (Appendix B)
- **Plan Bay Area 2060 PPP**
  - Continuous engagement between major plan milestones and phases
  - Ongoing collaboration with CBO partners to co-develop engagement approaches and build partnerships
  - Expanded focus on education, public information, storytelling and digital engagement

Building from Lessons Learned

- Reducing **engagement fatigue** is critical and can be achieved through coordination and collaboration
- **Education and raising awareness** is essential to meaningful engagement
- Meaningful participation requires **clear, accessible and relatable information**
- **Storytelling** can make regional planning more understandable and relevant
- Public engagement must include **multiple ways** for people to engage and provide input
- Strong partnerships require **ongoing collaboration** to build trust
- Demonstrate how public input was used, or why it was not used, to increase **transparency**

Guiding Principles for Engagement

Purposeful Engagement

Engagement must have a clear purpose so participants understand their role and impact.

Two-Way Communication

Effective engagement involves listening and sharing information to build relationships.

Tailored Strategies

Engagement approaches are customized for each project, audience, and decision point.

Transparency and Accountability

Open communication and reporting back builds trust and shows how input influenced decisions.

Engagement Framework

Early and Ongoing Engagement

Engage early and often to allow public input to shape decisions rather than react to them.

Access and Inclusion

Reduce barriers related to language, disability, technology, time, and trust to enable access for all.

Co-Creation and Clear Communication

Prioritize co-creation and plain language to ensure collaboration and understanding among participants.

Feedback and Impact Assessment

Respond, report back, and assess impact to demonstrate accountability and improve engagement practices.

Key Milestones

Date	Milestone
June 5	Present draft PPP at the June MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council meeting
June 8	Release draft PPP and open 45-day comment period
June 12	Present draft PPP at the June Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee meeting
June 8–July 17	Conduct engagement on draft PPP
July 20	Close comment period
September 4	Present public input summary and final PPP at the September MTC ABAG Community Advisory Council meeting
September 11	Present final PPP the September Joint MTC ABAG Legislation Committee meeting and recommend forwarding to the Commission for approval
September 23	Commission meets and considers approval

Questions?

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