



**METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION**

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-4700  
TEL 510.817.5700  
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769  
FAX 510.817.5848  
E-MAIL [info@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:info@mtc.ca.gov)  
WEB [www.mtc.ca.gov](http://www.mtc.ca.gov)

## *Memorandum*

TO: Partnership Board

DATE: February 16, 2011

FR: Ashley Nguyen

W. I.

RE: **Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities: Overview**

MTC and ABAG, working in partnership with local jurisdictions, transportation agencies, and a broad range of community groups and stakeholders, are developing the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities (RTP/SCS) as required by federal metropolitan transportation planning regulations and Senate Bill 375 (SB 375). The RTP/SCS is intended to accomplish two principal objectives:

1. Identify areas within the nine-county Bay Area sufficient to accommodate all of the region's population, including all income groups for the next 25 years; and
2. Forecast a land-use pattern, which when integrated with the transportation system, reduces greenhouse-gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks.

The RTP/SCS planning effort consists of four phases, as outlined below. Several activities are occurring in parallel which explain the overlap in dates between phases. Phase One is nearing completion, and key accomplishments completed under Phase One are noted below. Under Phase Two, MTC staff is rolling out key transportation elements that will inform the upcoming development of detailed land use-transportation scenarios. At your Partnership Board meeting, MTC staff will present and seek comments on the following transportation elements; (a) 25-year financial forecast assumptions, (b) draft committed funds and projects policy, and (c) draft project performance assessment methodology. All three items have previously been reviewed by the Partnership Technical Advisory Committee, SCS Regional Advisory Working Group, and MTC Policy Advisory Council.

- **Phase One: Performance Targets and Initial Vision Scenario** *March 2010 – March 2011*
  - **Greenhouse Gas Targets:** In September 2010, the California Air Resources Board established the Bay Area's targets of 7 percent per capita below 2005 levels by 2020 and 15 percent per capita below 2005 by 2035.
  - **Housing Target:** ABAG identified a formula for calculating the 25-year regional housing need. This is a specific calculation of the number of units needed to meet the target to house all the population of the region.
  - **Performance Targets:** In January 2011, MTC and ABAG approved a set of transportation and land-use performance targets that further define outcomes to be achieved through the RTP/SCS and will be used in the analysis of scenarios, projects and the plan itself.
  - **Initial Scenarios:** In January 2011, ABAG prepared an update to Projections 2009. This latest jobs, population and housing projections, along with the Transportation 2035 transportation network, shows how the Bay Area would develop through a continuation of present trends and policies reflected in current plans. Staff has labeled this scenario as

the “Current Regional Plans.” In addition, ABAG and MTC prepared an “Initial Vision Scenario” that shows how the region could accommodate an additional 267,000 housing units by directing development more to Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and to other locally-identified areas. Both scenarios are being evaluated against the ten performance targets. The results of the Current Regional Plans scenario was presented at the MTC Planning Committee meeting on February 9, 2011, and the Initial Vision Scenario results will be presented at a joint meeting of the MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee on March 11, 2011. Both scenarios will tee-up the development of more detailed SCS scenarios to show various ways to achieve the targets.

- **Phase Two: Scenario Planning, Transportation Policy and Investment Dialogue, and Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) *January 2011 – February 2012***
  - **Transportation Finances & Policies:** MTC has begun to prepare the 25-year financial forecasts and policy on committed funds and projects. We will issue guidance on the call for projects, and request project submittals for the RTP/SCS by April 29, 2011. From May 2011 through early July 2011, MTC will assess project performance relative to RTP/SCS goals and targets attainment and cost-effectiveness. The performance results will help inform the transportation network to be tested in the various detailed SCS scenarios. The RTP/SCS investment strategy will be developed and discussed starting in fall 2011.
  - **Detailed SCS Scenarios:** Starting in mid-March 2011 through early July 2011, ABAG and MTC, with input from local governments and stakeholders, will identify one or more relatively constrained land-use/transportation alternatives to be tested against the greenhouse gas, housing and other performance targets. Trade-offs among the alternatives will be identified and debated upon the release of the results in fall 2011. The analysis and discussion will result in a preferred SCS scenario that will become the Draft SCS, which is to be identified by early 2012.
  - **Regional Housing Needs Allocation:** Over a 2-year period, ABAG will develop the Regional Housing Needs Determination and Allocation (RHND and RHNA, respectively) process as mandated by State law. The RHND is the projected regional need for housing (over an eight year planning period) expressed as the number of dwelling units (allocated among four income categories) required to meet that need. The RHNA is the allocation of the RHND among all jurisdictions in accordance with the adopted methodology. Per SB 375, the RHNA must allocate housing units within the region consistent with the SCS land-use pattern.
  
- **Phase Three: RHNA, Environmental/Technical Analysis and Plan Preparation *March 2012 – October 2012***
  - **Regional Housing Needs Allocation:** ABAG will prepare RHNA plan for adoption.
  - **Environmental/Technical Assessments:** MTC and ABAG will prepare an Environmental Impact Report on the RTP/SCS per the California Environmental Quality Act. The EIR will address streamlined CEQA review for certain residential and transit priority projects per SB 375. Other technical analyses are also prepared.
  
- **Phase Four: Plan Adoption *November 2012 – April 2013***
  - **RTP/SCS:** MTC and ABAG will prepare the RTP/SCS for adoption by both boards.