

Plan BayArea

TO: Regional Advisory Working Group

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RE: Plan Bay Area: Proposed Alternative Scenarios

Starting in April 2011, with the Regional Advisory Working Group MTC and ABAG staffs have presented initial ideas on alternative scenarios that demonstrate how the region can achieve the greenhouse gas, housing and other performance targets. We have received a lot of feedback, which has helped staff to revise and refine our thinking and approach to the alternative scenarios. At the joint meeting of the MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee in May 2011, staff heard the following key points:

- Take a realistic, pragmatic approach when defining alternative scenarios
- Scrutinize the assumptions in the jobs and housing forecasts – are they reasonable and realistic given historic trends and the current economic recession?
- Organize our thinking into three areas: (1) things that we can control, (2) things beyond our control, and (3) what it would take to affect change
- We can influence where our housing goes (within our imperfect control) but have less influence on where jobs will go (outside of our control due to market forces and importance to local tax bases). But, through the scenarios, we must identify ways to influence both housing and jobs (show what it would take).
- Assuming major roadway and transit expansions in scenarios beyond what's in the current RTP may not be realistic because it's a challenge today to maintain our existing transportation system with available resources

Based upon the feedback heard to date, staff proposes the following framework for the alternative scenarios:

- Strive to achieve performance targets
- Take into account constraints on housing production, infrastructure funding, and transportation resources
- Show distinctly different combinations of land use growth patterns, transportation investments, and supportive policies
- Address distribution and intensity of jobs, population and housing to reduce auto trip lengths and improve proximity to transit network
- Assess against defined social equity measures
- Use the analyses of the alternative scenarios to create a preferred scenario that best meets the region's goals and complies with SB 375 and metropolitan planning regulations

The attached PowerPoint presentation outlines proposed alternative scenario analyses. Staff will conduct the technical analysis between July through September 2011, and we will present the scenario analysis and results in October 2011. This will mark the beginning of a public process to review and comment on the alternative scenarios. Input received will help us craft a preferred scenario that is slated for approval by MTC and ABAG in early 2012.