



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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Memorandum

TO: Active Transportation Working Group

DATE: September 18, 2014

FR: Craig Goldblatt

RE: OBAG Complete Streets (CS) Requirements and Outcomes

Background

The OneBayArea Grant program includes a number of policy features to guide transportation investment decisions leading to the greater consideration and construction of complete streets improvements in our communities' transportation projects. Most notably, as a condition of receiving OBAG funds, each jurisdiction needed to:

- Adopt a CS resolution of local support or;
- Amend its general plan to meet the California CS Act of 2008 or document that it already is in compliance.

Under the current OBAG cycle roughly 1/3 of the jurisdictions receiving grants took the general plan path with the remainder having adopted resolutions. OBAG policies additionally required all jurisdictions receiving grants under the subsequent OBAG cycle to have general plans in place that meet the California CS Act no later than January 31, 2015. In response to this deadline, congestion management agency staff have carried the message from a number of jurisdictions at meetings with MTC staff requesting that MTC postpone or eliminate this deadline for the following reasons:

- Amending a general plan is a very protracted and expensive process. More flexibility is needed to allow a jurisdiction to incorporate the California CS Act requirements into its general plan when it is ready to address other major general plan amendments as needed.
- The CS resolution of local support, which follows MTC's boiler plate requiring nine points to be addressed, is much more prescriptive than the general plan requirement. To meet the latter, the California Office of Planning and Research provides jurisdictions with very broad policy guidance. The question is whether a general plan amendment would offer any CS benefits beyond what the resolution already accomplishes.

Discussion

MTC staff is seeking input and experience from the Active Transportation Working Group members to further frame and discuss this requirement. This will provide MTC staff with useful information to make any OBAG CS policy adjustments if needed, particularly when we begin to discuss the next cycle of OBAG next year.