

Plan BayArea

TO: MTC Planning Committee/ABAG Administrative Committee

DATE: November 7, 2014

FR: MTC Executive Director/ABAG Executive Director

RE: Planning and Implementation in the Bay Area's Big Three Cities

Overview

The San Francisco Bay Area is unique among major metropolitan regions in the U.S. in that it has three major cities: Oakland, San Jose, and San Francisco. Taken together, the three jurisdictions today are home to approximately 1.2 million jobs, 850,000 housing units, and nearly 2.3 million people. In July 2013, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) approved *Plan Bay Area*, the first Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the region that also includes a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as required by Senate Bill 375. The forecasted development pattern of Plan Bay Area projects that San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose will together add 715,000 jobs, 240,000 housing units, and 720,000 residents through 2040.

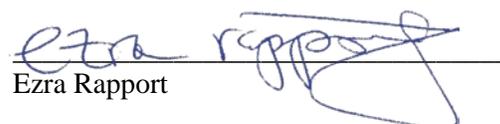
The Bay Area's recent strong economic recovery from the Great Recession largely has emanated from San Francisco, San Jose and the peninsula communities between them. Oakland and surrounding East Bay communities are also now experiencing increasing levels of growth and investment. In many respects, the growth pattern encompassed in Plan Bay Area, and related transportation and infrastructure challenges, are happening sooner in the region's largest cities than was expected just a few years ago. Rapid employment and housing growth in San Francisco's Priority Development Areas is hastening the need for additional transit capacity on both sides of the Bay as well as on the Peninsula. In San Jose, significant growth in north San Jose and renewed investment Downtown highlights the need to ensure that the South Bay's growing transit network is well connected to neighborhoods in order to advance the more focused, urbanized growth pattern envisioned in San Jose's General Plan and in Plan Bay Area. In every city housing affordability is a critical issue given the dramatic increase in housing costs and strong demand for housing in walkable neighborhoods proximate to transit and employment centers.

At your November meeting, senior planning staff from the region's three largest cities will be on-hand to provide an overview of the following for their respective cities:

- a.) Vision and Plan for future growth;
- b.) Local Plan alignment with Plan Bay Area;
- c.) Current growth levels and related challenges; and
- d.) Additional resources and tools needed to successfully implement Plan Bay Area at the local level.



Steve Heminger



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