**The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)**
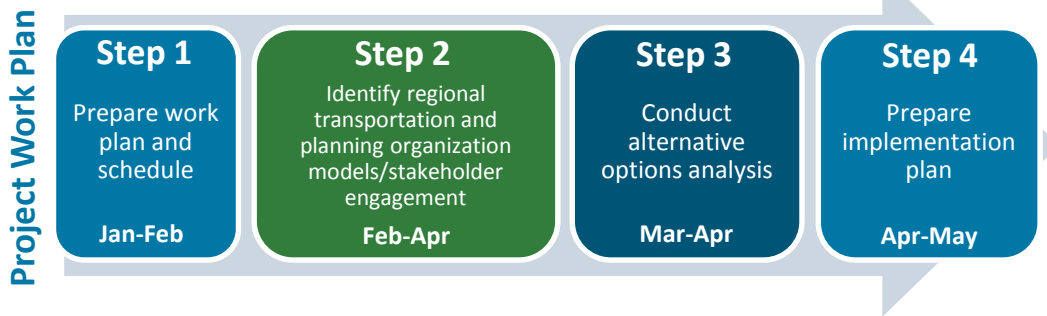
Merger Study Information Sheet

Why conduct a merger study?

In October 2015, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) adopted a resolution to create an integrated regional planning department as the best near-term approach to carry out the land use and transportation planning responsibilities set forth in SB 375 and reduce duplication of effort. This would result in a functional consolidation of planners working on SB 375 within MTC. The respective SB 375 statutory responsibilities of ABAG and MTC would remain the same. The ABAG Administrative Committee also adopted a resolution expressing support of MTC's resolution. The actions by MTC and ABAG were accompanied by an agreement to conduct a Merger Study and in the event ABAG and MTC approve a Merger Implementation Plan prior to July 1, 2016, the functional consolidation of planning departments shall be pre-empted. In January, 2016, ABAG and MTC hired Management Partners to study the policy, management, financial, and legal issues associated with further integration, up to and including institutional merger between the agencies, and how an integration model might be implemented.

What will be done?

Management Partners will evaluate different integration models with respect to the following:

- Policy considerations
- Statutory authorities
- Representation and governance
- Financial resources and budget
- Employee relations
- Agency mission
- Regional planning needs

Project Work Plan

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
Prepare work plan and schedule	Identify regional transportation and planning organization models/stakeholder engagement	Conduct alternative options analysis	Prepare implementation plan
Jan-Feb	**Feb-Apr**	**Mar-Apr**	**Apr-May**

Background Information

About ABAG
The Region's Council of Governments (COG)

ABAG was formed by a Joint Powers Authority in 1961 and is a voluntary association of the Bay Area's 101 cities and nine counties.

As a comprehensive regional planning agency, ABAG works with local governments and stakeholders to develop forecasts of the region's housing, jobs and population growth, identify regional housing needs, address resilience and climate change issues, carry out regional social, economic and land use research and prepare elements of the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). ABAG also provides special services to local governments, such as affordable housing and infrastructure financing, risk management and insurance, electricity and natural gas aggregation, energy efficiency programs and emergency preparedness.

About MTC
The Region's MPO and RTPA

MTC was created by the California Legislature in 1970. It is the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for the region.
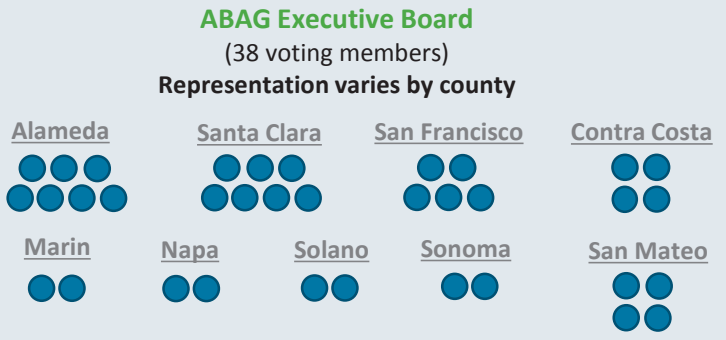
As the transportation planning, financing and coordinating agency for the nine Bay Area counties, MTC collaborates with other public agencies to plan and finance the region's streets, highways, and transit network. It is responsible for preparing a regional transportation plan (RTP) every four years which, under SB 375, must include and support the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

MTC annually programs and allocates roughly $1.5 billion in transportation revenues and is responsible for an $8+ billion debt portfolio. MTC also operates a suite of services to help travelers get around, including the 511 traveler information system, FasTrak® electronic toll collection, Clipper® transit fare card and the Freeway Service Patrol's fleet of roving tow trucks.

Management Partners

Agency Governance Structures

ABAG

ABAG's governance structure is separated into two primary policy bodies and a variety of standing committees

ABAG General Assembly
(110 voting members)

1 elected official from every county, city and town

ABAG Executive Board
(38 voting members)
Representation varies by county

Alameda	Santa Clara	San Francisco	Contra Costa

Marin	Napa	Solano	Sonoma	San Mateo

MTC Commission
(18 voting members)
Representation varies by county

Alameda	Santa Clara	San Francisco*	ABAG

Contra Costa	San Mateo	Marin	Napa	Solano	Sonoma

MTC

MTC's governance structure is consolidated into one primary policy body and a variety of standing committees
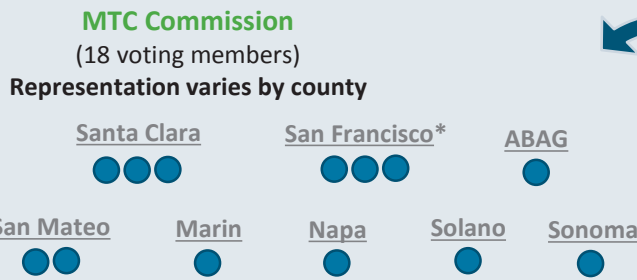
One of the San Francisco Commissioners is selected by BCDC and must be a San Francisco resident.

Plan Bay Area and SB 375

What is SB 375?
SB 375 requires each of California's 18 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to include a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), both of which are required to be approved and adopted by MTC. The SCS sets forth a vision for regional growth that takes into account the region's transportation, housing, environmental, and economic needs. The SCS is the blueprint by which each region intends to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reductions target.

What is Plan Bay Area?
Plan Bay Area is the region's first SCS. It was adopted by the ABAG Executive Board and MTC in July 2013. An updated Plan Bay Area must be completed by 2017.

Why are both organizations involved in preparing Plan Bay Area?
In SB 375 legislation, the state outlined the roles of each organization in preparing the SCS, as well as joint responsibilities.

ABAG's statutory responsibilities:
- Identify the general location of uses, residential densities, and building intensities within the region
- Identify areas within the region sufficient to house the existing and projected population, considering state housing goals
- Gather and consider the best practically available scientific information regarding resource areas and farmland

MTC's statutory responsibilities:
- Identify a transportation network to service the transportation needs of the region
- Allow the regional transportation plan to comply with Section 176 of the federal Clean Air Act

Joint statutory responsibilities:
- Set forth a forecasted development pattern for the region which, when integrated with the transportation network, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Management Partners wants to hear from stakeholders...

To share your perspective on this merger study, please visit the project website for a schedule of outreach events and options for giving feedback.

www.mtcabagmergerstudy.com

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