

ABAG-MTC Merger Study Project Update

**Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
General Assembly**

April 21, 2016

Management
Partners



Association
of Bay Area
Governments



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Message from the ABAG President and Chair of MTC

Julie Pierce, ABAG President
Dave Cortese, MTC Chair

Purpose of this Agenda Item

- Provide a summary of the ABAG-MTC Merger Study process to date
- Answer questions about the process
- Hear comments about the study

Outline of Today's Presentation

- Project Background
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Overview of Analytical Framework
- Next Steps
- Comments

Project Background

- In October 2015 MTC adopted Resolution 4210, which would functionally consolidate most ABAG planning staff into an integrated planning unit within MTC .
 - The resolution includes a provision to undertake a merger study, and provides that, should the two agencies agree to an alternative, 4210 would not be implemented.
- This resolution was believed by MTC to be the best near-term approach to streamline the Plan Bay Area process.
- A resolution of support for 4210 was approved by the ABAG Executive Committee.

Project Overview

Policy Body Overseeing Study

- Joint Committee of MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee

Purpose of Study

- Develop and analyze a set of options/models up to and including merger of the two agencies
- Develop an implementation plan for the selected option

Consultant Role

- Management Partners hired in January 2016 to conduct the Merger Study
- An implementation plan is to be completed by June 1, 2016

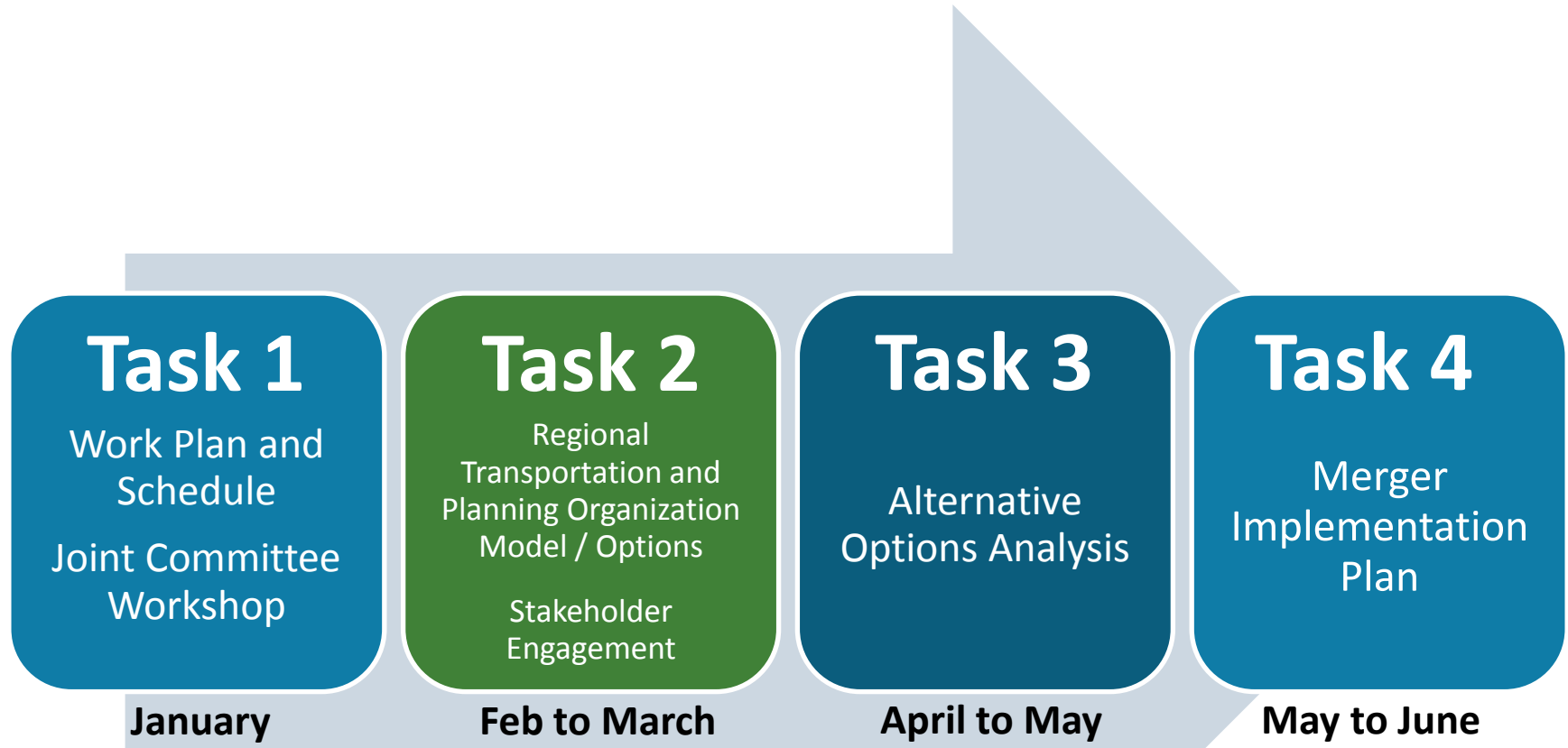
MTC Planning Committee

1. Supervisor James Spering, Solano County (Committee Chair)
2. Councilmember Alicia Aguirre, City of Redwood City
3. Anne Halsted, Vice Chair, Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)
4. Supervisor Steve Kinsey, Marin County
5. Mayor Sam Liccardo, City of San José
6. Councilmember Julie Pierce, City of Clayton (ABAG President)
7. Supervisor Scott Haggerty, Alameda County
8. Dorene Giacomini, U.S. Department of Transportation (non-voting)
9. Tom Azumbrado, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (non-voting)

ABAG Administrative Committee

1. Councilmember Julie Pierce, City of Clayton (ABAG President and Committee Chair)
2. Supervisor Dave Cortese, Santa Clara County (MTC Chair)
3. Mayor Pat Eklund, City of Novato
4. Councilmember Pradeep Gupta, City of South San Francisco
5. Supervisor Scott Haggerty, Alameda County
6. Mayor Bill Harrison, City of Fremont
7. Supervisor Mark Luce, Napa County
8. Supervisor Eric Mar, City of San Francisco
9. Councilmember Raul Peralez, City of San José
10. Supervisor David Rabbitt, Sonoma County
11. Vice Mayor Greg Scharff, City of Palo Alto

Overview of Work Plan



**Monthly Joint Committee Meetings with
MTC Planning Committee and ABAG Administrative Committee**

ABAG and MTC Engagement

- Individual interviews with:
 - Joint Committee members
 - MTC and ABAG executive directors, deputy directors and planning directors
- Workshop with the Joint Committee held on Jan 22
- Focus groups with MTC and ABAG planning staff
- Meetings with employee representatives for each agency

Stakeholder Engagement

Conducted in February and March 2016

- Project website (mtcabagmergerstudy.com)
- Three regional forums held in San Jose, Walnut Creek and Novato (March 2, 8 and 14)
- Twenty-eight separate meetings with:
 - Elected officials
 - Nongovernmental organizations
 - Other regional agencies
 - Local jurisdiction professional staff
- Electronic survey of local elected officials
 - Sent to all Bay Area cities, towns and counties, as well as BART and AC Transit Boards
 - Total of 180 responses collected
 - Survey results delivered to Joint Committee on March 25

Analytical Activities

- Prepared six-year financial forecast for MTC and ABAG
- Prepared profiles for eight major metropolitan land use and transportation agencies:
 1. Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)
 2. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
 3. Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
 4. Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG)
 5. San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
 6. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
 7. Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (MWCOCG)
 8. Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)
- Conducted analysis of options

All materials are available on project website

mtcabagmergerstudy.com

Three Problems

1. Preparation of the region's sustainable community strategy to reduce greenhouse gases is statutorily split between two regional agencies.
2. Two agencies responsible for regional land use and transportation planning and associated services and programs are not formally linked by an integrated management, leadership, or policy structure.
3. ABAG's ongoing ability to implement its mission is compromised by a continued reliance on discretionary grants and annual funding allocations from MTC.

Overview of Analytical Framework



General analysis focused around five major impact areas

Evaluation Criteria

- A. Operational effectiveness and accountability
- B. Transparency in policy decision making
- C. Core service delivery and financial sustainability
- D. Ease of implementation
- E. Implementation support

Merger Study Principles

1. Provides a sustainable, integrated and transparent land use and transportation planning function.
2. Improves the efficiency and effectiveness of regional land use and transportation planning, services, and programs.
3. Increases the transparency of regional land use and transportation policy decisions.
4. Sustains or expands core agency services, operations and programs.
5. Expands opportunities for broader stakeholder engagement in regional planning.
6. Sustains the representative voice of cities and counties.
7. Promotes comprehensive regional planning in the Bay Area.
8. Preserves local land use authority.
9. Provides an equitable and predictable transition for current and retired employees.

Alternatives Analyzed

- MTC Resolution 4210 and 7 options analyzed
- All detailed in Management Partners report to be discussed on April 22 at the Joint Committee meeting
- *Options Analysis Report* available on-line at mtcabagmergerstudy.com

Joint Committee Meeting

April 22, 2016 at 9am in the MetroCenter Auditorium

During the meeting the Joint Committee will:

- Review the options analysis and recommendation
- Hear public comment
- Direct Management Partners to prepare an implementation plan for 4210 or an option or refer committee recommendation to parent bodies

Next Steps

By contract

- Direction from Joint Committee on April 22
- Implementation Plan to Joint Committee on May 27

OR

If Joint Committee recommendation referred to parent bodies

- Consideration by ABAG Executive Committee and full MTC Commission in May
- Direction to Management Partners to prepare implementation plan
- Implementation plan to Joint Committee in June

Opportunities for Input

- **Comments today**
 - After presentation
 - Breakout sessions
 - Comment cards
- **Public comment tomorrow** at Joint Committee meeting in the MetroCenter auditorium (April 22, 9 am)
- **If referred by Joint Committee to parent bodies:**
 - ABAG Special General Assembly (May 19 tentative)
 - ABAG Executive Committee (May 19)
 - MTC Commission Meeting (May 25)

This Session's Comment Guidelines

Purpose

- Answer questions about the process
- Hear any comments you would like to share

Notes

- The Joint Committee has not had an opportunity to review and ask questions about our Options Analysis Report
- Comments/questions received today will be provided to the Joint Committee tomorrow

Comments

Speakers please state your:

- Name
- Position
- Organization
- Whether you are an ABAG delegate

Comment cards are also available

Closing Comments from ABAG President



**Association
of Bay Area
Governments**

Options Analyzed

All options are detailed in Management Partners Report

MTC Resolution 4210

- **Option 1.** No structural change
- **Option 2.** Hire independent planning director to manage planning functions
- **Option 3.** Establish a new JPA to oversee planning functions
- **Option 4.** Create a new regional agency and governance model
- **Option 5.** Create a new comprehensive regional agency and governance model
- **Option 6.** Execute a contract between MTC and ABAG to consolidate planning functions within MTC and enter into an MOU to create a new regional agency and governance model
- **Option 7.** Enter into a contract between ABAG and MTC to consolidate staff functions under one executive director and enter into an MOU to pursue new governance options (functional consolidation)