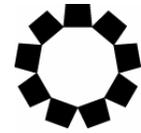


ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

Representing City and County Governments of the San Francisco Bay Area



ABAG

To: ABAG Administrative Committee, March 6, 2014

From: Miriam Chion, Planning and Research Director, Cynthia Kroll, Chief Economist

Subject: ABAG Research Unit and MTC Modeling Unit

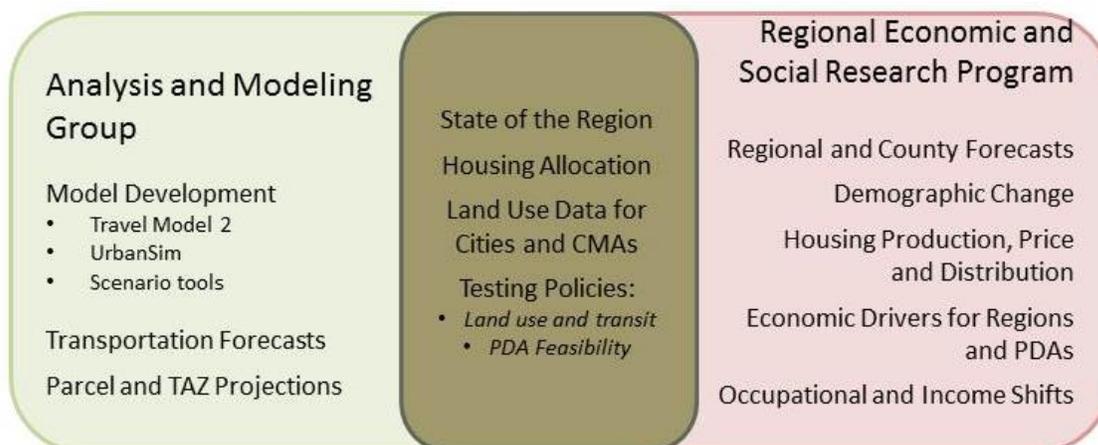
This is an overview of a proposed modification to the organization of modeling and research work at MTC and ABAG. This change has the potential to expand our land use capabilities and strengthen the interaction between the land use and transportation analysis. Both ABAG and MTC are engaged in regional analysis to accomplish their missions. Because both agencies plan for the future in the region, there are overlapping tasks and close interconnections across the analytic work at each agency. The planning directors of both agencies have discussed ways to coordinate teams and analysis across agencies for efficient and high quality regional analysis, by consolidating ABAG and MTC analytic function into two teams. Analysis and Modeling Group (AMG) will be led by Dave Ory at MTC and Regional Economic and Social Research Program (RESRP) by Cynthia Kroll at ABAG. The major change is the relocation of the land use modeling work (UrbanSim) from ABAG to MTC.

Overarching Responsibilities by Agency

Dave Ory will oversee coordination and development of transportation and land use modeling. The AMG will provide careful attention to the quality and process of regional modeling that is critical to both MTC and ABAG tasks. Consolidating these analytic efforts would provide both agencies with greater sophistication in their modeling of detailed characteristics and flows within the region.

Cynthia Kroll will oversee the economic, demographic, housing and land use research, including regional economic and demographic forecasts. ABAG research will inform assumptions underlying both the regional forecasting efforts by RESRP and the land use and transportation models designed by AMG. Improved research capabilities will help ABAG meet the increasing demand for underlying economic and land use analysis to support the agency's policy functions.

The two teams will provide cross agency support on tasks as needs arise and will work together on some key efforts such as housing allocation, state of the region modeling, and the Plan Bay Area update. In order to accommodate this arrangement, the P-5 position associated with the design of UrbanSim at ABAG will be shifted to MTC but will continue to support some ABAG analytic functions. ABAG is exploring the possibility of adding an entry level planner to support the research needs outlined here.



This reorganization of modeling and research does not impact the responsibilities of each agency regarding forecast and land use allocations at ABAG and transportation investments at MTC.

Analysis and Modeling Group at MTC

The details will be later developed by Dave Ory, Principal Analyst at MTC. This Group will be responsible for developing both land use and transportation models. The land use model will be based on Urban Sim. The Travel model, Travel Model 2 (TM2) will provide analysis at a more detailed geography than the version used for 2013 RTP. Key tasks include:

- Development of UrbanSim as the core tool for land use modeling
- Development of Travel Model 2
- Coordination of models with CMAs and California MPOs
- Scenario building tools for outcome comparisons at the subregional, jurisdiction or PDA level .
- Data collection and estimation at parcel, block, census tract and jurisdictional levels, aggregation to TAZ, MAZ, and PDA levels.
- Integration of information provided by ABAG and local jurisdictions into land use model, projections

Regional Social and Economic Research Program at ABAG

Cynthia Kroll, Chief Economist at ABAG, will run this program. It will rely on economic, demographic and policy analytic capabilities at ABAG combined with the regional and local planning knowledge of ABAG staff to address a range of activities and analytic functions. This research will support and inform the land use and transportation models.

Analytics, Forecasting and Projections

- Regional and jurisdictional level forecasts of overall employment, output, population and income
- Industrial and occupation composition; income; age and ethnic distribution; natural increase, migration and immigration
- Projected geographic distribution of changes—an iterative process with UrbanSim, projections document for local government and the general public
- Data management for ABAG staff, member jurisdictions, and stakeholder groups.

Ongoing Economic and Demographic Trend Analysis, Underlying Forces

- Recent economic trends by industry and city, county or PDA
- Industry restructuring, changing occupations and wages, implications for regional wealth/income
- Trends in demographics, migration and household formation
- Indicators of prosperity beyond GRP
- Land availability and regional growth
- Access to Opportunity—Defining places of opportunity, measures of the distribution of well being
- Geographic distribution—Nexus between jobs, housing, development patterns, location choices

Policy and Implementation

- State of the Region including indicators to measure and monitor regional change related to the SCS
- PDA implementation (defining complete communities, identifying target industries)
- Special projects (i.e. housing vulnerability to natural disasters, housing gap analysis, fair housing equity assessment, displacement risk, affordable housing in TOD locations)
- Legislative analysis (i.e. impacts of entitlement efficiency on housing production)

Cross Agency and Cross Area Analysis

The Analysis and Modeling Group and the Regional Social and Economic Research Program will help to support interactive analysis across agencies. In addition, beyond regional agencies, we plan to expand communication with planners with areas with overlapping interests and responsibilities, including the state Department of Finance and neighboring Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

Coordination

- Research at ABAG informing land use model design.
- Shared data—original and estimated—between the two programs.
- Modeling output informing regional and local land use planning policy

Joint Projects

- Proforma evaluation tool
- State of the Region monitoring and reports

Review and quality control

- Expert review
- Reality checks using indicator ratios to identify out-of-scale results
- Transparent descriptions of analytic methods and confidence ranges.

Questions

- How to ensure efficiency and performance at ABAG and MTC?
- Do we have clear roles and responsibilities?