



MEMORANDUM

TO: AMBAG Board of Directors

FROM: Maura F. Twomey, Executive Director

RECOMMENDED BY: Heather Adamson, Director of Planning

SUBJECT: Draft 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy

MEETING DATE: November 10, 2021

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

The Board of Directors is asked to approve the release the Draft 2045 MTP/SCS and Draft Environmental Impact Report for public review on November 22, 2021 and schedule public hearings in January 2022.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The 2045 MTP/SCS is the blueprint for a regional transportation system that further enhances our quality of life, promotes sustainability, and offers more mobility options for people and goods. The MTP/SCS is built on an integrated set of public policies, strategies, and investments to maintain, manage, and improve the transportation system so it meets the diverse needs of our changing region through 2045.

The 2045 MTP/SCS contains a robust transportation network, with a diversity of projects that will provide residents and visitors with a variety of travel choices. The transportation network, in conjunction with how local jurisdictions develop land, will provide additional opportunities for walking, biking, getting to work, going to school, shopping and playing.

Passed in 2008, Senate Bill 375 (SB 375) encourages planning practices that create sustainable communities. SB 375 also charged the California Air Resources Board (CARB) with setting regional targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and 2035. AMBAG must prepare a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) as part of the MTP. The SCS must demonstrate how the region will meet its goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks. The 2045 MTP/SCS demonstrates that our region meets these targets.

The following sections present a brief overview of the Draft 2045 MTP/SCS. The 2045 MTP/SCS adoption process section describes the process to obtain public input on the 2045 MTP/SCS and major milestones leading to the anticipated adoption of the 2045 MTP/SCS in June 2022.

Vision

AMBAG adopted a framework of goals and policy objectives to guide the development of the MTP/SCS. The six goal areas are:

- Access and Mobility
- Economic Vitality
- Environment
- Healthy Communities
- Social Equity
- System Preservation and Safety

Transportation Investments

The Draft 2045 MTP/SCS contains a number of improvements to our multimodal transportation system. The MTP sets forth an integrated approach to transportation investments that maximizes the benefits of the existing transportation system by investing in system preservation and maintenance, along with strategic system expansion and management strategies. The transportation investments will provide more travel choices for our region's residents and visitors.

Financial Plan

The Plan includes a revenue forecast of local, state and federal sources that are reasonably expected to be available through 2045. Total revenues estimated for the Draft 2045 MTP/SCS are approximately \$13.3 billion.

Performance Measures

In support of the goals and policies established through public participation efforts and stakeholder involvement, more than a dozen performance measures were established to measure how well the MTP/SCS performs. The performance measures quantify the transportation, environmental, economic and equity benefits of the MTP/SCS.

Public Participation

AMBAG engaged a wide range of stakeholder groups, elected officials, community groups, and the general public through a series of meetings and workshops. The input received through this process has shaped the 2045 MTP/SCS in a meaningful way.

AMBAG will continue to involve and engage the stakeholders and the public in the process of refining and finalizing the 2045 MTP/SCS.

Environmental Impact Report

AMBAG in consultation with the RTPAs and the consulting team, is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Draft EIR will evaluate the impacts of the 2045 MTP/SCS on the physical environment at the program level. The Program EIR also serves as the EIR for the each of the RTPA's 2045 Regional Transportation Plans. The Program EIR will analyze a range of impacts resulting from future development consistent with the regional growth projections and improvements to the regional transportation network. It provides the framework for subsequent environmental analysis on specific projects, in which individual project impacts will be evaluated separately as project alignments and features are defined.

2045 MTP/SCS and EIR Adoption Process

To obtain public input on the development of the Draft 2045 MTP/SCS, a broad range of media and communication avenues will be utilized to provide information, solicit participation and input and allow for ongoing feedback and updates. A major goal of this public involvement effort is to reach out to both nontraditional and traditional audiences, to include them in the transportation planning process.

AMBAG will hold public workings and public hearings, in January 2022, to allow for public comment on the 2045 MTP/SCS and the EIR. The public workshops/hearings schedule and format will provide opportunities information to be shared and public comments to be submitted. The list of Draft 2045 MTP/SCS and EIR public workshops/hearings is included in Attachment 1.

Anticipated upcoming major milestones include:

- **November 22, 2021** – Beginning of the public comment period for the Draft 2045 MTP/SCS/EIR
- **January 2022** – Public workshops/hearings on Draft 2045 MTP/SCS/EIR (see Attachment 1)
- **January 31, 2022** – Close of the public comment period for the Draft 2045 MTP/SCS/EIR
- **February/March 2022** – Review and response to comments and consider proposed changes to the 2045 MTP/SCS

- **June 2022** – AMBAG Board certifies Final EIR and adopts Final 2045 MTP/SCS

ALTERNATIVES:

The AMBAG Board of Directors could choose not to direct staff to release the Draft 2045 MTP/SCS and EIR, however, this would delay the scheduled adoption of the 2045 MTP/SCS.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

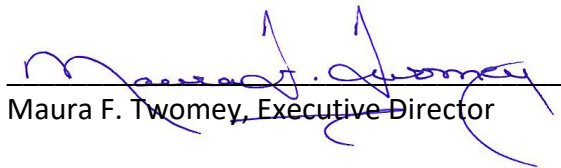
Planning activities for the 2045 MTP/SCS are funded with FHWA PL, FTA 5303 and SB 1 planning funds and are programmed in the FY 2021-22 Overall Work Program and Budget.

COORDINATION:

All MTP/SCS planning activities are coordinated with the MTP/SCS Executive Steering Committee and Staff Working Group which includes participation from Caltrans District 5, Monterey Salinas Transit, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, San Benito County Council of Governments, and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, as well as the Planning Directors Forum and the RTPAs Technical Advisory Committees which includes the local jurisdictions.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft 2045 MTP/SCS/EIR Public Workshops/Hearings Flyer

APPROVED BY:

Maura F. Twomey, Executive Director