



Planning Directors Forum

Monday, September 19, 2022

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Zoom

AGENDA

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88126227126?pwd=ekV4SW5BeUNzR2gzR014MGxVNGk0Zz09>

1. Welcome/Roll Call (5 mins)

2. Discussion Items

a. Draft Monterey Bay Area Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan) (Miranda Taylor, AMBAG) (10 mins)

AMBAG staff will provide an overview of the Draft Monterey Bay Area Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan). Members of the Planning Directors Forum are asked to provide comments on the Draft Coordinated Plan. The close of the public comment period is October 17, 2022.

b. Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) 2.0 Program (Heather Adamson, AMBAG) (45 mins)

AMBAG staff will provide an update on the Regional Early Action Program (REAP) 2.0 Program including feedback and input received from outreach activities and a draft program framework. Planning Directors are asked to provide input on a draft REAP 2.0 program framework.

3. Informational Updates (10 mins)

a. 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation Update

AMBAG staff will provide an update on the 6th Cycle RHNA activities.

4. Other Items (5 mins)

5. Next Steps/Adjourn

Staff Contact

Heather Adamson, AMBAG

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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: AMBAG Planning Directors Forum

FROM: Miranda Taylor, Planner

SUBJECT: Draft 2022 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

MEETING DATE: September 19, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

AMBAG staff will provide an overview of the Draft Monterey Bay Area Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan). Members of the Planning Directors Forum are asked to provide comments on the Draft Coordinated Plan. The close of the public comment period is October 17, 2022.

BACKGROUND:

AMBAG is required to develop a Coordinated Plan for the tri-county region. Under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) legislation, this plan must be completed and used in developing grant applications for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities (Section 5310) grant program. The plan identifies local transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and persons with low incomes, and facilitates applications for the FTA Section 5310 grant program.

The Section 5310 program provides formula funding to assist private, non-profit groups and transit operators in meeting the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities when the transportation service provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs. The funds are apportioned based on each State's share of population for these groups of people and are awarded to projects through a statewide competitive selection process. Funds may be used for capital or operating

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expenses. The Coordinated Plan, as required by the 2015 FAST Act, must include the following elements:

- An assessment of available services and current transportation providers (public, private, and non-profit);
- An assessment of transportation needs for seniors and persons with disabilities. This assessment can be based on the experiences and perceptions of the planning partners or on more sophisticated data collection efforts, and gaps in service;
- Strategies, activities, and/or projects to address the identified gaps between current services and needs, as well as opportunities to achieve efficiencies in service delivery; and
- Priorities for implementation based on resources (from multiple program sources), time, and feasibility for implementing specific strategies and/or activities.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of the Coordinated Plan is to create a plan to improve regional transit for individuals that are elderly, disabled, and/or low-income. This is accomplished through identifying where the transit system can better meet these individual's needs, and then identifying projects and strategies which will help alleviate these shortcomings. The plan also includes a current list of transit services that serve the elderly, disabled, and low-income populations.

The projects and strategies identified in this plan are made eligible for federal funding through the FTA Section 5310 grant program. In the past, this funding source has been used by transit agencies to replace or purchase new paratransit vehicles, as well as for operating expenses.

The Draft 2022 Coordinated Plan is composed of four main chapters, each of which are summarized briefly below.

Chapter 1: Introduction

The introduction provides background on the purpose of the plan, an overview of the federal legislation regarding the requirements of the plan and associated funding sources.

Chapter 2: Transportation Service Providers

This section provides a summary of available public, private and non-profit transportation services throughout the region and within each county.

Chapter 3: Transportation Needs

This section defines transportation disadvantaged people and special needs transportation. This section also examines and lists demographic and economic factors relating to transportation in the region.

Chapter 4: Unmet Needs Assessment

This chapter lists the identified unmet needs for the elderly, disabled, and low income in the tri-county area. Identification of these needs came largely from outreach with stakeholders throughout the region gathered by AMBAG and Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) staff.

NEXT STEPS:

The Draft 2022 Coordinated Plan will be presented at various meetings throughout the region, including the RTPA's Technical Advisory Committees and other transportation related committees. The Draft 2022 Coordinated is available on the AMBAG website at <https://ambag.org/plans/monterey-bay-area-coordinated-public-transit-human-services-transportation-plan>. The public comment period will close on October 17, 2022. All comments should be sent to Miranda Taylor, AMBAG, 24580 Silver Cloud Court, Monterey, CA 93940 or via email at mtaylor@ambag.org. Staff will incorporate comments received into the Final 2022 Coordinated Plan which is scheduled to be approved by the AMBAG Board of Directors at its November 9, 2022 meeting.

- **September 15 - October 17, 2022:** 30-Day Public Comment Period
- **September 22, 2022:** SCCRTC Interagency Technical Advisory Committee
- **September 28, 2022:** MST Mobility Advisory Committee
- **October 6, 2022:** TAMC Technical Advisory Committee
- **October 6, 2022:** SBtCOG Technical Advisory Committee
- **October 11, 2022:** SCCRTC Elderly & Disabled Technical Advisory Committee
- **October 2022:** Prepare the Final 2022 Coordinated Plan
- **November 9, 2022:** AMBAG Board of Directors will be asked to adopt the Final 2022 Coordinated Plan



MEMORANDUM

TO: AMBAG Planning Directors Forum

FROM: Heather Adamson, Director of Planning

SUBJECT: Regional Early Action Planning Grants 2.0 Program

MEETING DATE: September 19, 2022

Staff will provide an update on the Regional Early Action Program (REAP) 2.0 Program including feedback and input received from outreach activities and a draft program framework. Planning Directors are asked to provide input on a draft REAP 2.0 program framework.

BACKGROUND/ DISCUSSION:

Regional Early Action Planning Grants of 2021 (REAP 2.0) builds on the success of 2019's REAP program but expands the focus by integrating housing and climate goals, and allowing for broader planning and implementation investments, including infrastructure investments that support future housing development. REAP 2.0 is explicitly intended to meet multiple objectives – infill development, housing for all incomes, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction, and affirmatively furthering fair housing (AFFH) in ways that lead to transformative outcomes and accelerate the implementation of regional and local plans to achieve these goals.

The REAP 2.0 Program provides funds to regional governments to accelerate housing production and facilitate compliance with the 6th Cycle of the housing element, including regional housing need allocations. In addition, REAP 2.0 is specifically designed to provide Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and other Eligible Entities with tools and resources to help implement and advance plans, primarily including Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) as part of Regional Transportation Plans to pursue greenhouse gas emission reduction targets through land use and transportation changes. The REAP 2.0 objectives are:

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- Accelerating Infill Development that Facilitates Housing Supply, Choice, and Affordability
- Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing
- Reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled

The REAP 2.0 Program is funded with \$600 million from the State General Fund. The REAP 2.0 Program will be administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) (Department), in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), and the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Most of the funds (85 percent) will be allocated directly to the MPOs. The remaining funds are split into a set aside for non-MPO regions for smaller counties and Tribal Entities, as well as a Higher Impact Transformative Allocation for all Eligible Entities. AMBAG's formula share of the MPO funding is \$10,133,742.41.

In early June 2022, AMBAG submitted an advanced application to HCD for funding to deploy an outreach and engagement strategy and develop programs to disperse these funds throughout the region in support of transformative planning that promotes the core program objectives of REAP 2.0: (1) implementation of AMBAG's Sustainable Communities Strategy; (2) infill housing development; (3) reduction of VMT; and (4) AFFH. AMBAG's advanced application was approved in August 2022.

As AMBAG develops a REAP 2.0 program framework, our full funding application will be driven by the State's final program guidelines and a stakeholder engagement process. Throughout 2022, AMBAG will be conducting outreach to a broad array of stakeholders to identify programs and partners and develop the full REAP 2.0 application, due to the State by December 2022.

REAP Outreach Activities

AMBAG is actively engaged extensive outreach activities to gather input and feedback on the development of the regional REAP 2.0 Program. In early July 2022, AMBAG released a public opinion survey asking for feedback on how AMBAG should structure its regional REAP 2.0 program. A more extensive survey targeting potential eligible applications was released in August to provide additional input on what the priorities should be and what the needs are for AMBAG's REAP 2.0 program.

Virtual information/listening sessions are scheduled for September 26, 2022 and October 13, 2022. to gather additional feedback as priorities have been identified from

the surveys and as framework options are developed. More information on REAP 2.0 outreach activities can be found at: <https://ambag.org/plans/regional-early-action-planning-grants-program>.

In addition, AMBAG is working with the local jurisdictions and our local/regional transportation partners through the Planning Directors Forum and Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) meetings to gather input and to help develop framework options for REAP 2.0 funding. Finally, AMBAG has been attending various community and business group meetings to gather additional input on REAP 2.0.

Input Received from Outreach Efforts

Below is a summary of the feedback received from the two surveys conducted this summer and the initial input received from the Planning Directors Forum and TAC meetings.

- AMBAG’s REAP 2.0 Program should focus on both transformative planning and capital investments with a larger emphasis on transformative planning efforts to implement both AMBAG’s SCS and the local jurisdiction’s 6th Cycle Housing Elements.
- A mix of REAP 2.0 funding suballocated to local jurisdictions and a competitive grant program is supported.
- Priorities identified for REAP 2.0 funding include:
 - Improve housing affordability and increase housing production
 - Put housing close to jobs
 - Reducing VMT
 - Addressing housing & infrastructure needs in communities
 - Promote multimodal communities

Given AMBAG’s initial discussions with HCD and the other state partners, REAP 2.0 needs to focus on transformative planning and implementation efforts and should not be simply suballocated to all local jurisdiction as was done with REAP 1.0. However, AMBAG staff believes that a small component to address geographic equity could be included.

Draft REAP 2.0 Program Framework

Based on the input and feedback received, AMBAG proposes a draft REAP 2.0 program framework that consists of three major components:

1. Suballocation to local jurisdictions to implement 6th Cycle Housing Elements with a specific focus on infill development for both planning and implementation (20%)
 - Rezoning and guiding development by updating planning documents, development standards, and zoning ordinances
 - Revamping local planning processes to accelerate infill development
 - Completing environmental clearance to eliminate the need for project-specific review for infill development
 - Performing infrastructure planning to support infill development
2. Competitive Grant Program developed and administered by AMBAG that supports REAP 2.0 objectives (65%)
 - Could be awarded to local jurisdictions, transit agencies, regional transportation planning agencies, universities, etc.
 - Priority focus on implementation projects
3. AMBAG Regional Planning, Technical Assistance, REAP 2.0 Program Development and Administration (15%)
 - Regional planning activities that support infill development and implement the SCS
 - Technical assistance
 - Development of the REAP 2.0 Program, including outreach activities
 - REAP 2.0 administration

The Planning Directors Forum are asked to provide input on a draft framework. AMBAG staff will continue outreach activities to gather input and feedback. In addition, AMBAG will be meeting with HCD and the other state partners to discuss draft framework components. The AMBAG Board of Directors will be asked to approve a proposed framework for inclusion in the final application submitted to HCD at its November 2022 meeting. AMBAG's final application will be reviewed by HCD, OPR, SGC, and CARB following the December 31, 2022 deadline.

Timeline

- Summer 2022 – HCD releases final guidelines and notice of funding availability
- Summer/Fall 2022 – Outreach activities and development of REAP 2.0 program

framework

- December 31, 2022 – Deadline to submit application for REAP 2.0 Program funds and include a budget, amounts retained by the regional agency and any sub-allocations, and an education and outreach strategy.
- Spring/Summer 2023 – Develop AMBAG’s regional competitive grant program including criteria, application, etc.
- Summer/early Fall 2023 – Applications due for AMBAG’s competitive grant program
- Late 2023/early 2024 – AMBAG awards regional competitive grants and enters into funding agreements with grant applicants
- June 30, 2024 – Deadline for REAP 2.0 recipient to encumber funds
- June 30, 2026 – Deadline for REAP 2.0 funds to be expended

Next Steps

AMBAG will continue outreach activities to gather input on the development of the draft framework for the REAP 2.0 program. The AMBAG Board of Directors will be asked to approve a proposed framework for inclusion in the final application submitted to HCD at its November 2022 meeting. AMBAG’s final application is due to HCD by December 31, 2022.