

Metropolitan Transportation Commission
MTC Planning Committee

September 11, 2026

Agenda Item 3b – 26-0904

Community-Based Transportation Planning (CBTP)
Program Evaluation and Revised Guidelines

Subject:

Summary of recent evaluation findings for the Community-Based Transportation Planning Program and proposed revisions to program guidelines for the upcoming CBTP cycle.

CBTP Background:

Community-Based Transportation Plans, or CBTPs, are locally led plans that identify transportation needs and solutions in communities that face equity-related barriers. The program is intended to help local communities shape transportation priorities that improve access, mobility and safety in EPCs.

The CBTP Program was launched in 2002 as an equity-focused implementation action following the adoption of the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). While the program has been refined over time, its central purpose has remained the same: to engage with local communities to identify prioritized neighborhood solutions that respond to residents' mobility needs.

Following a program evaluation, MTC adopted Resolution No. 4514 in April 2022 to guide the 2022-2026 CBTP cycle. The updated guidelines introduced new plan requirements, strengthened provisions to support project implementation and alignment with regional priorities and doubled program funding to \$3 million through OBAG Cycle 3, using the same population-based allocation formula. The program continues to support regional priorities by supporting implementation of Plan Bay Area 2050+ Strategy T8: Advance Other Regional Programs and Local Priorities, which focuses on implementing local priority projects to address community transportation needs particularly in EPCs.

MTC, county transportation agencies (CTAs), and staff from cities, transit agencies, and community-based organizations (CBOs) all have distinct roles in CBTPs. MTC provides funding for CBTPs and establishes guidelines. CTAs lead and oversee the CBTP project selection, including initiating CBTP work in eligible areas. City staff are involved in CBTPs in a variety of

ways, ranging from serving on advisory committees to full project management authority delegated by the CTA. Transit agency staff serve on advisory committees and are consulted about service within the CBTP geography. CBO staff also serve on advisory committees and often actively participate in the CBTP process by facilitating engagement with community members or collecting data. The CBTP guidelines encourage CBO and resident compensation for their efforts.

To date, nearly 50 communities have completed the CBTP process. Nine CBTPs were completed since 2024: two countywide plans in Marin and Napa counties, two plans in Sonoma County, one in San Mateo County, three in Solano County and one in Santa Clara County. Four additional CBTPs are currently underway in Hayward, San Leandro, Contra Costa County, and San Francisco's Mission/Alemany neighborhood, with a Marin City CBTP update set to begin work soon.

While CBTPs have been effective in identifying community transportation priorities, advancing those projects to implementation has remained a challenge. To help address this gap, MTC developed the Community Action Resource and Empowerment (CARE) program, which was presented to the MTC-ABAG Community Advisory Council in April 2026. CARE provides a continuum of support for community-prioritized projects through capacity building for community-based organizations (CBOs) and local governments, funding for project development, and support for project implementation. Together, these efforts provide dedicated resources to advance CBTP projects from concept to delivery.

CBTP Program Evaluation:

The current CBTP Program guidelines, approved under MTC Resolution No. 4514 in April 2022, directed staff to complete a program evaluation at the close of the CBTP Program cycle. Through a survey with CTAs and interviews with community-based organizations, staff sought to better understand program outcomes from the updated guidelines and understand the experience of community partners in participating in these planning processes. Feedback from the evaluation was used to inform the update to the guidelines. The program evaluation is included as Attachment A.

Revised CBTP Program Guidelines:

Staff subsequently briefed the MTC-ABAG Community Advisory Council on the revised CBTP guidelines in August 2026. Following the meeting, the guidelines were updated to incorporate Community Advisory Council and CTA feedback, and provide minor clarifications. Attachment B presents a summary of revisions to the CBTP Program guidelines and the full CBTP Program guidelines are included in Attachment C.

Next Steps:

Staff is seeking approval of the CBTP Program guidelines and requests referral of MTC Resolution No. 4793 to the Commission for approval. Approval of the CBTP Program guidelines will set the stage for county partners to initiate planning work through the fourth cycle of the One Bay Area Grant Program (OBAG4). In the coming months, staff will be developing further technical assistance related to CBTPs and working with county partners to distribute CBTP planning funds.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Refer MTC Resolution No. 4793, Community-Based Transportation Planning Program Guidelines, to the Commission for approval.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: CBTP Program 2026 Evaluation Report
- Attachment B: CBTP Program Guidelines Change Summary
- Attachment C: MTC Resolution No. 4793



Andrew B. Fremier