

Frequently Asked Questions

Regarding SCTA submission for inclusion in the transportation project list for Plan Bay Area

Question. Some cities have a big list of big projects here and some don't – my community has bike projects – shouldn't they be listed here?

Answer. With a few exceptions – (bike ped bridge over Hwy 101) all bike projects are included in the MTC Programmatic Categories. Costs have been included in the category totals to include every project in the bike plans.

If your bike project is eligible to be in your bike plan – it is an eligible project in the RTP.

Q. What is a programmatic category?

A. Programmatic categories are groups of similar projects, programs, and strategies that are included under a single group for ease of listing. Projects within programmatic categories must be exempt from regional transportation air quality conformity, and not be capacity increasing.

Q. Where is road maintenance addressed? Some cities have all of their streets and roads maintenance projects listed and some don't. Where is it in the Plan? What about Transit O&M?

A. MTC is working with public works staff throughout the region to create an accurate assessment of streets and road need. MTC will submit that project and cost directly for each county.

MTC will also submit information for Transit Operations and Maintenance, based on the Transit Sustainability Report and input from the Transit Finance Working Group.

Q. My project fits within a programmatic category, is it an eligible project?

A. It probably is. If it is really large or could be capacity increasing then it will need to be listed as a stand alone project.

Q. What happens to projects that don't fit into a programmatic category?

A. They will go through MTCs performance analysis. They can still be listed in the RTP.

Q. Will we be able to make adjustments later if we underestimate an amount, in a specific Programmatic Category,?

If there is a need for more funding within a category after the Plan is adopted (and before the next Plan is adopted) between 2013 and 2017 – MTC can make an administrative transfer from one category to another.

What is a committed project? What does that mean in the RTP?

In the past projects were listed as committed when they had been listed in previous RTP(s), were through early stages of project development, and may have received some funding already. MTC has yet to determine the exact definition of committed for the current process.

April 12, 2011

Q. My project is listed, when can I get funding?

A. The Plan Bay Area is a plan. Being listed makes a project eligible for funding, but does not actually provide funding.

Q. If this is a Plan and does not fund projects, why are we being asked to provide costs?

The costs will help determine the need, which may affect the types of programs that are created or funded in the future. And, as mentioned before, the adopted Plan must be financially constrained.

Q. Is this a constrained list? What does that mean?

Ultimately, the project list will be constrained, that is, the costs will be aligned to what MTC can predict in future funding. Since the planning horizon is so long (27 years) there is some guesswork involved. The list we provide to MTC on May 9 will not be considered “financially constrained”, though they have asked us not to exceed \$3.9 billion in projects. The final list – approved by MTC at the end of the year will be much reduced, and will be constrained.