

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission - Association of Bay Area Governments**

Plan Bay Area 2050

Public Engagement on Draft Blueprint

BAY AREA TRIBAL GOVERNMENT DIGITAL SUMMIT

Monday, August 3, 2020



**Notes from an interactive conversation via videoconference.**

Having been born and raised in Sonoma County, “affordable” is a relative term.

A lot of tribal communities may build housing on their own property with federal funding – it is important to have access to transit in their communities.

There are tribal pockets in Santa Rosa that are rough areas – investing in these existing communities, especially in the schools, parks, and assisting with affordable repairs, would be a lot easier than moving the residents to new housing. There are certain neighborhoods where tribal people have lived for several generations.

It’s great to have new housing communities with better access to schools and jobs but a lot of our people have developed a community already that needs to be further developed. The focus should be the investment in the community to bring it up to what currently exists for other communities in the area.

The active transportation option is not considerate of people with young children.

The freeways and carpool lanes are a good investment for the family aspect.

She cannot see toll roads in Sonoma unless they are backroads.

For families, public transit is a cost option: are there short or direct routes?

Safety issues are also a concern, e.g., being able to keep the children seated, having room for the mother, bags and kids.

It would be helpful to have routes that go from neighborhoods to shopping centers as opposed to multiple stops.

The first strategy – more express lanes with robust express bus service – is a definite need. A lot of people want to get on a bus and to their destination without having to make five stops in-between.

Displacement is a COVID issue that we will see amplified. She likes all of the strategies presented.

Regarding tribal families, the investment in the current communities and the infrastructure around those communities is extremely important. In communities that are hard hit with the loss of jobs, you don’t necessarily see those families leaving those homes because they have been there for so long – but they are definitely homes that could do with some investment.

The linkage between the community and how to access the investment is important. Having the programs highlighted and routinely publicized to those communities is extremely important. As those programs are developed, consistent messaging to those communities is extremely important and making sure that people are aware of how they can participate in the program and apply for resources would be great.

Once one family goes through the process and it is successful, the network shares the information. It is good to know exactly where the resources are and to tell people how to find them.

Strategy #1 Expand electric vehicle and charging infrastructure subsidies, especially for lower-income households, is incredibly important. It is important to bring back subsidies to help folks who can’t afford the transition to electric cars.

Given the occurrence of wildfires, evacuations in Sonoma County and power outages, there is discussion about hybrids rather than all electric vehicles in case you don’t have electricity to power the car. Those incentives could be put toward that type of vehicle as well.

This might be a COVID issue: we would have had a number of businesses transitioning people to work from home – she likes the idea of incentivizing that or acknowledge the resulting decrease in GHG emissions.

You may want to include for businesses that use delivery, that they have the same requirements to move to electric vehicles and also receive subsidies to electrify their fleets.

In the current environment when small businesses can't keep their spaces, is there a way to incentivize solar panels or anything that might help make more effective use of current spaces to keep jobs that were lost because of COVID?

When you lose small businesses in a community, it's very noticeable. It has an impact on mental health for community members to see small businesses closing. Any support to keep people engaged and business active will be good. Provide incentives both on the energy side and to bring people back into those spaces.

The list (of strategies to address the jobs-housing imbalance) looks fine. There may be issues with balance: e.g., where a lot of people live, they tend to not want traffic where they live (re forcing offices into those areas). There may be too many vehicles in one area where people want to live.

Main Street may have a different look post-COVID. Invest in development that is considerate of what could happen should COVID arise again.

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