Metropolitan Transportation Commission Association of Bay Area Governments



The Sea Level Rise Resilience Project List & the Transportation Project List

A new component is being added to Plan Bay Area 2050+, the regional vision for transportation, housing, the economy, and the environment. The Sea Level Rise Resilience Project List (Resilience Project List) will identify projects that adapt the nine-county Bay Area shoreline to sea level rise in the decades ahead. Just as the Plan's Transportation Project List has identified projects for decades and linked these to each transportation strategy, the Resilience Project List will be a valuable resource for future advocacy to help adapt the Bay Area to climate change, delineating the specific investments featured under Strategy EN1 (Adapt to Sea Level Rise).

A summary of each project list is provided below to help understand the similarities and differences between these lists, as well as information for projects that may need to be reflected on both lists.

Resilience Project List (RPL)

An informational list of projects that address sea level rise impacts to communities, infrastructure, and ecosystems.

- Project has a nexus with sea level rise.
- Projects are not required to be on this list to be eligible for existing federal or state resilience funding opportunities, but their inclusion will elevate and daylight specific Bay Area needs in this space.
- This list is not fiscally constrained, allowing greater flexibility about which projects should be included.
- This list is sorted into two funding bins, projects that are anticipated before 2035, and projects scheduled for 2036 to 2050.

Transportation Project List (TPL)

A prioritized list of future transportation investments as required by federal & state planning requirements.

- Project has a nexus with transportation.
- Projects become eligible for state and federal transportation funding opportunities when on the list.
- Federal planning regulations require this list to be fiscally constrained, greatly limiting the number of projects on the list.
- Capacity-increasing projects are vetted through a quantitative performance analysis to help prioritize projects.
- This list is sorted into two funding bins, projects that are anticipated before 2035, and projects scheduled for 2036 to 2050.

Overlap of the Resilience Project List & Transportation Project List

The distinction between what is a sea level rise resilience project and what is a transportation project is not always clear. The transportation project list follows federal guidelines to ensure transportation projects align with air quality goals. Only projects that increase system capacity are specifically listed, whereas projects aimed at improving efficiency, safety, or resilience without increasing capacity are not typically listed individually. Staff will review such projects on a case-by-case basis to determine how to best handle project-specific circumstances during the development of the project lists.

Resilience projects with a transportation nexus will be shared with Caltrans for consideration on future updates of the <u>State Climate Resilience Improvement Plan for Transportation (SCRIPT)</u> to unlock possible cost-share savings for <u>PROTECT grants</u> which fund resilient transportation improvements. The Resilience Project List will be used for advocacy to extend the PROTECT program beyond 2026, as well as advocate for new resilience funding sources to support project implementation.