

**Q: What is the Plan Bay Area Project Performance Assessment?**

**A:** The project performance assessment is designed to identify high- and low-performing “uncommitted” transportation projects. Unlike “committed” projects, which already have committed revenues and are mandated by statute or an administering agency, uncommitted projects must undergo the assessment to identify their relative performance for potential inclusion in the Plan Bay Area scenarios.

**Q: How do you assess project performance?**

**A:** We evaluate projects using two primary methodologies. First, all projects are subject to a targets assessment, which determines how the projects perform relative to the performance targets adopted by MTC and ABAG (see below). Second, the approximately 80 largest projects undergo an additional benefit-cost assessment to compare the monetized project benefits and project costs, allowing us to gauge their cost-effectiveness.

**Q: What are the performance targets?**

**A:** MTC and ABAG adopted 10 performance targets, two of which are required by California Senate Bill 375:

- Reduce per-capita carbon dioxide emissions from cars and light-duty trucks by 7 percent by 2020 and by 15 percent by 2035, and
- House by 2035 100 percent of the region’s projected 25-year growth by income level, without displacing current low-income residents.

The remaining eight targets reflect voluntary goals regarding healthy and safe communities, open space and agricultural preservation, equitable access, economic vitality and transportation system effectiveness.

**Q: What is a benefit-cost analysis?**

**A:** The benefit-cost analysis calculates the amount of benefits a project is expected to provide compared to the costs. In other words, it can be used to measure a project’s cost-effectiveness. Key benefits include reductions in travel time, travel cost, airborne pollutants, and road collisions. Further details on the benefit-cost analysis approach (including how projects’ benefits were monetized) can be found in the November 4, 2011 Planning Committee materials.

**Q: What is the main take-away from the project performance analysis and how do you use it?**

**A:** The analysis provides comparable information on a wide range of projects. This enables us to identify those investments that are outliers in terms of cost-effectiveness and support for adopted targets. MTC’s Commissioners will consider this data, along with other analysis and policy factors, when they identify projects for inclusion in Plan Bay Area. Since the planning process is designed to identify projects that will be built in the next 10, 20 or 30 years, this assessment is an important first step. More detailed analyses will be performed, should any particular project move forward.

**Q: What happens if a project shows a low benefit-cost ratio and/or is categorized as low-priority?**

**A:** Lower project performance does not necessarily mean that a project is excluded from Plan Bay Area. Some projects have benefits or may be important for policy reasons that are not captured by our methodology. The Commission has ability to consider such factors when identifying projects for inclusion in Plan Bay Area. So while the performance project assessment informs the plan development, it is not the final word.

**Q: What is the timeline for completion of the project performance assessment?**

**A:** The draft results will be presented to MTC’s Planning Committee on November 4. They also will be presented to MTC’s Policy Advisory Council in November and the Partnership Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC) in December. The feedback from these forums will influence the final project performance assessment results.

**Q: Whom should I contact if I want more information about the project performance assessment?**

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