

# Looking Ahead

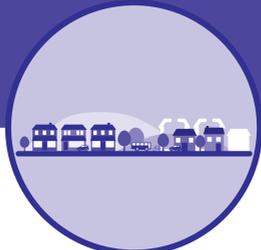
## Why Scenarios?

In order to understand where we and future residents will live, where we will work, and how we will get around, planners at MTC and ABAG have generated regional forecasts for:

 <p><b>Jobs</b> what will the economy look like and where will new jobs be?</p>	 <p><b>Housing</b> where will new housing be developed and who will live there?</p>	 <p><b>Population</b> how will our region grow?</p>	 <p><b>Travel Needs</b> where will people need to go and how will they get there?</p>	 <p><b>Funding for Transportation Improvements</b> what funds will be available from gas taxes, sales taxes, bridge tolls and the like?</p>
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To help us understand how these forecasts might play out over time—and to ensure we’re meeting the goals and targets you helped us identify for Plan Bay Area 2040—we are looking at three scenarios for future growth. Each scenario shows us a different combination of: **Housing Development, Commercial Growth** and **Transportation Investments**.

## What are the Scenarios?

<p><b>Main Streets Scenario</b> places future population and employment growth in the downtowns in all Bay Area cities. This scenario would expand high-occupancy toll lanes and increase highway widenings. It would also assume some development on land that is currently undeveloped.</p> 	<p><b>Connected Neighborhoods Scenario</b> places future population and employment growth in medium-sized cities and provides increased access to the region’s major rail services, such as BART and Caltrain. It would place most of the growth in areas that cities determine as having room for growth, with some additional growth in the biggest cities. There would be no development on open spaces outside the urban footprint.</p> 	<p><b>Big Cities Scenario</b> concentrates future population and employment growth within the Bay Area’s three largest cities: San Jose, San Francisco and Oakland. Transportation investments would go to the transit and freeways serving these cities. There would be no development on open spaces outside the urban footprint.</p> 
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## What Happens Next?

Based on public input, a “preferred scenario” will be constructed from the three alternatives described above. This will form the foundation for Plan Bay Area 2040, to be adopted in Summer 2017. **So tell us — which scenario, or elements of a scenario, will help create a Bay Area we can be proud to leave to future generations?**

