Final 2023 Public Participation Plan

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Council of San Benito County Governments
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Transportation Agency for Monterey County

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I. Executive Summary

The *2023 Public Participation Plan (PPP)* has been prepared by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) in collaboration with the Council of San Benito County Governments (SBtCOG), the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC), the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 5, with additional input and review by Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST), Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (Santa Cruz METRO or SCMTD), San Benito County Express/Local Transportation Authority (LTA) and the cities and counties in the tri-county AMBAG metropolitan planning region. The above agencies are defined as partners in this plan. SBtCOG, SCCRTC, and TAMC are referred to as Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs).

AMBAG is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and serves as the regional forum for the study and discussion of regionally significant issues, which include but are not limited to transportation, housing, land use, sustainability and climate change. Elected officials within the region's 18 cities and three counties form AMBAG's Board of Directors.

The purpose of this PPP is to establish the process by which the public can participate in transportation planning, programming and project implementation including the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) for the AMBAG region and the Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) for Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties. The *2023 Public Participation Plan* incorporates strategies to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, interagency consultation and public participation are an integral part of the regional transportation planning and decision-making process.

The public participation policies and procedures described in this plan are structured to comply with all applicable federal and state legislation and express the genuine regional value and interest for all residents of the Monterey Bay region to participate in the shaping and implementation of regional policies and decisions regarding the region's multimodal transportation system.

The *2023 Public Participation Plan* was developed to adhere to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Act (IIJA/BIA) of 2021 and Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) of 2015 legislation and pursuant to changes in the California Government Code 65080 that occurred with the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 375 in 2008.

AMBAG and the RTPAs in the Monterey Bay region seek the participation of a diverse set of communities with an interest in regional planning efforts, including low-income households, minority populations, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations, persons with disabilities,

representatives from community and service organizations, tribal organizations, and other public agencies.

The policies and procedures in the *2023 PPP* were formed with the intent of using effective, achievable, culturally sensitive public outreach methods to increase public participation, and to create and maintain a regional transportation network that prioritizes equitable decision-making and transparency (best practices included in Appendix F). This plan was prepared using these Eight Guiding Principles for Public Participation:

1. Prioritize public engagement methods that increase equitable participation and distribution of resources in all outreach efforts, projects, and programs
2. Valuing public participation and promoting broad based involvement by members of the community
3. Providing varied opportunities for public review and input
4. Treating all members of the public fairly and respecting and considering all public input as an important component of the planning and implementation process
5. Promoting a culture of dialogue and partnership among residents, property owners, the business community, organizations, other interested members of the public, and public officials
6. Involving underserved communities and community groups, as well as other organizations
7. Encouraging active public participation throughout the entire process
8. Providing communications and agency reports that are clear, timely and broadly distributed

AMBAG and the RTPAs perform a broad range of public participation and stakeholder engagement activities (summarized in Appendix B), such as:

- Conducting public meetings
- Establishing standing and ad hoc committees
- Partnering on studies and projects
- Preparing surveys, news releases, social media posts, and eNews
- Providing educational and informational programs in accordance with statutory and regulatory directives

All the activities listed above are open to public involvement and review and are provided in more detail in the plan. AMBAG and the RTPAs (TAMC, SBtCOG, and SCCRTC) have taken this opportunity to update the *2023 Public Participation Plan* to further improve transportation decision making in the region and to reach out to underserved communities within the

Monterey Bay region more effectively. The *2023 PPP* also details the regional roles and responsibilities of the partner agencies as well as associated public participation requirements.

Each federally funded transportation plan, study, program, or project prepared or developed by AMBAG or RTPAS must have its own specified public participation process that defines the avenues for reasonable involvement in the transportation planning process. These procedures and strategies also provide guidance for realizing the desired outcome of a robust and informed level of broad-based public involvement in the development and implementation of plans, programs and projects in the region.

The following public participation activities must be included in every transportation plan, transportation improvement program and Environmental Impact Reports/Study:

1. Define Purpose and Identify Stakeholders
2. Consultation and Coordination with Other Agencies
3. Consultation with Interested Parties (Policy Bodies and Advisory Committees)
4. Public Notice, Public Hearings, Comment Periods (utilizes the Brown Act)
5. Use of Media and Informational Materials and Visualization Techniques
6. Encourage Bilingual Participation
7. Respond to Public Comments/Input
8. Web Posting/Distribution of Draft and Final Documents

AMBAG initiated development of the *2023 PPP* by compiling information from various MPO's research and federal transportation regulations, included in Appendix E. Consultation with our partner agencies on their existing public participation and policy decision-making processes was conducted throughout the PPP process. AMBAG and the RTPAs consulted with interested parties at the federal, state, regional, and local level to identify opportunities for improving or building upon existing practices.

Prior to the development of the plan, AMBAG released a Public Participation Plan Survey in English and Spanish to receive direction from the community on how to best engage to increase public participation. In March 2023, AMBAG released the Public Participation Plan Survey to regional, state, federal stakeholders and interested parties, and received nearly 200 responses.

The *2023 Public Participation Plan* was prepared according to the following principles:

- **Equity:** Prioritize public engagement methods that increase equitable participation and distribution of resources in all outreach efforts, projects, and programs
- **Broad Based Involvement:** Value public participation and promote broad based involvement by members of the community
- **Opportunity:** Provide varied opportunities for public review and input

- **Environmental Justice:** Treat all members of the public fairly, and respect and consider all citizen input as an important component of the planning and implementation process ensuring that actions taken will not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on underserved populations
- **Engagement:** Promote a culture of dialogue and partnership among residents, property owners, the business community, organizations, other interested citizens, and public officials
- **Involvement of Underserved Communities:** Involve underserved communities and local community groups, as well as other organizations
- **Encouragement:** Encourage active public participation throughout the whole process
- **Clear Communication:** Provide communications and agency reports that are clear, timely, and broadly distributed

The AMBAG Board of Directors released the *Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan* (which incorporated the results of the survey) for public review in June 2023. The comment period began on June 14, 2023, and ended on August 23, 2023. A public hearing on the *Draft 2023 Public Participation* Plan was held on August 9, 2023, at the AMBAG Board of Directors meeting, with additional public hearings held at the RTPA Board meetings (public notice included in Appendix I).

Information about the development of the *Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan* was circulated to stakeholder groups and interested parties who have expressed interest in the regional transportation planning process. A list of advisory committees and stakeholders who received notification about the availability of the *Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan* is included in Appendix D.

The *Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan*, like all AMBAG's public documents, was also made available online in ADA accessible format on AMBAG's and RTPA's website, and was promoted through newspapers, and AMBAG's and RTPA's online media pages to target social network users. A list of the comments received as well as the responses are included in Appendix H. The *Final 2023 Public Participation Plan* has been adopted by the individual RTPA Boards and was adopted by the AMBAG Board on November 8, 2023.

The strategies identified in this Plan will be used by AMBAG and RTPAs during the update of the *2050 MTP/SCS* (summarized in Appendix G) and 2024 MTIP, as well as in each of the RTPAs' RTPs. This *2023 Public Participation Plan* will supersede the *2019 Monterey Bay Public Participation Plan*.

II. Introduction

Background Summary

The *2023 Public Participation Plan (PPP)* has been prepared by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) in collaboration with the Council of San Benito County Governments (SBtCOG), the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC), the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 5, with additional input and review by Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST), Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (Santa Cruz METRO or SCMTD), San Benito County Express/Local Transportation Authority (LTA) and the cities and counties in the tri-county AMBAG metropolitan planning region. The above agencies are defined as partners in this plan. SBtCOG, SCCRTC, and TAMC are referred to as Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs).

The purpose of this PPP is to establish the process by which the public can participate in transportation planning, programming and project implementation including the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) for the AMBAG region and the Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) for Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties. The *2023 Public Participation Plan* incorporates strategies to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, interagency consultation and public participation are an integral part of the regional transportation planning and decision-making process.

AMBAG is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and serves as the regional forum for the study and discussion of regionally significant issues, which include but are not limited to transportation, housing, land use, sustainability, and climate change. Elected officials within the region's 18 cities and three counties form AMBAG's Board of Directors.

In pursuing its mission, "AMBAG provides strategic leadership and services to analyze, plan and implement regional policies for the benefit of the Counties and Cities of the Monterey Bay region balancing local control with regional collaboration." AMBAG strives to inform and involve its local jurisdictions and the general public throughout the various programs, projects, and work activities conducted by the agency.

The public participation policies and procedures described in this plan are structured to comply with all applicable federal and state legislation and express the genuine regional value and interest for all residents of the Monterey Bay region to participate in the shaping and implementation of regional policies and decisions regarding the region's multimodal transportation system.

The *2023 Public Participation Plan* was developed to adhere to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Act (IIJA/BIA) of 2021 and Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) of 2015 legislation and pursuant to changes in the California Government Code 65080 that occurred with the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 375 in 2008.

AMBAG and the RTPAs in the Monterey Bay region, see Figure 1-1 below, seek the participation of a diverse set of communities with an interest in regional planning efforts, including low-income households, minority populations, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations, persons with disabilities, representatives from community and service organizations, tribal organizations, and other public agencies.

The policies and procedures in the *2023 PPP* were formed with the intent of using effective, achievable, culturally sensitive public outreach methods to increase public participation, and to create and maintain a regional transportation network that prioritizes equitable decision-making and transparency. Circumstances since the last update, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have advanced the use of certain techniques to enhance input and participation through strategic virtual engagement. Due to the pandemic, virtual meeting platforms were essential to engaging the public during the development of the *2045 MTP/SCS* and other major efforts. AMBAG worked diligently to ensure that individuals without devices were engaged through other sources by providing physical materials and technical support when necessary or requested. AMBAG will continue to engage the public both in person and virtually, even beyond the pandemic, due to the success of increased participation with virtual engagement strategies.

Eight Guiding Principles for Public Participation

1. Prioritize public engagement methods that increase equitable participation and distribution of resources in all outreach efforts, projects, and programs.
2. Valuing public participation and promoting broad-based involvement by members of the community.
3. Providing varied opportunities for public review and input.
4. Treating all members of the public fairly and respecting and considering all public input as an important component of the planning and implementation process.
5. Promoting a culture of dialogue and partnership among residents, property owners, the business community, organizations, other interested members of the public, and public officials.
6. Involving underserved communities and community groups, as well as other organizations.
7. Encouraging active public participation throughout the entire process.
8. Providing communications and agency reports that are clear, timely and broadly distributed.

AMBAG and the RTPAs perform a broad range of public participation and stakeholder engagement activities, such as:

- Conducting public meetings
- Establishing standing and ad hoc committees
- Partnering on studies and projects
- Preparing surveys, news releases, social media posts, and eNews
- Providing educational and informational programs in accordance with statutory and regulatory directives

All the activities listed above are open to public involvement and review. AMBAG and the RTPAs (TAMC, SBtCOG, and SCCRTC) have taken this opportunity to update the *2023 Public Participation Plan* to further improve transportation decision-making in the region and to reach out to underserved communities within the Monterey Bay region more effectively. The goals set forth in the *2023 Public Participation Plan* are to further equitable participation and decision-making regionally by utilizing effective and innovative public outreach methods.

Figure 1-1: AMBAG Tri-County Region of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties Map

III. Regional Roles and Responsibilities

AMBAG, as the designated MPO, must follow federal and state legislation when developing and programming transportation projects. SBtCOG, SCCRTC, and TAMC, the RTPAs within the AMBAG region, are required to follow federal legislation and state legislation as well if they are utilizing federal funding. Federal and state legislation requirements related to the *Public Participation Plan* can be found in Appendix E.

State Department of Transportation
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) - District 5

Caltrans oversees the state transportation planning, and the MPO's and RTPAs' transportation planning and programming processes. Caltrans' mission is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Caltrans' primary responsibility is to ensure the function of the state highway system and develop transportation projects of statewide importance, including intercity rail projects.

In the Monterey Bay region, Caltrans District 5 is the liaison between our partner agencies and Caltrans Headquarters.

Metropolitan Planning Organization
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)

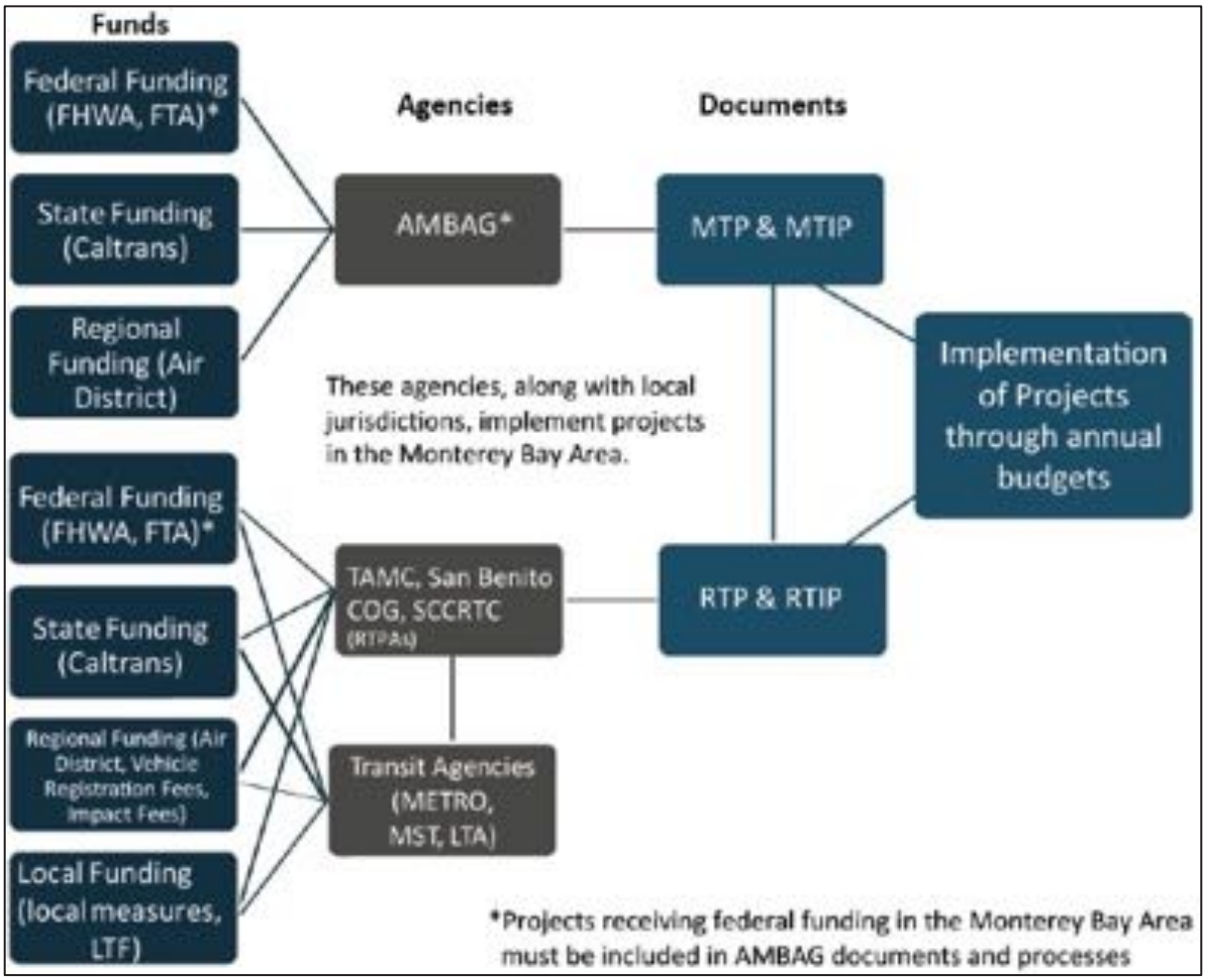
Established by a joint powers agreement in 1968, AMBAG provides a forum for policy and planning issues in the Monterey Bay region. AMBAG acts as the regional Council of Governments (COG) for Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties and since 1968 has been designated by the Governor as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the tri-county Monterey Bay region.

Membership of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments includes 21 jurisdictions within Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties. An elected official from each jurisdiction is appointed by that jurisdiction's City Council or Board of Supervisors, with each of the 18 cities represented by one member, and each of the three counties by two members, forming the 24 member AMBAG Board of Directors. A representative from TAMC, SBtCOG, SCCRTC, Caltrans, Monterey-Salinas Transit, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, Monterey Bay Air Resources District, Monterey Peninsula Airport District, and Central Coast Community Energy each serve as an ex-officio member.

AMBAG, as the MPO for the Monterey Bay region, is charged with developing and periodically updating a federal long range transportation plan and transportation improvement program for the region, as well as developing an annual Overall Work Program (OWP). These statutory

requirements are satisfied throughout the development process of updating the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS), the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and the OWP.

Figure 2-1: Organizational Chart of Federal, State and Local Funding Sources and How Each are Distributed to Local Agency's Projects and Programs



The Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS)

Adopted in June 2022, the *2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy* (also known as Moving Forward 2045 Monterey Bay, or the MTP/SCS) is the long-range transportation plan for the Monterey Bay region that looks ahead at the possible transportation needs the region will have alongside the proposed growth of the region for the next 20 years. Proposed transportation projects must be included in this plan to be eligible for federal funding. The Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) contained in this Plan requires the proposed transportation solutions to meet or further reduce the adopted greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions target goals specifically allocated for the Monterey Bay region set forth by the State.

AMBAG is beginning the multi-year process to update the *2050 MTP/SCS* and anticipates the plan to be completed by mid-2026.

The Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

The MTIP is the Monterey Bay region's short range transportation project programming document that contains transportation projects proposed for federal funding. The MTIP is required to be updated at least every four years; AMBAG typically updates this document every two years. Federal regulations require that the MTIP be prepared in consultation and coordination with our partner agencies in the region and be subject to an adequate public outreach and review process. The MTIP is developed in partnership with the following agencies: Caltrans, San Benito County Express, MST (including their paratransit program RIDES), Santa Cruz METRO, SBtCOG, SCCRTC, TAMC, and project sponsors/implementing agencies.

The MTIP programs transportation improvement projects that are proposed to implement the adopted MTP/SCS. The Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIPs) of the RTPAs and Short Range Transit Plans (SRTPs) of the public transit operators are prepared and approved by our partner agencies with extensive interagency consultation, as well as formal public review and hearings on the documents and their adoptions. Additionally, projects in the MTIP are consistent with Caltrans' State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP). The projects in the MTIP are, however, not simply a compilation of transportation projects already approved in other programs, but are part of a new program, subject to its own interagency consultation and public comments and review processes.

Federal regulations require the MTIP to be prepared by AMBAG staff in cooperation and consultation with the above agencies as well as federal oversight agencies. Through this process other projects are included in the MTIP that are funded through federal sources such as: Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP), Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP/RSTP), Highway Bridge Program (HBP), and Active Transportation Program (ATP). As per federal regulations, AMBAG conducts a proactive interagency consultation and public involvement process to ensure that complete information, timely public notice, full public access at key decisions, and early and continuing involvement of the public be provided during development of this MTIP. After this process, AMBAG's Board of Directors is required to adopt the MTIP. The MTIP is then submitted to Caltrans, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for their approval and incorporation into the Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP). Once developed, the MTIP does not become a static document. It can be amended through a "Formal Amendment" or an "Administrative Modification" within the two-to-four-year cycle.

Formal amendments are changes to projects that are considered significant in nature such as adding or deleting regionally significant or federally funded projects or major changes to the cost or scope of projects and therefore must go through a 14-day public review and a comment period. Formal amendments require AMBAG Board approval, as well as state and federal approval. AMBAG processes formal amendments to the MTIP on a quarterly schedule, and more often if warranted by special circumstances.

Administrative modifications to the MTIP are processed for minor program revisions. The criteria for administrative modifications and amendments are defined in IIJA/BIA and FAST Act. The administrative modifications are minor changes to projects and are not required to go through public review. AMBAG's Executive Director is authorized to approve administrative modifications to the MTIP.

The use of technical corrections and advancement or delay of funds using Expedited Project Selection Procedures (EPSP) can also be utilized to update the MTIP. No public review is necessary for AMBAG to use agreed-upon EPSP. EPSP is used to advance projects from the later years of the MTIP and delay the implementation of other projects from earlier years. These changes occur without modification or amendment, based on agreements between AMBAG, Caltrans, local transit operators, and RTPAs.

Air Quality Conformity Analysis

Currently, the Monterey Bay region is in attainment for federal air quality standards. However, if the region becomes non-attainment for federal air quality standards, additional public involvement and interagency consultation is required.

Interagency Consultation

The conformity rule* requires that federal, state and local transportation and air quality agencies establish formal procedures to ensure interagency coordination on critical issues. Typical participants in interagency consultation include the FHWA, FTA, EPA, State DOTs, MPOs, and other local transportation agencies, and state and regional air quality agencies. In addition, public transportation operators are often active participants in interagency consultation.

Interagency consultation is a forum for discussing key assumptions to be used in conformity analyses, strategies to reduce mobile source emissions, specific impacts of major projects, issues associated with travel demand and emissions modeling, and the development of motor vehicle emissions budgets. The specific process that will be followed in each area must be

* FHWA's Transportation Conformity: A Basic Guide for State and Local Officials (Feb. 2017): https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/air_quality/conformity/2017_guide/fhwahep17034.pdf

adopted as part of the State Improvement Plan (SIP) and must be used to develop MTPs, MTIPs and the SIP. These adopted interagency consultation procedures are included in the "conformity SIP."

Public Involvement

The air quality conformity analysis must be provided for public review and comment, similar to the MTP/SCS and MTIP public outreach process. MPOs must then respond to public comment and provide adequate notice of relevant meetings.

Overall Work Program (OWP)

OWP, produced by AMBAG and each of the RTPAs, include federal and state funded planning activities as well as transportation and air quality planning activities proposed for each fiscal year. The OWP incorporates the MPO's and RTPA's transportation planning and air quality related work to be accomplished by each agency. AMBAG coordinates the OWP development process with the region's RTPAs, transit operators, Caltrans, and is also available for the general public to review and provide comments.

The OWP establishes transportation, housing, sustainability, air quality, and other regional planning objectives, the methods and timing for achieving those objectives, and identifies planning responsibilities and funding to complete the work. The OWP also serves as a management tool for AMBAG and the RTPA's in that it identifies all projects and services to be provided during the year beyond those mandated by the metropolitan planning process. The OWP, therefore, presents an annual guide for the agency's use of resources for the fiscal year.

The OWP is a constantly evolving document; changes occur during the year to reflect priority, funding, and staffing changes. As a working document, the OWP must be amended prior to making changes in work scope, budget, and completion dates for key tasks.

In the Monterey Bay region, the responsibility for regional transportation planning and programming is shared between:

- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMBAG)
- Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs):
  - Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)
  - Council of San Benito County Governments (SBtCOG)
  - Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC)
- Public Transit Operators:
  - Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST)
  - San Benito County Express (LTA)
  - Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (Santa Cruz METRO)

Collectively, these eight agencies are referred to as AMBAG's "partner agencies."

Regional Transportation Planning

AMBAG, in consultation and coordination with our partner agencies develop the Monterey Bay region's MTP/SCS to ensure that both state and federal requirements for regional transportation planning are met for the Monterey Bay region. The RTPAs are each required to prepare a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for their respective counties.

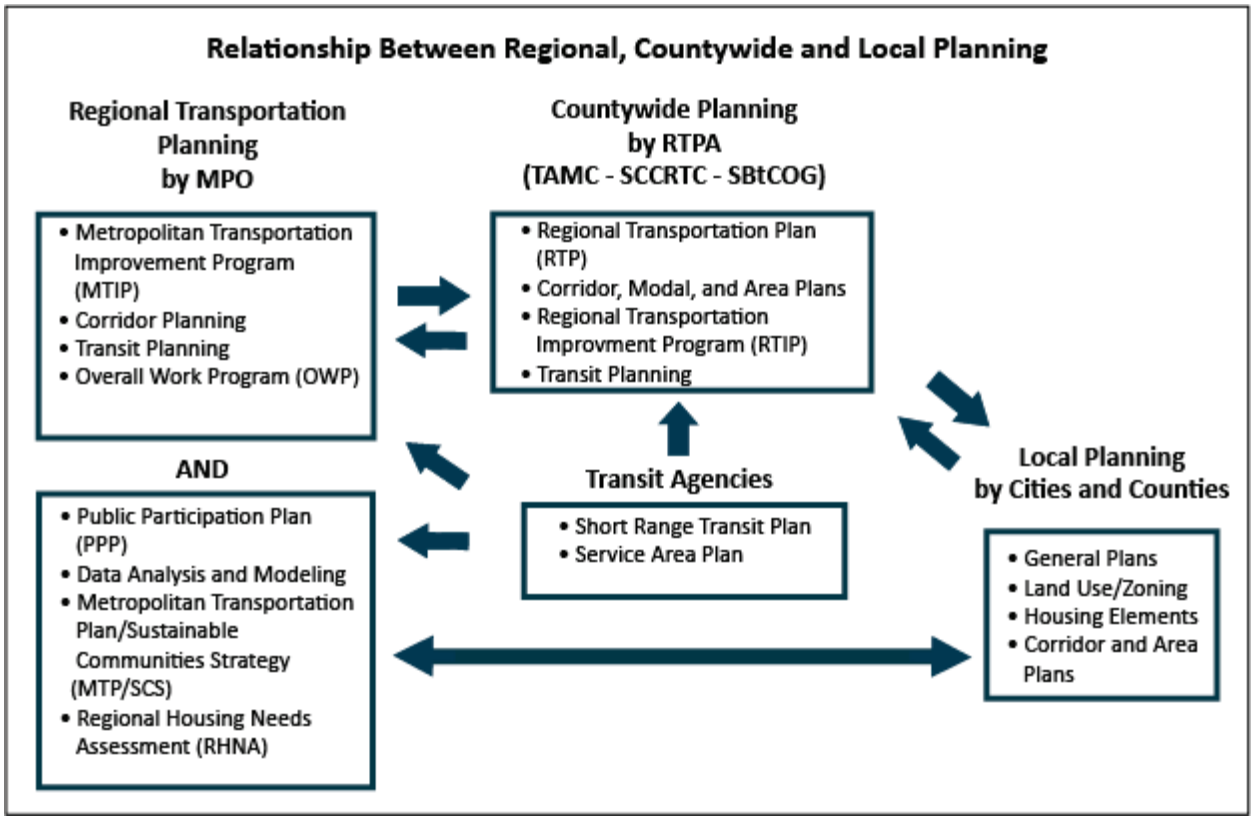
AMBAG and RTPAs work together to make sure that all planning products and programming documents are consistent and meets state and federal requirements. The transportation improvement projects included in the countywide RTPs are selected to receive State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds and they are incorporated into each RTPA's respective Regional Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIP), then forwarded to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The STIP covers a five-year period and is updated biannually. Federally funded and/or regionally significant projects selected to receive a variety of state and federal transportation funds by Caltrans, RTPAs, the transit districts, and other entities are included in the federally required Monterey Bay region's MTIP, adopted by AMBAG.

The public transit operators prepare Short Range Transit Plans (SRTP) and operate and maintain scheduled transit services in their respective service areas. AMBAG is responsible for meeting federal metropolitan planning and programming requirements for the Monterey Bay region. AMBAG's public involvement activities and public hearing notices for the MTIP will satisfy the

program of projects requirement of the FTA's Urbanized Area Formula Program.* A flow chart illustrating how planning documents relate throughout the AMBAG region is shown in Figure 2-2.

Figure 2-2: AMBAG Regional Planning Document Flow Chart



Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs)

Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) designated pursuant to California law (Government Code Section 29532 et seq.) are funded directly through local and state funding, and are responsible for selecting projects to receive certain state and federal funds. The three RTPAs within the AMBAG region include:

Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) is the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) and Local Transportation Commission (LTC) for Monterey County. TAMC is also the Congestion Management Agency and the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE). TAMC is a 24-member agency with 17 voting members on the Board of Directors, which is composed of elected officials from each of Monterey County's 12 incorporated cities and five county supervisorial districts. TAMC also includes seven ex-officio members, one each from the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

* Please refer to FTA's 49 USC 5307(C) (1)–(C) (7).

(AMBAG), California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), Caltrans District 5, the Monterey Bay Air Resources District, the Monterey Peninsula Airport District, Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) and the City of Watsonville.

TAMC is responsible for developing and implementing a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), as well as administration of Local Transportation Funds and programming of federal funds, including Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) funding.

As the Congestion Management Agency and the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE), TAMC operates a Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) program on congested Highway 1 and U.S. 101 segments in Monterey County to clear vehicle collisions and respond to other freeway emergencies that are a source of traffic congestion, as well as operating and maintaining Monterey County's call box network on state highways.

With the passage of the voter-approved "Transportation Safety & Investment Plan" through Measure X in November 2016, TAMC and local jurisdictions are investing locally generated sales taxes into the community, with 60 percent of the revenues dedicated to local road maintenance, pothole repairs and safety projects, and 40 percent dedicated to regional safety and mobility projects.

As the state-designated rail agency for Monterey County, another major emphasis for TAMC is to bring more passenger rail service to Monterey County, so that residents can travel to jobs, health services, shopping, and entertainment conveniently, safely, and cheaply, while avoiding traffic jams. The rail program includes local commuter service options as well as greater regional access. Trains will also be a popular choice for visitors to Monterey County, helping to ease traffic during the busiest summer months. The result of this effort will remove vehicle trips from Highways 1, 101, and 156.

The TAMC Board of Directors adopted a racial equity program in 2021. The program integrates specific racial equity-based activities into three agency areas, funding, public outreach and hiring, with a developed set of issues, potential solutions, action items and a racial equity goal for each area. The funding goal is to provide an equitable share of transportation investments to underserved, racially diverse communities to improve their health, safety, and quality of life. The hiring goal is to reflect the diversity of the Monterey County community to increase TAMC's success as an agency. The public outreach goal is to design and implement public outreach and engagement that is broadly accessible and provides means for all to participate.

Council of San Benito County Governments (SBtCOG)

The Council of San Benito County Governments is the state designated RTPA and the Council of Governments (COG) for San Benito County. SBtCOG is an eight-member agency with a five-member Board of Directors, composed of two representatives each from the San Benito County Board of Supervisors and the Hollister City Council and one representative from the San Juan Bautista City Council. SBtCOG also has one ex-officio representative from Caltrans District 5. SBtCOG is responsible for county-level transportation plans and programs.

SBtCOG adopts a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) every four years. The RTP is a 20-year planning document that establishes transportation goals and policies for the region and identifies projects to be implemented with available funding.

In June 2022, SBtCOG adopted their 2045 RTP which includes chapters that address state and federal transportation policies. In addition, topics discussed in SBtCOG's 2045 RTP include Complete Streets, Healthy Communities, Active Transportation, etc.

SBtCOG is responsible for programming the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding in its biennial Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), and administration of Transportation Development Act funding. SBtCOG also allocates transportation funds, including State Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) funds, to local jurisdictions. Additionally, on November 6, 2018, Measure G, a 1 percent sales tax over 30 years, was approved by San Benito County voters to fund the implement of the San Benito County Roads and Transportation Safety Investment Plan. Measure G will help fund critical transportation safety and mobility projects in San Benito County, including up to 50% of the tax revenues committed to improving Highway 25.

SBtCOG solicits public input on the development of all programs and plans, including the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), and Transportation Development Act funding allocations.

SBtCOG is also responsible for administering several multimodal programs. One such program includes the Rideshare Program and the Vanpool Program, which encourages residents to use alternative modes of transportation. The Board of Directors also serves as the following entities:

- Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) administers the emergency call box program
- Local Transportation Authority (LTA) administers public transportation services
- Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) ensures orderly growth around the airport and protects the general welfare of local inhabitants, pilots, and members of the public

- Measure A Authority governs a 1/2 cent sales tax that was established in 1989 to raise money for specific transportation projects in San Benito County. The Measure A Authority no longer operates as the tax expired.

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC)

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) is the state designated RTPA and Local Transportation Commission (LTC) for Santa Cruz County. As an RTPA, SCCRTC is responsible for transportation planning, policy, coordination, and programming. The SCCRTC Board of Directors consists of all five members of the County Board of Supervisors, one representative from each of the four cities in the county, and three representatives appointed by the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District Board of Directors. SCCRTC also has one ex-officio representative from Caltrans District 5. Board meetings are held the first Thursday of the month, with workshops scheduled for the third Thursday of the month, as needed. SCCRTC is also the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) which administers the call box program, the Local Transportation Authority which governs the Measure D 1/2 cent sales tax established in 2016 for specific transportation projects in Santa Cruz County, and the Rail/Trail Authority.

Members of the public and representatives from local transportation organizations sit on SCCRTC's Bicycle Advisory Committee and Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) which also serves as the state-mandated Social Service Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). The Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee (TOC), made up of members of the public who do not work for Measure D recipient agencies, reviews audits and reports to confirm Measure D funds have been spent in accordance with the voter-approved Ordinance. The public is also encouraged to attend meetings and address the Board or advisory bodies. With input from the community, SCCRTC develops and implements a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), and Unmet Transit Needs.

SCCRTC also implements several regional transportation projects and programs. These include ongoing programs such as the Cruz511 Traveler Information Service, Go Santa Cruz County commuter rewards program, the SAFE Callbox Program, and the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Program. The Call Box and FSP programs provide assistance to motorists. SCCRTC oversees, implements and/or evaluates various regional highway, passenger-rail, and bicycle and pedestrian projects, including along the SCCRTC-owned Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) corridor.

In preparing transportation planning and programming documents and implementing specific projects and programs, SCCRTC uses a variety of public participation tools, including public meetings and workshops, public hearings, committee meetings, public notices, press releases,

the SCCRTC website, social media, email notifications, newsletters, surveys, outreach at community events, door-to-door canvasing and televised meetings. Additional, SCCRTC is in the process of developing an equity action plan to integrate equity-based activities into funding, public outreach and hiring, with a developed set of issues, potential solutions, action items and a racial equity goal for each area.

Public Transit Operators

Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST)

Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) provides public transit service to a 159 square-mile area of Monterey County with 34 routes, 131 fixed route fleet buses, 39 minibuses for paratransit service, and six trolleys; all of which are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and serve a service area of approximately 437,325 people. In 2010, MST became the countywide transit district overseen by a 13-member voting Board of Directors, composed of one representative each from the County of Monterey and all twelve county cities: Carmel-by-the-Sea, Del Rey Oaks, Gonzales, Greenfield, King City, Marina, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Salinas, Sand City, Seaside and Soledad.

MST's fixed routes provide service in the Monterey Peninsula jurisdictions, the City of Salinas, and south Monterey County cities including Chualar, Gonzales, Soledad, Greenfield, and King City. Intercity service is provided via Blanco Road in Salinas, Highway 1, and Highway 101 between areas of Monterey County. MST provides rural transit service to Carmel Valley, and seasonally along the Monterey waterfronts – the MST Trolleys. In addition, intercity routes connect MST with Santa Cruz METRO at their Transit Center in Watsonville. Also, MST operates service between King City and Paso Robles, with stops in San Lucas, San Ardo, Bradley, and San Miguel.

MST is also responsible, under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), for the provision of complementary paratransit service in Monterey County. To that end, MST operates and administers the RIDES paratransit program that provides service within ¾ mile of MST fixed transit routes. The RIDES program also serves Special Transit service areas in unincorporated rural North and South Monterey County by extending paratransit service to rural North Monterey County outside the ¾ mile ADA service area, and two miles of fixed route in South Monterey County. The RIDES program Special Transit service also extends paratransit service to two miles along Highway 68 east between Canyon Del Rey Boulevard and River Road in Salinas.

In Monterey County, the MST Mobility Advisory Committee serves as the Transportation Agency's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) and advises the agency on the transportation needs of the elderly, persons with disabilities and limited means populations. The Mobility Advisory Committee includes representatives from the County's social service

providers and MST RIDES paratransit program customers. The committee serves as an advisory body to MST regarding the delivery of coordinated transportation and mobility management services provided through MST's Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA).

San Benito County Local Transportation Authority (LTA)

The San Benito County Local Transportation Authority (LTA) is the designated Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) for San Benito County. The LTA is a Joint Powers Authority between the City of Hollister, City of San Juan Bautista, and the County of San Benito. The Board of Directors consists of two elected officials each from the City of Hollister City Council and the County of San Benito Board of Supervisors; and one elected official from the City of San Juan Bautista City Council.

The LTA is responsible for the administration and operation of San Benito County Express, the primary public transportation service for the county which operates seven days a week. County Express services include Fixed Route service, complementary Paratransit service, Dial-A-Ride, On-Demand, and Intercounty transit services to the City of Gilroy in Santa Clara County. The LTA also provides three specialized transportation services: Out-Of-County non-emergency Medical Transportation, Senior Lunch Program Transportation, and a Medical-Shopping Assistance Program. The LTA seeks extensive public input on the development of operations and plans, which include a Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP). The LTA also solicits input on potential route changes, fare increases, and other service and policy changes.

Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD or Santa Cruz METRO)

The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD or Santa Cruz METRO) provides public transit service in Santa Cruz County and connects with Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST), the Monterey County public transit provider, at the Watsonville Transit Center. Santa Cruz METRO provides service using 94 buses on 24 routes throughout the County. In addition to service throughout Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz METRO operates, in coordination with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), Amtrak, Caltrans and the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority, an express bus service to and from Santa Clara County over State Route 17 (Highway 17) seven days a week.

Santa Cruz METRO has an 11-member Board of Directors composed of one representative from each of the cities of Capitola and Scotts Valley, five approved by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, two representatives from the City of Santa Cruz and two representatives from the City of Watsonville. In addition to its regular membership, Santa Cruz METRO also has one ex-officio member representing the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) and Cabrillo College. Board meetings are held on the fourth Friday of each month. Comments from the general public on any issue can be made during the public comment period at the Board meetings.

Santa Cruz METRO is also responsible for the provision of complementary paratransit to fixed route transit service under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Santa Cruz METRO ParaCruz provides shared ride, door-to-door service for people certified as unable to use the regular service.

Local Planning Coordination and Sustainability

In 2008, Senate Bill 375 (SB 375, Steinberg) was passed, which requires AMBAG to include a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The SCS aims to incorporate regional growth and housing demand with long range planning scenarios in the joint effort to decrease greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) at the state and regional level, as set forth by the California Air Resource Board (CARB). AMBAG is required to include SB 375 specific public participation requirements and process into the official Public Participation Plan (PPP) to include greater participation and coordination with local and regional agencies during the MTP/SCS development process. The Public Involvement Program (PIP) for the *2050 MTP/SCS* is included in Appendix G.

SB 375 also requires AMBAG to conduct a minimum of two informal meetings in each of the three counties within the Monterey Bay region for members of the Board of Supervisors and Council of Governments on the SCS. The purpose of these meetings is to present a draft of the SCS to members of the Board of Supervisors and City Council members in each county and to incorporate their input and recommendations.

IV. Public Participation Requirements

AMBAG and partners identified and updated various information, techniques and strategies for effective public outreach which were compiled in AMBAG's *2019 Monterey Bay Public Participation Plan* to shape and inform the bulk of this *2023 Public Participation Plan* (PPP).

This PPP provides interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the MPO transportation planning* and regionwide transportation planning process. To accomplish the consultation requirements of the IIJA/BIA and FAST Act, AMBAG and RTPAs conducted the following actions to ensure all public participation requirements would be met.

Research

AMBAG and RTPAs regularly gather information about how to improve public participation for major plans and projects throughout the planning process. For instance, as part of outreach efforts for AMBAG's *2045 MTP/SCS*, a list of key stakeholders was compiled to be contacted regularly regarding MTP/SCS programs and policies. In fall 2022, AMBAG went through an extensive effort to update the list, comprised of a large variety of individuals and organizations ranging from community groups, interest groups, environmental groups, local tribes, etc.

In addition, AMBAG staff conducted extensive research in preparation for the *2023 Public Participation Plan* by reviewing other California MPOs' recently updated Public Participation Plans, researching new federal and state legislation that may have affected the implementation process of the Public Participation Plan update, and sought new strategies in technological innovation to be included to improve public outreach for the Monterey Bay region.

Surveys

Online surveys have been used by the SCCRTC in development of its RTP and for projects such as the 2021 Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis, 2019 Unified Corridor Investment Study and the 2019 Highway 9 San Lorenzo Valley Complete Streets Corridor Plan. Multiple telephone surveys of likely voters have also been used by the RTPAs in their evaluation of local funding options for implementing the RTPs.

In March 2023, AMBAG developed a public outreach survey to request feedback on how to better keep the community engaged and informed throughout the decision-making process. The survey was available in English and Spanish and was posted online on AMBAG and partner websites and emailed to AMBAG's stakeholders and interested parties contacts. The survey focused on preferred methods of communication, preferred dates and times of meetings, and preferred engagement methods.

* Please refer to FHWA's 23 CFR 450.316(a).

Overall, online and telephone surveys are helpful tools to elicit public input as these surveys provide a decent sample size of residents from each of the three counties, which allows agencies to gauge how to best reach the public and address pertinent issues in regard to major plans and projects. For this reason, these survey methods will continue to be used for future plans and projects. But there are also limitations to surveys. It should be noted that as agencies are working to ensure broader participation by historically underrepresented groups, project-level surveys are not always statistically representative since survey participants are self-selected (volunteer to take the survey). Additionally, since fewer households are using landlines and cell phone numbers do not always represent the physical location of users, there are limitations to telephone surveys.

Direct Outreach

Providing public access to participation in the planning processes of the Monterey Bay region is a responsibility shared between AMBAG, SBtCOG, SCCRTC, TAMC, MST, San Benito County Express, Santa Cruz METRO, and Caltrans.

Each partner agency solicits public input to its planning, policy, and programming processes. Various methods are used to engage stakeholders, community-based organizations, and the general public and provide impacted public agencies and interested parties with timely information and opportunities to participate in the transportation planning process.

Each federally funded transportation plan, study, program, or project prepared or developed by AMBAG or RTPAS must have its own specified public participation process that defines the avenues for reasonable involvement in the transportation planning process.

The following slate of procedures and strategies represents a compilation of the public participation efforts and opportunities that may be offered to residents in the Monterey Bay region, subject to funding availability. These procedures and strategies also provide guidance for realizing the desired outcome of a robust and informed level of broad-based public involvement in the development and implementation of plans, programs and projects in the region.

Additional information for how to engage in public participation opportunities for each RTPA are summarized in Appendix B.

Required Procedures and Methods for Public Participation*

These activities are further explained in the following text, followed by a special section pertaining to new requirements for the MTP/SCS development pursuant to SB 375.

The following public participation activities must be included in every transportation plan, transportation improvement program and Environmental Impact Reports/Study:

1. Define Purpose and Identify Stakeholders

2. Consultation and Coordination with Other Agencies

3. Consultation with Interested Parties (Policy Bodies and Advisory Committees)

4. Public Notice, Public Hearings, Comment Periods (utilizes the Brown Act)

5. Use of Media and Informational Materials and Visualization Techniques

6. Encourage Bilingual Participation

7. Respond to Public Comments/Input

8. Web Posting/Distribution of Draft and Final Documents

1. Define Purpose and Identify Stakeholders

Prior to initiating public outreach on transportation plans, programs, and projects, AMBAG and RTPAs define the purpose, objectives, and stakeholders for effective public involvement. Individuals and groups that have an interest in transportation decisions may include, but are not limited to:

- Landowners
- Neighborhood and community groups
- Environmental advocates
- Tribal and Indigenous communities
- Organizations serving seniors, persons with disabilities, and youth
- Affordable housing advocates and providers
- Transportation advocates
- Home builder representatives
- Business organizations
- Commercial property interests
- Educational organizations
- Health and social service organizations
- Tourism representatives
- Trucking and agriculture representatives

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*Please refer to Title 23: 450.316 from *Federal Register Vol. 72 No. 30* in Appendix D for more information.

These groups can be represented through direct outreach, advisory committees, or other methods described in the following text. AMBAG and partner agencies recognize that the public expects a clear understanding of their involvement and purpose throughout the transportation planning process. During this step, agencies will determine public participation goals for their specific plan, study, program, or project including performance metrics, data to be collected, and monitoring strategies over the length of the outreach campaign.

As with many transportation projects, there are many demands on limited available resources; therefore, practical and economical public outreach options can be used to expand toolbox skill sets, as well as leverage existing resources and technological advances. For instance, AMBAG, SBtCOG, SCCRTC, and TAMC have added a Google Translation Widget on their webpage so users can switch from English to Spanish while browsing their websites. Also, SCCRTC utilizes Caltrans QuickMap on the Cruz511 traveler information traffic map page. This map includes visuals from the live traffic camera, and road closure information from Caltrans. Tools such as these are cost-effective and helpful and can reach multiple audiences, but agencies must also be mindful of their limitations including people experiencing technology barriers.

2. Consultation and Coordination with Other Agencies

AMBAG and RTPAs seek input from state and federal resource management agencies during development of transportation planning studies and projects in their respective regions. AMBAG leads the outreach efforts with federal, state, and local (including cities and counties) agencies during development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) and the associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which also serves as the RTPA's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Appropriate consultation is undertaken with agencies and officials responsible for planning activities within the region, as well as state and federal resource management agencies. These agencies include but are not limited to:

- Federal and State Resource Agencies (Water, Fish and Game, Coastal Commission, etc.)
- Federal Land Management Agencies
- Local Tribal Governments
- Housing, Economic Development and Community Planning Agencies
- Airports
- Freight Industry Stakeholders

Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy Staff Working Group

AMBAG, RTPAs, and transit agencies within the Monterey Bay region participate in regular coordination group meetings to discuss the preparation of transportation plan updates, policy issues and coordinate development of the SCS for the region that is required by Senate Bill 375. During the development of AMBAG's MTP/SCS, staff meets with the three RTPAs' staff twice a

month as part of a working group in order to coordinate the development of each of the Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs).

NEPA and CEQA Consultation

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) both define the minimum standards for reasonable public access and participation in the decision-making process. The public participation process defined by NEPA for federal consultation serves as the primary process for consultation to occur with federal, state, and local resource management agencies. CEQA requires environmental documents to be prepared across all jurisdictions for regional and local transportation plans and projects, such as Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs).

AMBAG is primarily a planning agency, therefore AMBAG's actions do not regularly fall under NEPA/CEQA as they are not projects, as defined by NEPA. However, AMBAG must abide by the statutory requirements as outlined in these acts should the agency participate in a project that falls under the NEPA/CEQA process. For example, MPOs are responsible for the planning contained in the MTP/SCS that precedes project delivery. Typically, a local government, consultant, or Caltrans is responsible for the actual construction of the project i.e., project delivery. CEQA applies to the planning document (MTP/SCS and RTPAs' RTPs) while both NEPA and CEQA may apply to the individual projects that implement the MTP/SCS during the project delivery process.

Additionally, under adopted CEQA State Clearinghouse Procedures, AMBAG has been designated the regional agency responsible for Clearinghouse operations in Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey Counties. In this capacity, AMBAG provides comments on key projects which may have an impact on the implementation of the MTP/SCS and MTIP. This allows AMBAG to monitor regionally significant projects and their impact on the regional travel demand model and regional transportation performance targets.

3. Consultation with Interested Parties (Policy Bodies and Advisory Committees)

AMBAG and partner agencies hold regularly scheduled meetings where the public is encouraged to attend and are noticed per Brown Act requirements. General meeting notices, agendas and materials are posted at agency offices at least 72 hours before regular meetings and 24 hours before special meetings. All Board meeting and standing committee meeting notices are typically posted on agency websites. Some special meetings or notices for public hearings are also published in general circulation newspapers.

Agendas and materials are made available in advance of meetings by regular mail, email or by links to the host agency website. Agendas are also posted at each agency's respective offices.

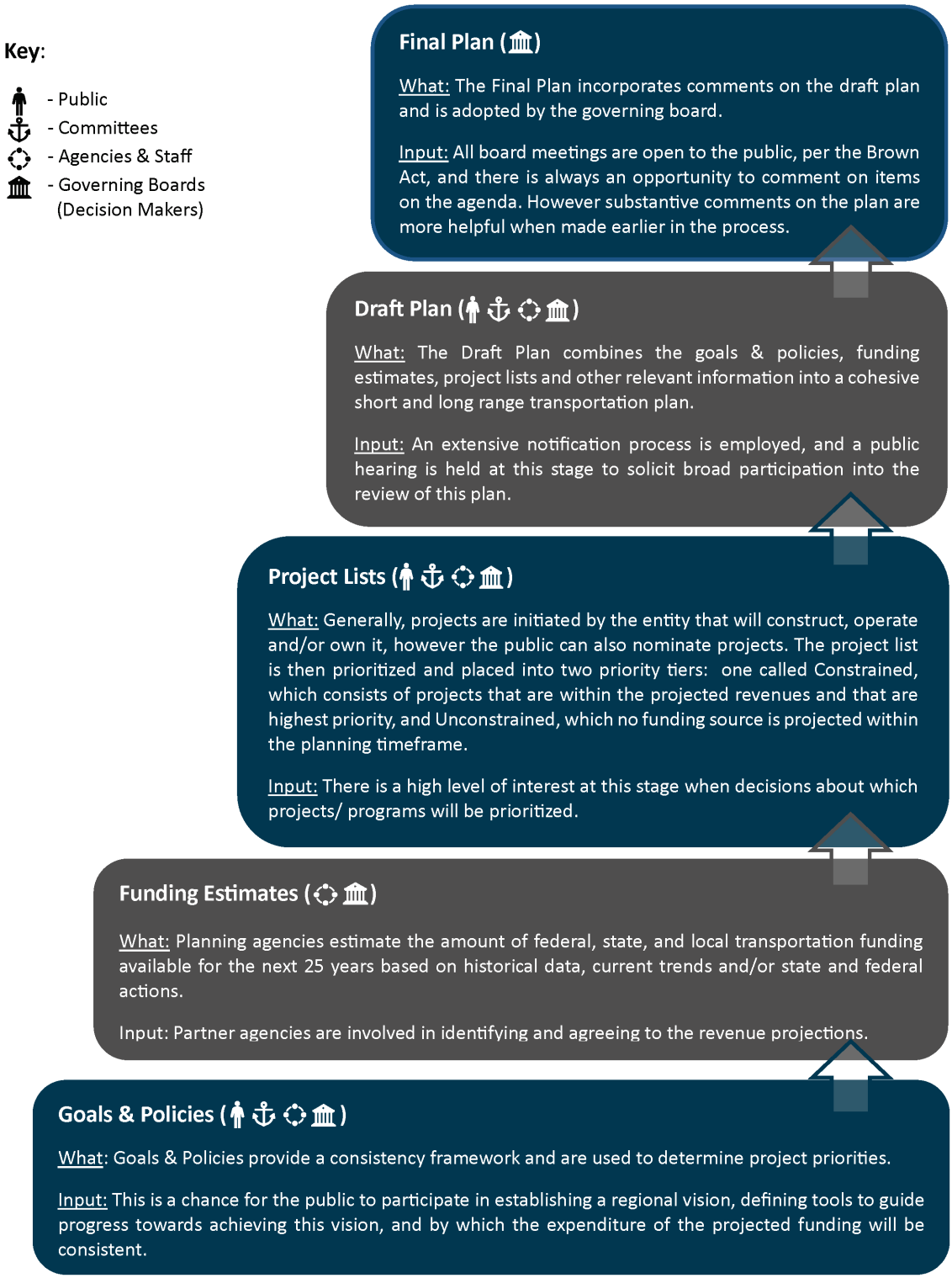
The agenda of each meeting provides an opportunity for members of the general public to provide comment to the Board/Committee concerning matters within the agency's purview.

In recent years, AMBAG and partners provided opportunities for virtual and hybrid meeting styles that have allowed members of the public to participate in Board meetings, standing committees and special meetings remotely. AMBAG agendas now include Zoom links to increase public participation virtually and remotely. Virtual engagement methods increase inclusivity and accessibility, reduce geographical/transportation barriers, promote cost savings and efficiency, and facilitate increased data sharing and collaboration. Virtual participation has proven an effective way to ensure engagement and meaningful participation from community members. It is a best practice to enable closed captioning during virtual meetings, offer public access to meeting recordings, and post meeting presentation slides online. As we move forward, virtual engagement will continue to shape a more collaborative, equitable, and resilient transportation network.

Staff reports, transportation plans and studies can be viewed at AMBAG or partners' offices, websites, and hardcopies are also made available upon request. Transportation plans and some major documents are also available at local public libraries.

In addition, public input to the transportation planning and programming process can include notification and early solicitation through each of the agency's technical advisory committees and through project sponsors, such as city councils and city committees (refer to Figure 3-1). AMBAG and the region's three public transit operators also use the RTPA technical advisory committees to notify and solicit input on their planning and programming processes.

Figure 3-1: Building Blocks of Regional Transportation Planning and Public Input Flow Chart



Technical Advisory Committees (TACs)
TAMC, SBtCOG, and SCCRTC, the three Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) for the Monterey Bay region, each appoints a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which meets regularly to help guide the technical aspects of transportation planning, project selection and programming within their respective region. The TAC members are usually planners and engineers representing affected agencies and jurisdictions in each county.

Additional agency representation on these committees includes some combination of the following: AMBAG staff, transit operators, regional agencies, Transportation Management Agencies, educational institutions, Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Recommendations of each committee are provided to the respective Board.

Social Service Transportation Advisory Councils (SSTACs)
As required by the Transportation Development Act (TDA), each Regional Transportation Planning Agency appoints a Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) to advise the agencies on specialized transportation and unmet transit needs. Candidates are recruited from a broad representation of social services, transportation providers, and the general public representing the elderly, persons with disabilities, and persons of limited means. The Transportation Development Act requires an annual unmet needs public hearing if Local Transportation Funds (LTF) are to be used for local road projects.

In Monterey and San Benito Counties, the primary purpose of each committee is to ensure that there are no unmet transit needs which are reasonable to meet in areas which use Local Transportation Funds (LTF) for purposes other than transit. Santa Cruz County does not divert any Local Transportation Funds (LTF) to road projects; therefore, they do not require a formal unmet transit needs process. However, SCCRTC regularly conducts an unmet needs process to understand priority transportation needs for seniors, persons with disabilities, and low-income community members.

In addition to the unmet transit needs activities of the SSTACs, the three agencies' committees regularly review and comment on proposed planning documents and matters affecting the groups they represent. For instance, the public transit operators' on-going compliance in meeting the complementary paratransit goal provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is of interest to SSTAC members. As such, a transit operator representative attends the SSTAC meetings to address complementary paratransit as well as other public transit issues of interest to the committee. SSTAC committee actions are reported to and considered by each Regional Transportation Planning Agency Board.

In Santa Cruz County, the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) serves as the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC). In addition to fulfilling the requirements of the SSTAC as required by California Code, the E&D TAC advises SCCRTC, the

Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (Santa Cruz METRO), the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency, social service agencies and the local jurisdictions in Santa Cruz County on transportation issues, policies, plans, programs, and projects for the elderly, persons with disabilities and persons of limited means populations. In addition to the E&D TAC, SCCRTC is also forming a Transportation Equity Workgroup to advise the agency on integrating equity into transportation planning and project implementation.

In Monterey County, the Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) Mobility Advisory Committee serves as the transportation agency's Social Services Transportation Advisory Council and advises the agency on the transportation needs of the elderly, persons with disabilities and limited means populations. The Mobility Advisory Committee includes representatives from the County's social service providers and MST Mobility Program customers. The committee serves as an advisory body to MST regarding the delivery of coordinated transportation and mobility management services provided through MST's Consolidated Transportation Services Agency.

In San Benito County, SBtCOG maintains its own SSTAC committee for the purposes of advising the COG and the Local Transportation Authority (LTA) on matters related to transportation accessibility for seniors, persons with disabilities, and persons of limited means. Transit issues that may require more attention from the SSTAC are Specialized Transportation services, and related planning and studies.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees

SCCRTC appoints a Bicycle Advisory Committee while TAMC appoints a Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee, and SBtCOG appoints a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. These committees meet either monthly or semi-monthly to review, discuss and make recommendations on bicycle and pedestrian related projects, plans, safety messaging during the construction of transportation projects, and in some cases funding programming. Recommendations of each committee are forwarded to the respective Board of Directors or member jurisdictions. These committees are composed of community volunteers and local agencies.

In Santa Cruz County, accessible pedestrian issues are also discussed by the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC). As needed, the E&D TAC has established standing or temporary subcommittees to discuss pedestrian safety and accessibility.

Rail Policy Committee

The TAMC Rail Policy Committee meets monthly to advise TAMC on plans and issues associated with commuter and passenger rail services being developed in Monterey County. The Rail Policy Committee is composed of TAMC Board Members or their alternates from the following

jurisdictions on the rail lines: Cities of Salinas, Marina, Sand City, Seaside, and Monterey, Supervisorial District 1, Supervisorial District 2, Supervisorial District 4, Supervisorial District 5, and two representatives from South Monterey County: either (a) the 3rd District County Supervisor and a voting TAMC Board member from one of the South Monterey County Cities, or (b) two voting TAMC Board members from South Monterey County Cities. The TAMC Chair may appoint annually ex-officio members as needed.

Transit Citizens Advisory Committee

Each member of the Santa Cruz METRO Board of Directors appoints one person to the Santa Cruz METRO Advisory Committee (MAC) for a two-year appointment to represent Santa Cruz County. MAC provides advice to Santa Cruz METRO's Board of Directors on matters of Santa Cruz METRO policy and operations referred to the Committee by the Board or Secretary/General Manager and to perform additional duties as assigned by the Board. MAC also may address issues which members or the public raise with respect to the quantity and quality of services provided by Santa Cruz METRO and meets on the third Wednesday of each month. In Monterey County, the Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) Mobility Advisory Committee fulfills this role.

Budget, Administration & Personnel Committee

To ensure efficient and effective operations, SCCRTC's Budget, Administration & Personnel Committee serves to review and monitor issues relating to the budget, work program, and other administrative functions of SCCRTC and makes recommendations to SCCRTC regarding such items. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing personnel matters and conducting the annual performance evaluation of the Executive Director. The Budget, Administration & Personnel Committee is made up of six SCCRTC commissioners elected to the committee annually.

Traffic Operations System (TOS) Oversight Committee

SCCRTC has a Traffic Operations System (TOS) Oversight Committee that includes representatives from Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol (CHP), local law enforcement, legislators' representatives, and the media. The purpose of the Committee is to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and safety of the transportation system through implementing operational improvements including the integration of technology into transportation infrastructure to monitor road conditions and inform motorists of potential hazards or delays.

In addition, the Committee monitors the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) program that improves operations by deploying tow trucks during peak hours to remove hazards from the roadway. The Committee routinely discusses ways to improve communication among the various agencies and to enhance the existing TOS system. The Committee meets biannually. In addition,

the SCCRTC staffs the Safe on 17 Task Force to discuss safety improvements and programs for Highway 17. Task Force members include Caltrans, the CHP, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and other interests on both sides of the hill.

Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC)

In October 2018, the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG), Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC), Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), and Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) formalized their relationship through a Memorandum of Understanding establishing themselves as the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC). The mission of the CRCC is to improve the frequency, speed, reliability, and ease of use of passenger trains on the coastal route between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The CRCC includes a Working Group which is made up of staff members from the various agencies, and a Policy Group which is made up of elected officials (or previously elected officials) from each of the agencies. Meetings alternate between the Working and Policy Groups. The Working Group typically meets six times per year, and the Policy Group meets four times per year. The locations of the meetings are rotated north and south along the corridor. SLOCOG has taken on the responsibility for staffing the CRCC.

Taxpayer Oversight Committee

In compliance with state law, the SCCRTC established a Taxpayer Oversight Committee in order to ensure accountability, transparency and public oversight of all funds collected and allocated under Measure D. A Taxpayer Oversight Committee was formed by the Commission to review the annual independent fiscal audit of the expenditure of the transportation tax funds. The Oversight Committee issues an annual report on its findings to the SCCRTC regarding compliance with the requirements of the Expenditure Plan and the Ordinance. Members of the Independent Oversight Committee are residents of Santa Cruz County who are neither elected officials of any government, nor employees from any agency or organization that either oversees or implements projects funded from the proceeds of the sales tax. Members are required to fairly represent the geographical, social, cultural, and economic diversity of Santa Cruz County to ensure maximum benefit for transportation users. The meetings are announced in advance on the SCCRTC website, and the public is encouraged to attend.

Measure X, Transportation Safety & Investment Plan, Monterey County

In accordance with the Policies & Project Descriptions for the Transportation Safety & Investment Plan approved by Monterey County voters on November 8, 2016, as Measure X, a Citizens Oversight Committee representing a diverse range of community interests was formed within six months of voter approval of the measure. Members and their alternates were nominated by the organization they are representing. Additional members were appointed by

the transportation agency's Board of Directors to ensure that a broad range of geographic and stakeholder interests are represented on the committee.

The committee's responsibility is to ensure that transportation funds are expended as required by the Transportation Safety and Investment Plan. The Citizens Oversight Committee also has review and recommendation responsibility for Plan changes and project delivery.

Measure X is anticipated to generate an estimated $600 million over thirty years through a retail transaction and use tax of a three-eighths' of one percent (3/8%).

San Benito COG Measure G Transportation Safety and Investment Plan Oversight Committee

With the November 6, 2018, passing of Measure G, a 1% sales tax over thirty years to fund critical transportation safety and mobility projects in San Benito County, a Transportation Safety and Investment Plan Oversight Committee composed of citizens to oversee compliance with the tax ordinance was established. The Committee consists of 11 San Benito County residents that represent the geographical, social, cultural, and economic diversity of the County to ensure maximum benefit for transportation use and it meets quarterly.

Ad Hoc Committees

All the standing advisory committees, listed above, must meet the requirements of the Brown Act in public involvement and participation requests. In addition to these standing committees, AMBAG and partner agencies may appoint special ad-hoc committees for specific programs/plans that arise. Ad hoc committees are temporary committees established to address a specific matter or issue within the metropolitan planning framework.

Although ad hoc committees do not necessarily have to meet the Brown Act public involvement requirements, they typically do because political leaders and the communities in the region have a strong commitment to the public participation process (CA Government Code § 54952(b)). Additional public input and involvement may occur through these special ad-hoc committees.

Planning Directors Forum

AMBAG hosts regular meetings of the Planning Directors Forum (PDF). The PDF consists of planning directors and staff from the 18 cities, three counties, three regional transportation planning agencies, transit agencies, universities and LAFCO. The PDF meets regularly to address regional land use, housing, and transportation planning issues.

4. Public Hearings

Public hearings are held prior to a major decision point to gather comments for the public record, as well as input into the decision-making process. Each partner agency holds public hearings prior to adoption of their major plans, programs, and major service revisions (e.g.,

Metropolitan/Regional Transportation Plans, Transportation Improvement Programs, Short Range Transit Plans, Americans with Disabilities Act, complementary paratransit plans, Unmet Transit Needs, transit Program of Projects, and transit service revisions).
For instance, Santa Cruz METRO and MST hold public hearings when there is a service change greater than 25 percent, elimination of routes, fare changes, adoption of an ordinance, adoption of a resolution authorizing application for grant funding, adopting the annual budget, environmental documents, eminent domain resolutions, or Short Range Transit Plans. All Santa Cruz METRO public hearings are published as legal notice in local newspapers. For adoption of an ordinance, legal notices are published in both local newspapers and are posted at public places, such as Santa Cruz METRO transit centers.

For some regional agencies and local jurisdictions, public meetings are sometimes broadcast live on public access television, such as city council meetings. These meetings are generally re-broadcast and available to view on the respective jurisdiction's website, providing the public additional opportunities to view the proceedings. AMBAG now provides a hybrid meeting for Board of Directors meetings, allowing the public three minutes to comment whether participating in-person or remotely.

Public Hearing Notices *
AMBAG and the RTPAs publish legal notices of public hearings in newspapers of general circulation citing the time, date, and place of the hearings. For Spanish-speaking communities, public hearing notices are translated and displayed in both English and Spanish in newspapers and radio. For items of wide public interest, public display advertisements may also be used for legal notices. Unless indicated otherwise, public hearing notices are typically made available at least seven days in advance of a hearing.

Public Hearings*
Public hearings are conducted by the AMBAG Board and RTPAs during their regular meetings or at special meetings scheduled to attract greater community participation, which may include being held evenings and weekends. Notice of these public hearings is placed on each agency's website and, when required by law, in the legal section of numerous newspapers in the region. Public hearings may also be conducted by each agency's standing committees. Meetings are held in facilities that are accessible to persons with disabilities and along transit routes, when possible.

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*Please refer to Title 23: 450.316 from *Federal Register Vol. 72 No. 30* in Appendix D for more information.

As part of a public hearing, the policy board will generally receive a report from agency staff prior to opening the hearing for comments from the public. The hearing will be concluded when all members of the public wishing to speak have been provided with the opportunity to comment, including Spanish-speakers. Accommodations for languages can be made available with prior request and noticing. Agency staff may respond, as appropriate, to comments provided at the hearing prior to the policy board taking action with respect to the subject of the hearing.

Public Comment Period: AMBAG and partner agencies publish legal notices of public comment periods in local newspapers of general circulation citing the dates when they will be accepting comments on regional plans, the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), studies and transportation projects. The public comment period for adoption or revision of the Public Participation Plan, transportation plans, the MTIP, and other key decision points must be "timely" and for the AMBAG region are as follows:

- **AMBAG Public Participation Plan:** 45 Days
- **Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy:** 55 days
- **Approval of the MTIP and Other Plans or Studies:** Varies, but typically 30 days
- **Regional Transportation Plans**: 30 days
- **Formal Amendments to the MTIP**: 2 weeks

AMBAG and RTPAs accept prepared comments (oral, written, and emailed) from the public during the public review period for plans that require public hearings; all such comments are then made part of the public record.

Amendment or Modification to Draft Plans (MTP/MTIP/PPP) or Projects: Proposed final documents, which integrate public comments, are typically available for public review at least 72 hours prior to policy board adoption. If draft plans or projects differ significantly from the initial draft, which was made available for public comment and raises new issues which interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts, an additional opportunity for public comment on the revised plans or other plans will be made available within schedule constraints. Minor changes in the draft plans or projects generally can be made after AMBAG, partner RTPAs, and/or our transit agencies have completed its public comment process without further opportunities for public feedback. AMBAG or respective agencies can define what is considered a minor change during the development of the public involvement process for the plan.

5. Use of Media and Informational Materials, and Visualization Techniques

Media notification is used by AMBAG and RTPAs to inform the public of upcoming decision points, decisions made and their potential ramifications regarding transportation planning,

funding, project implementation and/or service provision. Multilingual media coverage can help deliver information regarding actions or events. All plans and projects should utilize at least one of the following multimedia methods to communicate details about the project and inform the public. The following public participation methods subject to funding availability are employed within the Monterey Bay region:

- **Websites** – AMBAG and RTPAs maintain websites that provide the public with information about the agencies', their programs, and special projects.

  Project and program information - including reports, documents, plans, fact sheets, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), maps, graphs, charts, presentations, and videos - is posted on the websites and made available to the public. In addition, interactive functions have been added for members of the public to participate online such as submitting comments, voting and completing surveys on major projects and plans within the Monterey Bay region.

  Meeting notices and agendas/minutes/ meeting recordings for the agency, as well as their advisory committees, are also posted and available for downloading or review. Agencies can use tools like Google Analytics to track the number of downloads of particular documents or the number of visits to a specific webpage. Additionally, agencies strive to design websites that are easy to navigate with functions such as providing links to staff reports pertaining to agenda items and submitting public comment. TAMC also provides viewers the ability to watch board meetings on demand on their website. Most partner agencies also have a "What's New" section on their website to provide reviewing parties a quick way to read more about the latest developments.

  Agency websites also provide a forum for visual materials that assist viewers in conceptualizing programs and projects. The partner agency websites include:

  - *Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments*: www.ambag.org
  - *Council of San Benito County Governments:* www.sanbenitocog.org
  - *Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission*: www.sccrtc.org
  - *Transportation Agency for Monterey County*: www.tamcmonterey.org
  - *Monterey-Salinas Transit*: www.mst.org
  - *Santa Cruz METRO*: www.scmtd.org
  - *San Benito County Express*: http://www.sanbenitocountyexpress.org

- **News Releases** – AMBAG and partner agencies prepare and forward news releases to print and broadcast English/Spanish media for issues or events that affect the region, including proposed actions, notification of workshops, completion of major projects and legislative actions affecting the transportation planning and service providers. This is perhaps the most frequently used media outreach method. Board meeting highlights are also sent by two agencies to media contacts as well as elected officials, advisory committees and a range of other interests in the county following each meeting.

- **Articles** – In print and online news outlets.
- **Press Conferences** – All partner agencies hold press conferences to focus press attention on newsworthy special events and occasions.
- **Radio and Television** – Some of the partner agencies provide televised broadcasts of their Board meetings on community access television. Agencies also work with English/Spanish television and radio stations, special programs, and/or public access media within the region to interview and/or film special segments and upload webcasts/podcasts to spread the word about their agency and/or programs. For instance, AMBAG in the past has developed videos to promote important plan adoptions and frequently is included in radio interviews on regional topics like housing and transportation.
- **Newsletters, Brochures, and eNews** – AMBAG and partner agencies use newsletters, brochures or eNews to provide information on their transportation programs and particular project development. News releases and eNews are often sent to entities for inclusion in their electronic newsletters.
- **Agency Reports** – Several partners prepare and distribute an annual agency report sent to a broad range of their constituents and planning partners. These reports serve to communicate to the public the agency's accomplishments, revenue/expenditures and future directions.
- **Posters and Inserts** – English/Spanish posters and inserts are generally used by AMBAG and partner agencies to focus attention on a particular program.
- **Project Flyers and Folders** – AMBAG and several of the partners develop and distribute information flyers and/or folders at public workshops, meetings, community events, and other significant events. Some agencies are now preparing and distributing fact sheets on various projects, programs, and agency information to provide the most current information to the public. Many of the flyers are also printed in Spanish.
- **Advertising** – Many of the partners use English/Spanish advertising means, such as display ads in newspapers, outdoor advertisements on the sides of buses, "car cards" inside the buses, posters placed in high travel corridors, and business card-sized materials with web links or QR codes to capture people's attention.
- **Online Social Media Networks** – AMBAG and the RTPAs distribute information on their respective plans, programs and projects through online social media networks such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter (X), and Nextdoor. Agencies use social media as a low-stakes entry point for constituent engagement to help establish and build credibility and trust, build awareness around initiatives/campaigns, and crisis communications. Over time more people turn to social media as their news source, so it is an important tool for outreach.
- **Mapping** – AMBAG provides internet users with access to regional planning data available through the website, such as statistical information for multiple geographies ranging from the neighborhood-level to the tri-county level. In addition, the AMBAG 2021 Title VI Plan includes a spatial analysis utilizing U.S. Census data and GIS on the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations within the Monterey Bay region. AMBAG and partner agencies provide GIS mapping tools on each agency's website and include display maps in planning documents and articles in other places to help with project

visualization. AMBAG's mapping tool can be found on the webpage: https://ambag.org/program/gis.

6. Bilingual Participation

The Monterey Bay region is home to a significant Spanish-speaking population. AMBAG and partner agencies employ a number of bilingual, culturally sensitive outreach methods to include participation of the Spanish-speaking community. These methods include:

- Publishing printed information regarding services, projects, programs, and meetings in Spanish.
- Spanish language media in the distribution of news releases.
- Advertising public hearings, meetings, projects and programs in the Spanish language print, radio, and television media.
- Providing simultaneous Spanish language interpretation services at meetings.
- Conducting meetings in Spanish in communities where Spanish is the dominant language with English translation and encourage Board member attendance.
- Producing Spanish language website content, videos, and physical publications, such as flyers.
- Providing language identification flashcards at public meetings.
- Ensure that transit contractors recruit bilingual (English/Spanish) personnel.
- Providing bilingual staff when tabling at community events and at pop-up public locations to solicit project feedback or disseminate program information.

AMBAG can provide materials and special accommodations for other Limited English Populations (LEP) in the region, with proper notice.

7. Response to Public Input

Timely response to public input is important to encourage public participation and ensure that agencies communicate that public input is valued.

Responses to public input are made directly when public input level permits, or a consolidated response is prepared for specific issues if the volume of public comment does not allow individual responses. For certain projects, later draft iterations should be accompanied by summaries of how public input was incorporated into and changed the project. Written responses to public or agency input are reported to the respective policy board for information. In some cases, as with the transportation plans and the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), when significant written and oral comments are received on the draft plan or program as a result of the public involvement process, a summary analysis and report on the disposition of comments is made and reported to the Board of Directors of the agency that received the comments or is approving the document.

8. Distribution of Final Documents

Final documents are available on agency websites or agency libraries. All electronic documents provided by AMBAG and posted to the agency website are in an ADA accessible format to comply with federal requirements. Accessible formatting for online documents to meet ADA requirements includes providing alternative text descriptions for visual elements, enabling keyboard accessibility, and offering captions and transcriptions for multimedia content. Members of the public can request a copy of final documents from the appropriate agency. Written materials provided to a partner agency's Board of Directors may also be available for review upon request.

V. PPP Procedures and Development Process

AMBAG's and the RTPA's *2023 Public Participation Plan* (PPP) aims to give the public ample opportunities for early and continued participation in critical transportation projects, plans, and decisions, and to provide full public access to key decisions. The goals set forth in the *2023 Public Participation Plan* are to further equitable participation and decision-making regionally by utilizing effective and innovative public outreach methods. Engaging the public early and often in the decision-making process is critical to the success of any transportation plan or program and is required by numerous state and federal laws.

Preparation of the 2023 Public Participation Plan

AMBAG initiated development of the plan by compiling information from various MPO's research and federal transportation regulations. Consultation with partner agencies on their existing public participation and policy decision-making processes was conducted throughout the PPP process. AMBAG and the RTPAs consulted with interested parties at the federal, state, regional, and local level to identify opportunities for improving or building upon existing practices.

Prior to the development of the plan, AMBAG released a Public Participation Plan Survey in English and Spanish to receive direction from the community on how to best engage to increase public participation. In March 2023, AMBAG released the Public Participation Plan Survey to regional, state, federal stakeholders and interested parties, and received nearly 200 responses.

Trends of the survey included participants requesting online commenting, surveys, and meeting platforms, an increased interest in presenting information during informal events such as pop-ups/tablings, and weekday evenings as the best times for in person and virtual community meetings. A few participants suggested AMBAG increase the use of social media platforms, including creating subject matter videos on hot topics and issues for YouTube and other video streaming sites. AMBAG will investigate incorporating this in future efforts.

Preparation for the *2023 Public Participation Plan* also included kick off meetings between AMBAG and the RTPAs. Staff from each agency provided discussion on relevant topics and policies that should be addressed in the plan update. This discussion, combined with feedback received while presenting the development of the draft plan amongst working groups and technical advisory committees throughout all three counties, resulted in the *2023 Public Participation Plan*.

The *Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan* was circulated for public review and comment for 70 days. AMBAG and RTPAs (TAMC, SBtCOG and SCCRTC) worked together to restructure the previously adopted *2019 Monterey Bay Public Participation Plan* to make the plan more useful for transportation decision-making in the Monterey Bay region. See Figure 4-1 for the timeline of the *2023 PPP* development process and approvals.

Public Participation Plan Guiding Principles

AMBAG and RTPAs established a set of activities and goals to achieve our guiding principles for the *2023 Public Participation Plan* by creating a framework and action plan for each outreach goal. These goals are agencywide and are utilized and implemented in major plans and projects, including the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies (MTP/SCS), Regional Transportation Plans (RTP), Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP) and Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP).

Equity

Goal: Prioritize public engagement methods that **increase equitable participation and distribution of resources** in all outreach efforts, projects, and programs.

Activity: Engage impacted and historically underserved communities early and often. Inclusive engagement, policies and practices must be considered to eliminate systematic barriers. In the AMBAG region, collaborative decision-making processes, such as citizen advisory committees and focus groups, can be established to ensure diverse representation and involvement are achieved. Other methods include door-to-door outreach, organizing community workshops and public hearings in the communities with low engagement, utilizing digital platforms, surveys (in-person, online, by phone), social media campaigns, and partnering with community-based organizations. Additionally, AMBAG, partners and other local decision-makers should incorporate cultural sensitivity into public outreach efforts. This includes recognizing and respecting cultural norms, values, and practices of diverse communities, and adapting engagement methods accordingly. For example, TAMC has adapted outreach strategies to include interpretation accommodations for indigenous language speakers in south Monterey County.

Broad Based Involvement

Goal: Value public participation and **promote broad based involvement** by members of the community.

Activity: In addition to having a list of stakeholders and working collaboratively with partner agencies, AMBAG and RTPAs will also interact and outreach to community groups and marginalized community members within the Monterey Bay region, as input from a variety of perspectives helps to enhance the process. AMBAG and RTPAs structure their major planning initiatives and funding decisions to provide meaningful opportunities to help shape outcomes. With this in mind, agencies determine public participation goals for their specific plan, study, program, or project including performance metrics, data to be collected, and monitoring strategies over the length of the outreach campaign. For example, because AMBAG's *2050 MTP/SCS* is the blueprint for both new policies and investments for the Monterey Bay region, updating and developing the MTP/SCS is one of the best projects for interested persons to get involved. The list of all groups, stakeholders and councilmembers can be found in Appendix D.

Opportunity

Goal: Provide **varied opportunities for public review and input**.

Activity: AMBAG and RTPAs will engage with partner agencies, committees, working groups, and the public to obtain comments and suggestions during the development of the MTP/SCS, MTIP, RTP and RTIP. When the drafts of major plans, programs, and documents are released, the public review periods for each document tend to vary from 30-60 days. AMBAG and RTPAs will announce these public review periods through various media outlets, thereby providing as many opportunities as possible for the public to read and provide comments on the drafts of major documents to be implemented in the future. To find out more about public participation practices by agency, please refer to Appendix B.

Environmental Justice

Goal: Treat all members of the public fairly, and **respect and consider all citizen input** as an important component of the planning and implementation process ensuring that actions taken will not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on underserved populations.

Activity: AMBAG and RTPAs actively reach out to the traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities within the Monterey Bay region and enhance efforts to effectively involve rural communities in all major transportation planning processes. The *2023 Public Participation Plan* ensures that community concerns and engagement can guide the identification of programs, policies, and activities, and ensure that actions taken will not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on underserved populations. AMBAG and the RTPAs will undertake specific strategies to involve all members of the public in regional transportation planning and investment decisions. One size does not fit all as input from diverse perspectives enhances the process and creates a more equitable decision-making process.

Engagement

Goal: Promote a **culture of dialogue and partnership** among residents, property owners, the business community, organizations, other interested citizens, and public officials.

Activity: Early engagement is best. Although all participation is encouraged, agencies can put additional effort into specific areas that have the highest numbers of disadvantaged/ underserved people, based on mapping of census or other data. AMBAG and RTPAs create support materials that are easy to understand, applicable to the lives of the participants, and visually engaging in both print and electronic format making them accessible at meetings and on agency websites. AMBAG and RTPAs plan workshops and/or public hearings that are available virtually, and at convenient venues even for those without access to a car, and times across the region; and ensure such events, and material and outreach provided for the event,

are fully accessible to the public, including low-income, minority, rural communities, persons with disabilities (physical visual, audio) and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations. Additionally, when funding allows, agencies could consider offering childcare at community meetings to encourage young families to participate.

Involvement of Underserved Communities

Goal: **Involve underserved communities and local community groups**, as well as other organizations.

Activity: Making a greater effort to partner with local community groups including schools and smaller/rural communities that feel like they don't have a voice and involving them in the public participation process as much as possible is important. Strategies can include ground truthing in neighborhoods for underserved peoples, providing materials/videos in languages other than English and Spanish, and holding enriching community events/tablings where participation is historically low. Board member attendance at these community events will be highly encouraged. An open, transparent, and culturally sensitive public participation process will help empower affected low-income communities and communities of color to participate in the decision-making process. Engaging interested persons (especially marginalized community members) in regional transportation issues is challenging, yet possible, by making it relevant to everyday life, simply stated, and removing barriers to participation.

Encouragement

Goal: **Encourage active public participation** throughout the whole process.

Activity: AMBAG and RTPAs ask thought provoking questions in public surveys, workshops and outreach meetings and engage audiences in strong discussions. Public participation is a dynamic activity that requires teamwork and commitment from all the Monterey Bay region's agencies, from the regional level to the local level.

Clear Communication

Goal: Provide communications and agency reports that are **clear, timely and broadly distributed**.

Activity: Effective public outreach and involvement requires collaborating with regional local governments, stakeholders, and advisory groups such as partner agencies. Making all types of multimedia communication clear, accessible, and easy to understand is important to be effective. Potential methods include adding a translation link in Spanish for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) citizens through a Google Translation Widget (although agencies must be conscious of the tool's limitations) on websites and providing distributed flyers, online notices, announcements and other materials in both English and Spanish, as feasible, to engage diverse populations. Agencies also provide hearing impaired and visually impaired citizens assistance in

receiving online and physical media distributions through physical outreach materials printed in larger font and in braille, upon request, to all electronic materials provided in an accessible format.

2023 Public Participation Plan

The *2023 Public Participation Plan* was developed by AMBAG in collaboration with the RTPAs. The AMBAG Board of Directors released the *Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan* for public review in June 2023. The comment period began on June 14, 2023, and ended on August 23, 2023. A public hearing on the *Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan* was held on August 9, 2023, at the AMBAG Board of Directors meeting. The following is a list of key dates for AMBAG and the RTPAs to prepare and approve the PPP:

- Draft Release Date for Public Comment
    - June 14, 2023: AMBAG and All Agencies
- Public Hearing at Board Meeting
    - August 1, 2023: SCCRTC
    - August 9, 2023: AMBAG
    - September 21, 2023: SBtCOG (rescheduled)
    - August 23, 2023: TAMC
- Close of Public Comment Period
    - August 23, 2023: All Agencies
- Final Adoption Date
    - October 19, 2023: SBtCOG
    - October 25, 2023: TAMC
    - November 2, 2023: SCCRTC
    - November 9, 2023: AMBAG

Information about the development of the *Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan* was circulated to stakeholder groups and interested parties who have expressed interest in the regional transportation planning process. A list of advisory committees and stakeholders who received notification about the availability of the *Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan* is included in Appendix D.

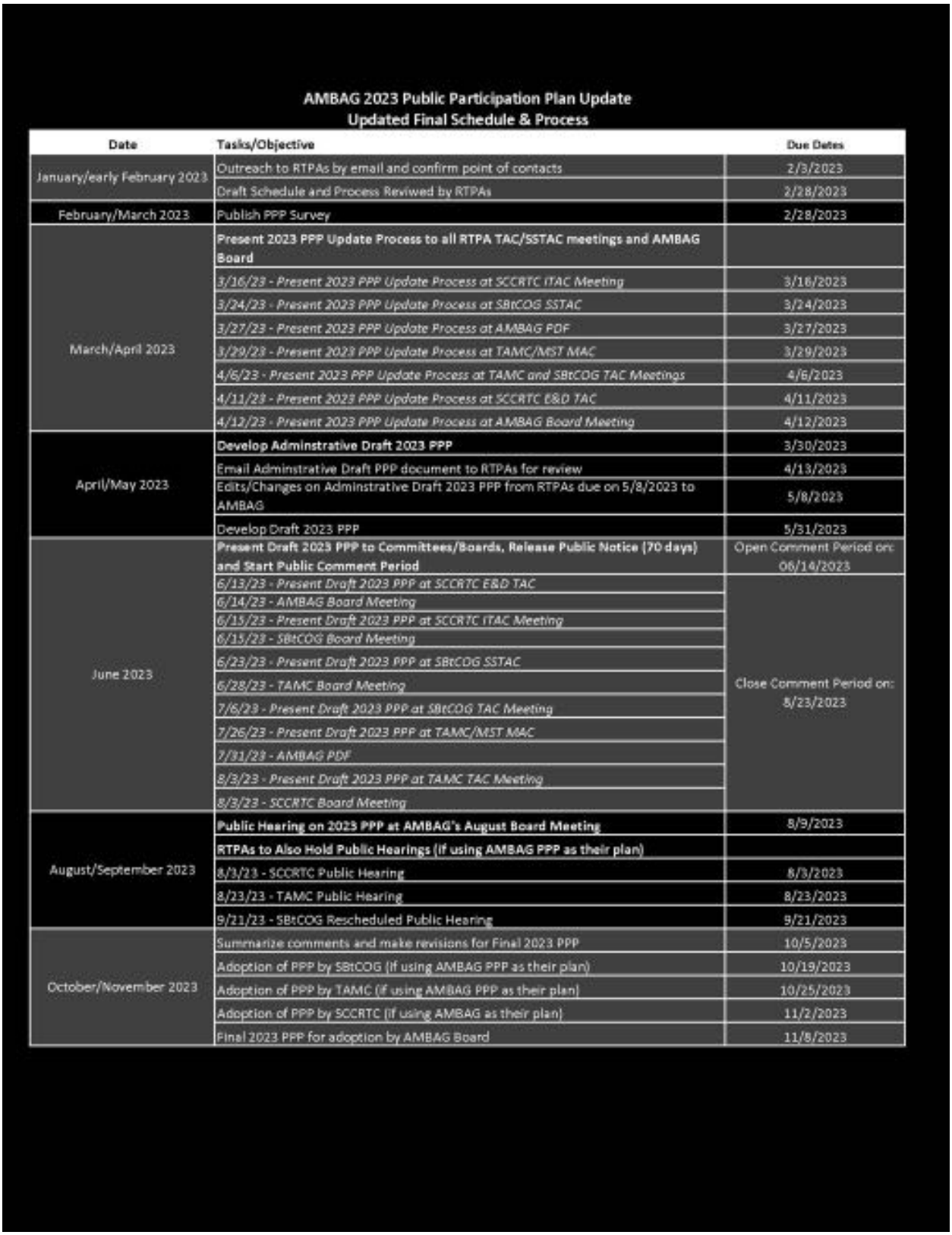
The *Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan*, like all of AMBAG's public documents, was also made available online in ADA accessible format on AMBAG's and RTPA's websites, and was promoted through newspapers, and AMBAG's and RTPA's online media pages to target social network users.

The main changes between the *2019 Monterey Bay Public Participation Plan* and the *2023 Public Participation Plan* are:

- Expanding the seven guiding principles to eight guiding principles to include equity goals as a strategy for how to actively meet each of the goals and foster continued engagement with the public.
- Include survey results from an online survey conducted for input on the public's preferred engagement techniques prior to the development of the *2023 PPP*.
- Include innovative public outreach best practices to increase public participation regionally, including the limitations and advancements in public participation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A timeline of the *2023 Public Participation Plan* process from conception to execution (Figure 4-1).
- Updating and enhancing our online and visualization outreach strategies.

The strategies identified in this plan will be used by AMBAG and RTPAs during the update of the *2050 MTP/SCS* and *2024 MTIP*, as well as in each of the RTPAs' RTPs. This *2023 Public Participation Plan* will supersede the *2019 Monterey Bay Public Participation Plan*.

Figure 4-1: 2023 Public Participation Plan Development Timeline



AMBAG 2023 Public Participation Plan Update
Updated Final Schedule & Process

Date	Tasks/Objective	Due Dates
January/early February 2023	Outreach to RTPAs by email and confirm point of contacts	2/3/2023
	Draft Schedule and Process Reviwed by RTPAs	2/28/2023
February/March 2023	Publish PPP Survey	2/28/2023
March/April 2023	**Present 2023 PPP Update Process to all RTPA TAC/SSTAC meetings and AMBAG Board**	
	3/16/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at SCCRTC ITAC Meeting	3/16/2023
	3/24/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at SBtCOG SSTAC	3/24/2023
	3/27/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at AMBAG PDF	3/27/2023
	3/29/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at TAMC/MST MAC	3/29/2023
	4/6/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at TAMC and SBtCOG TAC Meetings	4/6/2023
	4/11/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at SCCRTC E&D TAC	4/11/2023
	4/12/23 - Present 2023 PPP Update Process at AMBAG Board Meeting	4/12/2023
April/May 2023	**Develop Adminstrative Draft 2023 PPP**	3/30/2023
	Email Adminstrative Draft PPP document to RTPAs for review	4/13/2023
	Edits/Changes on Adminstrative Draft 2023 PPP from RTPAs due on 5/8/2023 to AMBAG	5/8/2023
	Develop Draft 2023 PPP	5/31/2023
June 2023	**Present Draft 2023 PPP to Committees/Boards, Release Public Notice (70 days) and Start Public Comment Period**	Open Comment Period on: 06/14/2023
	6/13/23 - Present Draft 2023 PPP at SCCRTC E&D TAC	Close Comment Period on: 8/23/2023
	6/14/23 - AMBAG Board Meeting	
	6/15/23 - Present Draft 2023 PPP at SCCRTC ITAC Meeting	
	6/15/23 - SBtCOG Board Meeting	
	6/23/23 - Present Draft 2023 PPP at SBtCOG SSTAC	
	6/28/23 - TAMC Board Meeting	
	7/6/23 - Present Draft 2023 PPP at SBtCOG TAC Meeting	
	7/26/23 - Present Draft 2023 PPP at TAMC/MST MAC	
	7/31/23 - AMBAG PDF	
	8/3/23 - Present Draft 2023 PPP at TAMC TAC Meeting	
	8/3/23 - SCCRTC Board Meeting	
August/September 2023	**Public Hearing on 2023 PPP at AMBAG's August Board Meeting**	8/9/2023
	RTPAs to Also Hold Public Hearings (if using AMBAG PPP as their plan)	
	8/3/23 - SCCRTC Public Hearing	8/3/2023
	8/23/23 - TAMC Public Hearing	8/23/2023
	9/21/23 - SBtCOG Rescheduled Public Hearing	9/21/2023
October/November 2023	Summarize comments and make revisions for Final 2023 PPP	10/5/2023
	Adoption of PPP by SBtCOG (if using AMBAG PPP as their plan)	10/19/2023
	Adoption of PPP by TAMC (if using AMBAG PPP as their plan)	10/25/2023
	Adoption of PPP by SCCRTC (if using AMBAG as their plan)	11/2/2023
	Final 2023 PPP for adoption by AMBAG Board	11/8/2023

VI. Interested Parties and Public Engagement

Senate Bill 375 and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Public Outreach

In addition to the required methods for public participation employed to seek public input on plans, programs, and projects in the Monterey Bay region, AMBAG is required to undertake outreach defined in Senate Bill 375. This legislation requires that the transportation plans prepared by AMBAG be consistent with a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for achieving greenhouse gas emissions targets approved by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for the region. AMBAG and partner agencies coordinated to undertake the specific outreach strategies identified below in preparation for the *2050 MTP/SCS* which is scheduled for adoption in June 2026.

Engagement of Minority, Low Income, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Communities

Pursuant to Executive Order 13166 and FTA Circular 4703.1, AMBAG and RTPAs must strive to make more of a conscious effort to effectively incorporate LEP populations within the Monterey Bay region in all regional and local planning projects and programs. This can be done by:

- Increasing publication of information in Spanish and other languages as necessary
- Establishing special bilingual committees
- Increasing outreach to Spanish-language media
- Establishing culturally sensitive outreach methods to indigenous language communities
- Assessing what is needed to expand cultural diversity at meetings

More information as to how AMBAG conducts outreach to the LEP populations in the region can be found in the LEP Plan within the AMBAG 2021 Title VI Plan.

Additional Methods for Public Participation

In addition to the required methods and procedures for engaging public participation, partner agencies in the Monterey Bay region may utilize some or all of the following optional methods subject to funding availability to seek public input on plans, programs, projects and the regional Sustainable Communities Strategy. Methods chosen will depend on the size of the project or the community interest expressed after the initial outreach purpose and list of stakeholders are identified.

Public Workshops and Public Meetings

The purpose of public workshops and public meetings is to present information and obtain input from the public, usually on specific issues, policies, programs, plans or projects. Such meetings are held throughout the planning process and are tailored to specific issues or geographic areas. The Brown Act governs the general conduct of all public meetings, including public workshops.

For public workshops and meetings of particular interest to members of the community, the distribution of notices, agendas and materials via email and on websites is widely used. Agencies strive to design websites that are easy to navigate with functions such as providing links to staff reports pertaining to agenda items and submitting public comment. Public notice ads in local newspapers (online or printed) may also be used depending on the project.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about notable changes in transportation network planning and decision-making, leading to increased public participation and a greater reliance on virtual public workshops and hybrid public meetings. Transportation agencies and planners have turned to virtual platforms to facilitate public involvement. Engagement techniques include virtual town halls/Questions and Answers (Q&As), online surveys, and interactive platforms for stakeholders and the public to express their opinions, share concerns, and contribute to decision making. It can also be beneficial to follow up with responses to questions asked when requested by the members of the public. AMBAG will focus on hosting both in person and hybrid meetings, based on the positive feedback received through an online survey.

Community Outreach Events and Strategies

Community activities are used to encourage public engagement in regional planning activities and goals. For example, TAMC and several of the regional rideshare providers within the Monterey Bay region have worked with the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) to promote the annual Rideshare Week and Clean Air Month in the past.

MST and other rideshare agencies within the regional transportation network also attend community meetings, set up displays at Earth Day, at university/community college in-person registration periods, at transportation fairs at employers' work sites and job fairs, at community events, and sponsor related events such as Bike Week and Bike to Work Day. Subject funding availability other community outreach strategies may include:

- Working with community-based organizations to enhance outreach, either through direct contact or through the release of Request for Proposals (RFPs) as funding allows
- Incorporating visualization techniques including video and interactive activities into planning and programming processes
- Outreach through disadvantaged communities, especially in underserved areas of the Monterey Bay region, offering incentives for participation as funding allows
- Encouraging Board attendance at community outreach events
- Using health services and school programs to combine outreach efforts
- Working with leadership groups in each county to educate a broader audience of community leaders about transportation issues
- Targeting large employers and colleges/universities
- Holding public hearings and/or focus group meetings (offering childcare as funding allows) outside of typical work hours and at more convenient locations to provide a wider range of public meeting times and multiple locations in each jurisdiction

- Hosting meetings in facilities that are already established activity centers, such as senior centers
- Tabling/providing information at high-traffic locations such as Farmer's Markets, First Friday Art Gatherings, grocery stores, neighborhood block parties and parades
- Increase involvement with local schools including Safe Routes to School promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety, parent groups and charter schools
- Offering an optional survey (hardcopy and/or digital) that captures demographic information about the participants of outreach events

Other Activities
AMBAG and RTPAs also use other public involvement methods as appropriate, including:

- **Public Opinion Surveys** – Public opinion or attitude surveys are used to assess public attitudes or to obtain socioeconomic or demographic information for specific purposes. Electronic deliberative polling and charettes may be employed at meetings to provide instant feedback from the public regarding opinions and attitudes to proposed plans, policies and projects. Agencies may post the results of these types of surveys on their websites.
- **Stakeholder Meetings** – In the development of special studies, partner agencies may hold meetings with affected stakeholders to gain their perspective and insights on the study subject. Agencies may reimburse non-staff members for their participation in these meetings as funding allows or grants become available.
- **Pop-Ups**– Informal, on-the-spot meetings, workshops, or tabling opportunities can be established at local community events, typically placed at well-traveled community locations such as grocery stores, coffee shops, and schools. Booths are timed to catch the public as they go about their daily activity or where the public is already gathered.
- **Open Houses** – In an open house, one-to-one exchanges between the public and policy makers and/or staff take place in an informal setting. Members of the public ask questions, express concerns, react to proposed plans and policies and make suggestions.
- **Conferences** – Some partner agencies have hosted conferences on transportation issues for educational purposes, soliciting multilingual media coverage, and/or soliciting input on specific funding topics.
- **Speaker's Bureau** – Designed to have people on staff able to visit various community and interest groups, several agencies employ this method to discuss their agency, its purpose, and upcoming projects/programs/issues.
- **Expert Panels** - Individuals with specific expertise, with or without a stake in the outcome of the process, are invited to sit on expert panels to provide advice to staff on policy and technical issues in an informal, roundtable setting.
- **Focus Groups** – Agencies conduct periodic focus groups to determine detailed public opinion on transportation topics in the county or reports written by the agency and transportation in the county.
- **Ribbon Cuttings and Ground Breakings** – Agencies hold ceremonies to commemorate the opening of a new project or the beginning of construction. This provides a great opportunity to demonstrate agency accomplishments to the public.

Additional Strategies to Increase Involvement

Although the listing at the beginning of this section provides a summary of the procedures and methods currently used by AMBAG and RTPAs to provide information on their transportation planning processes in the region, each of these methods has varying levels of success depending on the agency and its constituents. Some of the following methods were particularly successful in eliciting public participation into the transportation arena:

- Agency websites and web postings (such as eNews, videos, visual graphics, FAQs) and blogs)
- Extensive email distribution lists
- Flyers/inserts in paychecks, bills, or other mailers
- Collaborative outreach with other agencies
- Online and mail-in surveys
- Targeted focus group or community meetings
- Interviews on the radio
- Presentations at standing events
- Public service announcements

In addition to these successful methods, the list below incorporates potential methods AMBAG and RTPAs will work to incorporate into their transportation planning, programming, and service delivery projects.

1. Marketing and Visualization Strategies

- Online publication and web-based comment of plans/programs, including an increased use of illustrations on agency websites and on affiliated social media networks, such as Instagram, Twitter (X), Facebook, and Nextdoor
- Increased emphasis on public access television, radio and internet radio
- Coordinated media stories between partner agencies and media outlets
- Prepare weekly or monthly transportation column in local newspapers or newsletters
- Develop multilingual public service announcements for distribution
- Write articles for company newsletters and special interest publications
- Target marketing/notices highlighting how planning documents may impact them
- Broadcast hearings on the internet, through webcasts and drone overviews
- Distribute electronic neighborhood newsletters
- Use newspaper articles and active communication with published news sources
- “Word of mouth” is effective, through direct phone calls and e-mails
- Use direct communication and website information
- Use of video on websites like YouTube, Vimeo and others
- Tap into crowdsourcing and news group opportunities for public opinion
- Hosting “Ask Me Anythings” on social media

2. Coordination Strategies

- Better incorporation between transportation and land use programs and policies
- Establish special commissions/task forces to engage the public in a less formal setting on certain topics
- Notify and make presentations to other government agencies about high priority projects and to publicize upcoming topical meetings
- Provide thorough explanations of the proposals or project needs in an easy-to-understand method

3. Feedback and Evaluation Strategies

- Constituent survey requesting feedback on their notification preferences to improve effectiveness of outreach
- Follow up with contacts after each public input is received to ensure participants that their efforts are meaningful and are appreciated

4. Language Assistance Strategies

- Provide physical outreach materials in larger fonts and in braille at public outreach meetings, upon request, and ensure all electronic outreach materials are available in an ADA accessible format for the visually impaired populations
- Upload audio recordings of the public outreach meetings on agency websites for the hearing-impaired populations
- Ensure all public meetings are held in wheelchair accessible locations to comply with ADA standards and accommodate persons with disabilities
- Offer translation services in person, online, and in printed outreach materials. The Google Translator widget for instance is a tool that can be used on agency websites that is cost effective and helpful to residents, although agencies must be mindful of its limitations

These strategies are not an exclusive summary of what could be done in the Monterey Bay region, but a list of what AMBAG and RTPAs believe could further enhance public outreach in the region. As our mission statement entails, AMBAG strives to provide “strategic leadership and services to analyze, plan and implement regional policies for the benefit of the Counties and Cities of Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz, balancing local control with regional collaboration.”

By updating the PPP, AMBAG and the RTPAs hope to achieve equitable public participation on the various transportation planning, programming, and project implementation activities within the region.

VII. Accountability

The *2023 Public Participation Plan* was adopted by AMBAG, TAMC, SBtCOG, and SCCRTC. The participation procedures, strategies and goals incorporated into this *Public Participation Plan* are intended to provide interested parties with reasonable opportunities for involvement in transportation planning, programming, and project implementation in the region.

The *2023 Public Participation Plan* contains a comprehensive list of interested parties to encourage participation among a diverse range of stakeholders and community groups. AMBAG is required to comply with federal, state, and local legislation in the development of its MTPs and MTIPs. RTPAs are required to comply with state and federal legislation in the development of their RTPs and RTIPs. AMBAG is specifically required to consult with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities within the region that are affected by AMBAG's MTP/SCS and MTIP (including, as appropriate, federal, state, and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation).

The *2023 Public Participation Plan* is intended to act as a guide for the public participation process. The Plan will be reviewed biennially to determine its effectiveness in meeting a full and open participation process in transportation planning, programming, and service delivery need.

The *2023 Public Participation Plan* will also be considered as a mandated document that requires AMBAG to continue its commitment to involve minority, low-income, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) communities by sharing this *Public Participation Plan* with these populations and staying connected with current stakeholders and local community groups who represent these populations on an ongoing basis, as well as putting additional effort to connect with low engagement communities.

Appendix A: List of Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
ALUC	Airport Land Use Commission
AMBAG	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
ATP	Active Transportation Program
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
COG	Council of Governments
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CRCC	Coast Rail Coordinating Council
CSUMB	California State University Monterey Bay
CTC	California Transportation Commission
CTSA	Consolidated Transportation Services Agency
E&D TAC	Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
EIR	Environmental Impact Report

EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPSP	Expedited Project Selection Procedures
FAST Act	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act of 2015
FAQ	Frequency Asked Question
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FSP	Freeway Service Patrol
FSTIP	Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
FTIP	Federal Transportation Improvement Program
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
GIS	Geographic Informational Systems
HBP	Highway Bridge Program
HSIP	Highway Safety Improvement Program
IIJA/BIA	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure At of 2021
ITAC	(SCCRTC) Interagency Technical Advisory Committee
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
LTA	San Benito County Local Transportation Authority

LTC	Local Transportation Commission
LTF	Local Transportation Fund
MAC	(Santa Cruz) METRO Advisory Committee
MBARD	Monterey Bay Air Resources District
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization (e.g. AMBAG)
MTC	Metropolitan Transportation Commission
MTP	Metropolitan Transportation Plan
MST	Monterey-Salinas Transit
MTIP	Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
OWP	Overall Work Program
PDF	Planning Directors Forum
PIP	Public Involvement Program
PPP	Public Participation Plan
Q&A	Question and Answer
RFP	Request For Proposals
RHNA	Regional Housing Needs Assessment
RIDES	MST's Paratransit Program
RSTP	Regional Surface Transportation Program
RTIP	Regional Transportation Improvement Program

RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RTPA	Regional Transportation Planning Agency (e.g., SBtCOG, SCCRTC, TAMC)
SAFE	Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways
SAFETEA-LU	Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users
SB 375	Senate Bill 375
SBCAG	Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
SBtCOG	Council of San Benito County Governments
SCBRL	Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line
SCCRTC	Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
SCMTD	Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (or Santa Cruz METRO)
SCS	Sustainable Communities Strategy
SHOPP	State Highway Operation and Protection Program
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SLOCOG	San Luis Obispo Council of Governments
SRTP	Short Range Transit Plan
SSTAC	Social Service Transportation Advisory Council
STBGP	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program

STIP	State Transportation Improvement Plan
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TAMC	Transportation Agency for Monterey County
TDA	Transportation Development Act
TOC	Taxpayer Oversight Committee
TOS	Traffic Operations System
UCSC	University of California Santa Cruz
UTN	Unmet Transit Needs
U.S. DOT	United States Department of Transportation
VCTC	Ventura County Transportation Commission
VTA	(Santa Clara) Valley Transportation Authority

Appendix B: Public Participation Practices by Agency

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)

Website: www.ambag.org Phone: (831) 883-3750 Fax: (831) 883-3755 E-mail: info@ambag.org

Item	Frequency	Web	Email	Mail	Media	Other
MPO Meetings/Packets	2nd Wednesday of each month (no meetings in July or December)	Posted 5-6 days prior to meeting	Notifications sent to distribution list and interested parties when packet posted on web	--	--	Meetings are hybrid and held at the Monterey Bay Air Resources District, 24580 Silver Cloud Ct, Monterey, CA 93940
MPO Actions	Approves plans, programs, projects, Agency studies and funding actions, and holds public hearings	Agenda and minutes are posted on our webpage	Notification to interested parties when appropriate	To affected agencies, organizations or individuals as appropriate	Press releases distributed for significant agency actions	Notifications are included in committee packets as appropriate
Public Hearings	As needed for plan, program, project and state and federal funding actions	Posted on the web page prior to the public hearing, in posted agendas	Notification to interested parties and those who receive the MPO packets	Posted on social media pages--	Press releases issued for significant agency actions	Legal notices are published in newspapers of general circulation in each of the three counties. Notices also may be published in regional, community, or Spanish language newspapers to reach the affected area.
Correspondence from the Public	Varies	Responses included in Board agenda correspondence log, correspondence included with associated agenda items or by reference in staff reports	Responses to e-mail correspondence generally made by e-mail	Responses to mail correspondence generally made by e-mail	--	--
MPO Committees	--	--	--	--	--	AMBAG utilizes our partner RTPA Committees for input from each of the three counties
Approved plans, documents and/or project information	As available (examples would include completed environmental documents, transportation plans, and approved studies)	Plans, documents and project information posted on the web	E-mail distribution to interested parties	Documents are mailed to major libraries if public comment is solicited	Press release issued when document approved of in advance of scheduled public hearings for significant agency actions	--
Social Media	Agency Twitter (X), Instagram and Facebook pages are updated regularly	Agency news and project information posted and updated regularly	--	--	--	--
Language Assistance	--	--	--	--	--	We will provide physical outreach materials in larger fonts and in braille and electronic outreach materials in ADA-compliant formatting for our visually impaired populations, provide

Item	Frequency	Web	Email	Mail	Media	Other
						audio recordings for our hearing impaired populations, ensure all public meetings are held in wheelchair accessible locations to comply with ADA standards and accommodate persons with disabilities, and translate and display public hearing notices and flyers in both English and Spanish in newspapers and radio for our LEP populations
Regional Clearinghouse	Semi-monthly (on the 15th and last day of every month)	https://www.ambag.org/plans/regional-clearinghouse	Emailed to a listserv twice a month	--	--	On the AMBAG Board Agenda each month

Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)

Website: www.tamcmonterey.org Phone: (831) 775-0903 Fax: (831) 775-0897 E-mail: info@tamcmonterey.org

Item	Frequency	Web	Email	Mail	Media	Other
Transportation Agency Meetings/Packets	4th Wednesday of each month (1st Wednesday of December, no meetings in July or November)	Posted 4 days prior to meeting	Notification sent to distribution list and interested parties when packet posted on web. Agenda and Agenda Packet are emailed to Board of Directors and major libraries.	--	Meetings are recorded and posted on the TAMC website and YouTube Channel	Meetings are generally held in Salinas at the Monterey County Government Center or the County of Monterey Agricultural Center as the alternate location if needed
Transportation Agency Actions	Approves plans, programs, projects, Agency studies and funding actions	Agenda and minutes are posted on the webpage	Notification to interested parties if appropriate	To affected agencies, organizations or individuals as appropriate	Press releases distributed for significant agency actions	Notification included in committee packets as appropriate
Transportation Agency "Highlights"	Following each Board of Directors meeting	Posted 1-3 days following meetings	Notification sent to distribution list, including member agencies, interested parties/individuals and county media	None	(see Email)	Agency highlights published in Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) Board of Directors agendas
Public Hearings	As needed for plan, program, project and state and federal funding actions	Legal notices are posted 1-2 weeks prior to hearing, materials posted with packet (at least 4 days prior)	Notification to interested parties and those who receive the Transportation Agency packets	(see Transportation Agency Meetings/Packets)	Press releases issued for significant agency actions and included in Transportation Agency Highlights and posted on the TAMC website and social media pages	Notification included in committee packets as appropriate, signs may also be placed on A-frame barricades on major thoroughfares
Correspondence from the Public	Varies	Responses included in Board agenda correspondence log, correspondence included with associated agenda items or by reference in staff reports	Responses to e-mail correspondence generally made by e-mail	Written responses provided to written correspondence	None	Responses to social media inquiries or comments are posted via social media on the social media platform
Transportation Agency Committees	Monthly meetings (No meetings scheduled in July)	Agenda and Agenda Packets and minutes are posted to Agency website	Agenda and Agenda Packets are emailed to committee members, notification about packet availability emailed to interested parties	Agenda and Agenda Packets are emailed to committee members	--	--

Item	Frequency	Web	Email	Mail	Media	Other
Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee	Meets quarterly in January, April, July and October	Agenda and Agenda Packets and minutes posted to Agency website	Notification sent to distribution list and interested parties when packet posted on web	Agenda and Agenda Packets are emailed to committee members	Committee meetings are recorded and posted on the TAMC YouTube Channel	Meetings are held at the Government Center on Schilling Place in Salinas or at the alternate location, the County of Monterey Agricultural Center if needed
Approved plans, documents and/or project information	As available (examples would be completed environmental documents, Transportation Plans, and approved studies)	Plans, documents and project information are posted on the web	E-mail distribution to interested parties	Documents mailed to major libraries, if public comment is solicited	Press release issued when document approved of in advance of scheduled public hearings for significant agency actions	Notifications are posted on the TAMC social media platforms
E-newsletter subscriptions	Project specific E-newsletter may be developed by the project team	--	E-mail distribution to interested parties	--	--	--
Social Media	Agency Facebook, Twitter (X), Instagram pages are updated regularly	Agency news and project information are posted online	None	None	None	--
Language Assistance	Alternate formats (Spanish, hearing or sight impaired, etc.) as appropriate	Website content is translated into Spanish	Responses are provided in Spanish, as appropriate	Responses are provided in Spanish, as appropriate	Coordinate with Spanish language media	Public outreach such as Townhall meetings and workshops are conducted in Spanish in dominant Spanish language communities

Council of San Benito County Governments (SBtCOG)

Website: www.sanbenitocog.org Phone: (831) 637-7665 Fax: (831) 636-4160 Email: info@sanbenitocog.org

Item	Frequency	Web	Email	Mail	Media	Other
Board Meetings/Packets	Monthly	Posted 5 days prior to meeting; all Agenda Items and Attachments are available to download and print	Notification sent to distribution list and interested parties when packet posted on web	None generally	--	--
Board Actions	As needed for high profile program/project decisions	Meeting highlights posted	Notification to interested parties, if appropriate	None generally	None generally	Notification included in committee packets as appropriate
Public Hearings	As needed for high profile program/project decisions and environmental documents	Notice posted 1-4 weeks prior to hearing, materials posted with packet (at least 5 days prior)	Notification to interested parties and those who receive the Board packets	None generally	Press releases and paid ads are sent 1-2 weeks in advance, and media advisory is sent the day before a public event. Public Notices are posted in a newspaper of general circulation.	Notification included in committee packets as appropriate, outreach to potentially affected stakeholder groups or community members if necessary
Correspondence from the Public	Varies	Entry included in correspondence log posted with packets	If correspondence received via e-mail, it is acknowledged via e-mail	If correspondence requests a response, then a letter may be provided by mail	None	Correspondence addressing specific projects may be included with that item in the Board meeting packets
Advisory Committees	Monthly, bi-monthly, and quarterly	Posted 5 days prior to meeting; all agenda items and attachments are available to download and print	Packets emailed, notification about packet availability emailed to interested parties	Packets mailed to committee members upon request	None, unless included in an important recommendation to the Board	--
Approved plans, documents and/or project information	As available (examples would be completed environmental analyses, RTPs, Project Information Sheets, etc.)	Plans, documents, info posted on the web	E-mail to interested parties	Documents mailed to County library upon request	Press releases are sent out when the document is available with information about the public hearing, if one is planned	Presentations are provide to the appropriate local boards, commissions and/or committees
Social Media	Frequent Facebook and Twitter (X) posts	Rideshare website includes Facebook and Twitter (X) links directing the public to its social media counts	Staff emails includes Facebook and Twitter (X) links directing the public to its social media counts	--	--	--
Language Assistance	Alternate formats (Spanish, hearing or sight impaired, etc.) as appropriate	Google Translation widget available on COG website, Rideshare website and County Express transit website pages translated to Spanish	Full-time bilingual staff are available to respond to Spanish language correspondence	Written correspondence in Spanish is provided to the general public, upon request. Transit related documents are available to the general public in Spanish on an ongoing basis	Coordinate with Spanish language media, as appropriate	All notices for public hearings and public meetings are made available in Spanish language format; interpreter services are provided for annual Unmet Transit Needs Hearings

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC)

Website: www.sccrtc.org Phone: (831) 460-3200 Fax: (831) 460-3215 E-mail: info@sccrtc.org

Item	Frequency	Web	Email	Mail	Media	Other
SCCRTC Meetings/Agenda Packets	1-2 times per month, second meeting in a workshop format	Posted 3-6 days prior to meeting	Notification sent to distribution list and interested parties (eNews) when packet posted on web	None generally	Main meeting is televised and rebroadcast on Community TV, media notified by email when packet is posted on web	Meetings are held in a hybrid format allowing members of the public to participate either in person or remotely; hard copy of agenda packet is available at SCCRTC office, major libraries, some partner agency offices, and posted on social media
SCCRTC Actions	As needed for high profile program/project decisions	Press release and/or news feed posted	Notifications to interested parties (eNews), if appropriate	None generally	Press release distributed before and/or after SCCRTC action (meeting)	Notification included in committee packets as appropriate and posted on social media
SCCRTC Highlights	Following main monthly meeting	Posted 1-2 days following the meeting	Notifications sent to city councilmembers, transit district board members, media, chambers of commerce, SCCRTC committee members and to interested parties through eNews	None	(see Email)	Meeting highlights are posted on the SCCRTC social media channels
Public Hearings	As needed for high profile program/project decisions	Notice posted 10 or more days prior to hearing, materials posted with packet (at least 4 days prior)	Notification to interested parties (eNews) and those who receive the SCCRTC packets	(see SCCRTC Meetings/ Agenda Packets)	Press release sent 1-2 weeks in advance, media advisory sent the day before if a public event, paid ads may also be placed 1-2 weeks in advance	Notification included in committee packets as appropriate, posted on social media, and signs may also be placed on A-frame barricades on major thoroughfares
Correspondence from the Public	Varies	Entry included in correspondence log posted with packets	If correspondence is received via e-mail, it is acknowledged via e-mail	None	None	Correspondence addressing specific SCCRTC projects may be included with that item in the SCCRTC meeting packets
SCCRTC Committees • **Interagency Technical** • **Bicycle** • **Elderly & Disabled** • **Measure D TOC**	Every 1-2 months	Packets posted on web	Packets emailed, notification about packet availability emailed to interested parties (eNews)	Packets mailed to committee members that request it, fees may apply per SCCRTC Rules and Regulations	None, unless included in an important recommendation to the SCCRTC	Meetings are held in a hybrid format allowing members of the public to participate either in person or remotely

Item	Frequency	Web	Email	Mail	Media	Other
Approved SCCRTC plans, documents and/or project information	As available, examples include environmental analyses, RTPs, RTIPs, feasibility analyses, etc.)	Plans, documents, info posted on the web	Link to posted document provided and emailed to interested parties (eNews)	Documents mailed to major libraries, if public comment is solicited	Press release sent out when document available with information about the public hearing, if one planned	Hard copies available in SCCRTC office and public libraries, as appropriate
Social Media	Several times a week	Post RTC news, updates, events, videos and photos on Facebook, Twitter (X), Instagram and Nextdoor as available	None	None	None	--
Language Assistance	Alternate formats (Spanish, hearing or visually impaired, etc.) as appropriate	New website will be fully accessible for disabled users and have Spanish translation options	Currently limited	Currently limited	Coordinate with Spanish language media, as appropriate	--

Appendix C: Partner Transportation Agency Contacts

Mr. Scott Eades, Director Caltrans, District 5 50 Higuera Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (805) 549-3127 scott.eades@dot.ca.us	Executive Director Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission 1101 Pacific Avenue, Ste. 250 Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (831) 460-3200 info@sccrtc.org
Ms. Maura Twomey Executive Director Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments 24580 Silver Cloud Court Monterey, CA 93940 (831) 883-3750 mtwomey@ambag.org	Mr. Michael Tree CEO/General Manager Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District 370 Encinal Street, Suite 100 Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (831) 426-6080 mtree@scmtd.com
Ms. Binu Abraham Executive Director Council of San Benito County Governments 330 Tres Pino Road, C7 Hollister, CA 95023 (831) 637-7665, Ext. 207 babraham@sanbenitocog.org	Mr. Todd Muck Executive Director Transportation Agency for Monterey County 55-B Plaza Circle Salinas, CA 93901-2902 (831) 775-0903 Todd@tamcmonterey.org
Mr. Carl Sedoryk General Manager/CEO Monterey-Salinas Transit 19 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Suite 200 Monterey, CA 93940 (831) 264-5001 csedoryk@mst.org	Mr. Richard Stedman Air Pollution Control Officer Monterey Bay Air Resources District 24580 Silver Cloud Court Monterey, CA 93940 (831) 647-9411 rstedman@mbard.org

Appendix D: List of Stakeholders

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Ag Against Hunger		X	X	X	Agricultural Interest Group	Local
Ag Land Trust		X			Agricultural Interest Group	Local
Agri-Culture				X	Agricultural Interest Group	Local
Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association		X	X		Agricultural Interest Group	Local
California Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (CALSAWG)				X	Agricultural Interest Group	State
Camp Joy Gardens				X	Agricultural Interest Group	Local
Central Coast Agricultural Task Force		X			Agricultural Interest Group	Local
Community Alliance with Family Farmers				X	Agricultural Interest Group	Local
Monterey Farm Bureau		X			Agricultural Interest Group	Local
Organic Farming Research Foundation				X	Agricultural Interest Group	National
San Benito County Farm Bureau			X		Agricultural Interest Group	Local
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau				X	Agricultural Interest Group	Local
Hollister Municipal Airport			X		Airport Operation Agencies	Local
King City (Mesa del Rey) Airport		X			Airport Operation Agencies	Local
Marina Municipal Airport		X			Airport Operation Agencies	Local
Monterey Peninsula Airport District		X			Airport Operation Agencies	Local
Salinas Municipal Airport		X			Airport Operation Agencies	Local
Watsonville Municipal Airport				X	Airport Operation Agencies	Local
Bike - Velo Club		X			Bicycle & Pedestrian Interest Group	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Bike Santa Cruz County				X	Bicycle & Pedestrian Interest Group	Local
Bike Smart!/Ecology Action		X		X	Bicycle & Pedestrian Interest Group	Local
FORT (Friends of the Rail and Trail)				X	Bicycle & Pedestrian Interest Group	Local
Mission Pedestrian				X	Bicycle & Pedestrian Interest Group	Local
Monterey Off Road Cycling Association		X			Bicycle & Pedestrian Interest Group	Local
Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz				X	Bicycle & Pedestrian Interest Group	Local
National Bike Greenway/Cycle America				X	Bicycle & Pedestrian Interest Group	National Interest Group
Rails to Trails				X	Bicycle & Pedestrian Interest Group	National Interest Group
Salinas Bicycle Committee		X			Bicycle & Pedestrian Interest Group	Local
Santa Cruz County Cycling Club				X	Bicycle & Pedestrian Interest Group	Local
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz				X	Children & Youth Services	Local
Boys and Girls Clubs of Monterey County		X			Children & Youth Services	Local
Boys and Girls Club of Santa Cruz				X	Children & Youth Services	Local
CASA of San Benito County			X		Children & Youth Services	Local
CASA of Santa Cruz County				X	Children & Youth Services	Local
Child Development Resource Center				X	Children & Youth Services	Local
Digital Nest		X		X	Children & Youth Services	Local
Hollister Youth Alliance			X		Children & Youth Services	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Jovenes SANOS				X	Children & Youth Services	Local
Migrant Education Region XI, Monterey County Office of Education		X			Children & Youth Services	Local
Pajaro Valley Children's Center				X	Children & Youth Services	Local
Prunedale Mothers Association		X			Children & Youth Services	Local
San Benito County Child Care Association			X		Children & Youth Services	Local
Santa Clara County Office of Education – Migrant Education			X		Children & Youth Services	Local
YES! Helping Outstanding Young Leaders				X	Children & Youth Services	Local
YMCA		X	X	X	Children & Youth Services	Local
Builders Exchange of the Central Coast		X			Development Interest Group	Local
Building Trades Association		X			Development Interest Group	Local
Carpenters Union Local 505/506		X			Development Interest Group	Local
Don Chapin		X			Development Interest Group	Local
Granite Construction		X	X	X	Development Interest Group	Local
Graniterock		X	X	X	Development Interest Group	Local
Monterey Bay Central Labor Council		X			Development Interest Group	Local
Monterey County Realtors Association		X			Development Interest Group	Local
Salinas Valley Builders Exchange		X			Development Interest Group	Local
South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council			X		Development Interest Group	Local
Aptos Chamber of Commerce				X	Economic Development Agency	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Capitola Soquel Chamber of Commerce				X	Economic Development Agency	Local
Carmel Chamber of Commerce		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Convention and Visitors Bureau		X		X	Economic Development Agency	Local
Economic Development Corporation San Benito County			X		Economic Development Agency	Local
Felton Business Association				X	Economic Development Agency	Local
Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Monterey County		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Hollister Downtown Association			X		Economic Development Agency	Local
Marina Chamber of Commerce		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Monterey Bay Economic Partnership		X	X	X	Economic Development Agency	Local
Monterey County Business Council		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Monterey County Hospitality Association		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Monterey County Taxpayers Association		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Monterey Peninsula Hospitality Association		X			Economic Development Agency	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
North Monterey County Chamber of Commerce		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Old Mission San Juan Bautista			X		Economic Development Agency	Local
Old Monterey Business Association		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Old Town Salinas Association		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce		X		X	Economic Development Agency	Local
Pleasure Point Business Association				X	Economic Development Agency	Local
Salinas City Center Improvement Association		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Salinas United Business Association (SUBA)		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
San Benito County Business Council			X		Economic Development Agency	Local
San Benito County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau			X		Economic Development Agency	Local
San Juan Bautista Chamber of Commerce			X		Economic Development Agency	Local
San Lorenzo Valley Chamber of Commerce				X	Economic Development Agency	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Santa Cruz Business Council				X	Economic Development Agency	Local
Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce				X	Economic Development Agency	Local
Santa Cruz County Conference & Visitors Council				X	Economic Development Agency	Local
Santa Cruz Downtown Association				X	Economic Development Agency	Local
Seaside/Sand City Chamber of Commerce		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
Scotts Valley Chamber of Commerce				X	Economic Development Agency	Local
The Harvey-Baker House		X			Economic Development Agency	Local
UCSC MBEST		X			Economic Development Agency	Local/State
Arts Council Santa Cruz County				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Brown Berets		X		X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Building Healthy Communities		X			Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
California Alliance for Jobs		X			Economic Justice Interest Group	State Interest Group
Center for Community Advocacy		X			Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Community Action Board of San Benito County			X		Economic Justice Interest Group	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc.				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Community Foodbank of San Benito County			X		Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Community Foundation for Monterey County		X			Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Community Foundation of San Benito County			X		Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association (CHISPA)		X	X		Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)			X	X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Familia Center				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Family Service Association, Santa Cruz				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Fenix Services				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Food & Nutrition Services				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Goodwill Industries		X	X	X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Head Start Administration		X	X	X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Homeless Community Resource Center				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Homeless Garden Project				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Homeless Task Force of San Benito County			X		Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
H.O.M.E. Resource Center			X		Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Loaves and Fishes		X		X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)		X	X		Economic Justice Interest Group	National Interest Group – Local Chapters
Lomak Property Group				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
My Father's House			X		Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Pajaro Valley Art Council		X		X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Pajaro Valley Shelter Services		X		X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Parents Center				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Peace Coalition of Monterey County		X			Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Salud Para La Gente, Inc.				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Salvation Army		X	X	X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
San Benito County Arts Council			X		Economic Justice Interest Group	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Santa Cruz Aids Project				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Second Harvest Food Bank				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Si Se Puede				X	Environmental Justice Advocacy Group	Local
South County Outreach (SCORE)		X			Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
South County Property Management				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Southern Monterey County Rural Community Coalition		X			Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Together in Pajaro		X			Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
United Way of San Benito County			X		Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
United Way of Santa Cruz County				X	Economic Justice Interest Group	Local
Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District				X	Educational Institution	Local
Cabrillo College				X	Educational Institution	Local
Cal State Monterey Bay		X			Educational Institution	Local/State
County Office of Education		X	X	X	Educational Institution	Local
Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve		X		X	Educational Institution	Federal
Gavilan College			X		Educational Institution	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Happy Valley Union Elementary School District				X	Educational Institution	Local
Hartnell College		X			Educational Institution	Local
Hollister High School			X		Educational Institution	Local
Hollister School District			X		Educational Institution	Local
Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS)				X	Educational Institution	Local
Live Oak School District				X	Educational Institution	Local
Monterey Peninsula College		X			Educational Institution	Local
Mountain Elementary School District				X	Educational Institution	Local
Naval Postgraduate School		X			Educational Institution	Local/Federal
Pacific Elementary School District				X	Educational Institution	Local
Pajaro Valley Unified School District		X		X	Educational Institution	Local
San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District				X	Educational Institution	Local
Santa Cruz City School District				X	Educational Institution	Local
Santa Cruz County Office of Education Charter Schools Office				X	Educational Institution	Local
Scotts Valley Unified School District				X	Educational Institution	Local
Soquel Union Elementary School District				X	Educational Institution	Local
University of California Santa Cruz (Transportation Department)				X	Educational Institution	Local/State
AARP		X	X	X	Elderly & Disabled Community	National Interest Group
Access Options, Inc.				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Advocacy Inc.				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Aegis of Aptos				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC)			X		Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Alcoholics Anonymous		X	X	X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Alexandria Victoria Retirement Assisted Living				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Alliance on Aging		X			Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Alzheimer's Association				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
American Red Cross		X	X	X	Elderly & Disabled Community	National
Apria Healthcare				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Arbor Cove Senior Commons				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Area Agency on Aging		X	X	X	Elderly & Disabled Community	State
Cabrillo College (Stroke)				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
California Grey Bears				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
California Senior Alliance				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	State
Californians for Disability Rights				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Capitola Manor				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Capitola/Soquel Community Activities				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Central Coast Alliance for Health		X	X	X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Central Coast Center for Independent Living (CCCIL)		X	X	X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Central Coast Surgery Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Chanticleer Home				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Cindy's Celebrations Inc.				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Community Bridges (CTSA)				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (MONTAGE)		X			Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Community Options				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Community Voice for Aging		X			Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Companion for Life Project/Lifeline Project				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Conflict Resolution Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Country Villa Watsonville East Nursing Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Country Villa Watsonville West Nursing & Rehab Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Cozy Home				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Cresthaven Nursing Home				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
De Un Amor				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Del Mar Caregiver Resource Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Dominican Hospital				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Dominican Oaks Retirement Community				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Driftwood Healthcare Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Easter Seals (Central California)				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
El Dorado Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Elderday				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Emmaus House			X		Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Esperanza Center			X		Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Employment and Community Options				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Family Service Agency of the Central Coast				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Flor's Guest Home				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Program				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Front Street Residential Care				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Garfield Park Village				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Golden Age Convalescent Hospital				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Hanover Guest Home				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Hazel Hawkins Hospital Foundation			X		Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
HOPE Services		X	X	X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Imagine				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Joe's Wheelchair Services				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Jovenes de Antano			X		Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
La Posada				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Leukemia Society of America				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Lifespan Care				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Lincare, Inc.				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Live Oak Community Resources				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Louden Nelson Community Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Maple House I & II				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Meals on Wheels		X	X	X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Mee Memorial Hospital		X			Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Mental Health In Patient Services				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Mental Health Resource Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Mid-County Senior Center, Inc.				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Monterey & San Benito County Military & Veteran's Services		X	X		Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Natividad Medical Center		X			Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
NovaCare Orthotics & Prosthetics				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Oak Tree Villa				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Ombudsman Advocate, Inc.				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Pacific Coast Manor				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Pajaro Valley Community Health Trust				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Palomar Inn				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Planned Parenthood Health Centers				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Project Scout				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Pula Services				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Rillera Guest Home				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Rose Acres				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Salinas Valley Medical		X			Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital		X			Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Salvation Army Corps Community Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
San Andreas Regional Center		X	X	X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
San Benito Health Foundation			X		Elderly & Disabled Community	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Santa Cruz Healthcare Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Santa Cruz Host Lions Club				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Santa Cruz Women's Health Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Sarro Associates, Inc.				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Satellite Dialysis			X	X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
SCCCC				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
SCRP				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Seaview Guest Home				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Senior Citizens Legal Services			X	X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Senior Citizens Opportunity				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Senior Living Centers				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Senior Network Services			X	X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Seniors Council SCR & SBT Counties			X	X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Senior Services				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Shoreline Work Force Development Services				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Skills Center – Mobile Work Group				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Skills Center – Pajaro Valley Training Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Soquel Leisure Villa				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Sunshine Villa				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Sutter Maternity & Surgery Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
The Shelter Project				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Twilight Manor				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Valley Convalescent Hospital				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Valley Haven Care Home				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Valley Heights Senior Rental Community				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Veterans Employment				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Via Pacifica Gardens				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Victorian Home Care Inc.				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Vista Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Watsonville Community Hospital				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Watsonville Health Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Watsonville Residential Care, Inc.				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Watsonville Satellite Dialysis Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Watsonville Senior Center				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Whispering Pines Inn			X		Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
WomenCARE				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Women's Crisis Support/Defensa De Mujeres				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
Youth Services				X	Elderly & Disabled Community	Local
American Medical Response		X	X	X	Emergency Services	Local
California Office of Traffic Safety		X	X	X	Emergency Services	State
Santa Cruz Regional 911			X	X	Emergency Services	Local
Agricultural History Project (AHP) Museum				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Beyond Pesticides				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Bus-by-Choice Santa Cruz				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
California Center for Land Recycling				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
California Native Plants Society		X		X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
CalPIRG at UCSC				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Central Coast Energy Services, Inc.		X	X	X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Citizens for Responsible Forest Management (CRFM)				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Ducks Unlimited, Inc. – Santa Cruz Chapter				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Earth First!				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Ecology Action		X		X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Elkhorn Slough Foundation		X		X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Environmental Council				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Extinction Rebellion		X		X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Farm Without Harm				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Friends and Neighbors of the Elkhorn Slough (FANS)		X			Environmental Interest Group	Local
Friends of Arana Gulch				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Friends of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories		X		X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Friends of Soquel Creek				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Friends of the North Coast				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Friends of the Sea Otter				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
International Institute for Ecological Agriculture				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Island Conservation				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Keep the Green Belt Green				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Life Lab Science Program				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Marine Mammal Center – Monterey Bay Operations				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Mission Springs Outdoor Education				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Monterey Bay Aquarium		X			Environmental Interest Group	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Monterey Bay Community Power		X	X	X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Monterey Bay Salmon and Trout Project				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Mountain Parks Foundation				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
National Environmental Directory				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Natural Resources Conservation Service				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Ocean Conservancy				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
O'Neill Sea Odyssey				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Open Space Authority				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Otter Project, Inc.				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Outdoor Science Exploration and Classroom Science Fun				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Pelagic Shark Research Foundation				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Rising Sun Energy Center				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
San Andreas Land Conservancy				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
San Lorenzo River Institute				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Santa Cruz Bird Club				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Santa Cruz Climate Action Network				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Santa Cruz Greens				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Santa Cruz Mountains Bioregional Council				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Santa Cruz Recycling Project				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Save Our Shores				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Sempervirens Fund				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Seymour Marina Discovery Center				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Sunrise Movement		X		X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Surfers Environmental Alliance				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Sustainable Conservation				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Sustainable Monterey County		X			Environmental Interest Group	Local
The Monterey Bay Conservancy				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Toro Park		X			Environmental Interest Group	Local
Valley Women's Club of the San Lorenzo Valley				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Ventana Wilderness Alliance				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Watsonville Wetlands Watch				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Wild Farm Alliance				X	Environmental Interest Group	Local
Above the Line				X	Environmental Justice Advocacy Group	Local
Beach Area Working Group				X	Environmental Justice Advocacy Group	Local
Environmental Community Housing Organization Inc.				X	Environmental Justice Advocacy Group	Local
Legal Aid Society of Santa Cruz County				X	Environmental Justice Advocacy Group	Local
Office of The Public Guardian				X	Environmental Justice Advocacy Group	Local
Regeneración				X	Environmental Justice Advocacy Group	Local
Santa Cruz Action Network				X	Environmental Justice Advocacy Group	Local
Valley Churches United Missions				X	Environmental Justice Advocacy Group	Local
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary		X		X	Federal Government Agency	Federal

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration		X	X	X	Federal Government Agency	Federal
Office of Congressman Jimmy Panetta		X	X	X	Federal Government Agency	Local
Office of Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren		X	X	X	Federal Government Agency	Local
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers	X	X	X	X	Federal Government Agency	Federal
U.S. Congress		X	X	X	Federal Government Agency	Federal
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region IX	X	X	X	X	Federal Government Agency	Federal
U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	X	X	X	X	Federal Government Agency	Federal
U.S. Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	X	X	X	X	Federal Government Agency	Federal
Santa Cruz County Veterans Center				X	Federal Government Agency – Local Branch	Local
Veterans Services Office Watsonville				X	Federal Government Agency – Local Branch	Local
Bureau of Land Management	X		X		Federal Public Lands & Management Agencies	Federal
Los Padres National Forest – Monterey		X			Federal Public Lands & Management Agencies	Federal
Pinnacles National Park	X		X		Federal Public Lands & Management Agencies	Federal
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	X	X	X	X	Federal Public Lands & Management Agencies	Federal
U.S. National Park Service		X	X	X	Federal Public Lands & Management Agencies	Federal

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
California Dump Truck Owners Association		X			Freight Shippers	State Interest Group
California Trucking Association		X			Freight Shippers	State Interest Group
Central Coast Grower-Shippers Vegetable Association		X			Freight Shippers	Local
Grower-Shipper Association of Central California		X	X	X	Freight Shippers	Local
St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Co.				X	Freight Shippers	Local
City Managers Association		X			Government Interest Group	Local
Friends of the San Benito County Free Library			X		Government Interest Group	Local
Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Library				X	Government Interest Group	Local
League of California Cities		X	X	X	Government Interest Group	State Interest Group
League of Women Voters – Monterey Peninsula		X			Government Interest Group	National Interest Group – Local Chapter
League of Women Voters – Salinas Valley		X			Government Interest Group	National Interest Group – Local Chapter
League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz				X	Government Interest Group	National Interest Group – Local Chapter
California Mobilehome Residential Action Association				X	Homeowners Association	State Interest Group
Corralitos Valley Community Council				X	Homeowners Association	Local
La Selva Beach Improvement Association				X	Homeowners Association	Local
Live Oak Neighbors				X	Homeowners Association	Local
Monterey Homeowners Association		X			Homeowners Association	Local
Oak Hills Homeowners Association		X			Homeowners Association	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Prunedale Neighbors Group		X			Homeowners Association	Local
Rio Del Mar Improvement Association				X	Homeowners Association	Local
Seacliff Improvement Association				X	Homeowners Association	Local
Big Sur Land Trust		X			Land Conservation/Development Interest Group	Local
Carmel Valley Association		X			Land Conservation/Development Interest Group	Local
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County				X	Land Conservation/Development Interest Group	Local
LandWatch Monterey County		X			Land Conservation/Development Interest Group	Local
Monterey County Land Trust		X			Land Conservation/Development Interest Group	Local
Open Space Alliance Santa Cruz				X	Land Conservation/Development Interest Group	Local
San Benito County Land Trust			X		Land Conservation/Development Interest Group	Local
Santa Cruz YIMBY				X	Land Conservation/Development Interest Group	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Save Soquel				X	Land Conservation/Development Interest Group	Local
Scotts Valley Citizens for Responsible Growth				X	Land Conservation/Development Interest Group	Local
Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter			X		Land Conservation/Development Interest Group	National Interest Group – Local Chapter
Sierra Club, Ventana Chapter		X		X	Land Conservation/Development Interest Group	National Interest Group – Local Chapter
City & County Elected Officials	X	X	X	X	Local Government Agency	Local
City & County Public Works Departments	X	X	X	X	Local Government Agency	Local
City Police Departments	X	X	X	X	Local Government Agency	Local
City of Capitola	X			X	Local Government Agency	Local
City of Carmel-By-the-Sea	X	X			Local Government Agency	Local
City of Del Rey Oaks	X	X			Local Government Agency	Local
City of Gonzales	X	X			Local Government Agency	Local
City of Greenfield	X	X			Local Government Agency	Local
City of Hollister	X		X		Local Government Agency	Local
City of King City	X	X			Local Government Agency	Local
City of Marina	X	X			Local Government Agency	Local
City of Monterey	X	X			Local Government Agency	Local
City of Pacific Grove	X	X			Local Government Agency	Local
City of Salinas	X	X			Local Government Agency	Local
City of San Juan Bautista	X		X		Local Government Agency	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
City of Sand City	X	X			Local Government Agency	Local
City of Santa Cruz	X			X	Local Government Agency	Local
City of Scotts Valley	X			X	Local Government Agency	Local
City of Seaside	X	X			Local Government Agency	Local
City of Soledad	X	X			Local Government Agency	Local
City of Watsonville	X			X	Local Government Agency	Local
County Behavioral Health		X	X	X	Local Government Agency	Local
County of Monterey	X	X			Local Government Agency	Local
County of San Benito	X		X		Local Government Agency	Local
County of Santa Cruz	X			X	Local Government Agency	Local
County Operations of Emergency Services Departments (OES)		X	X	X	Local Government Agency	Local
County Public Health		X	X	X	Local Government Agency	Local
County Sheriff Departments		X	X	X	Local Government Agency	Local
Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCO)		X	X	X	Local Government Agency	Local
Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD)	X	X	X	X	Local Government Agency	Local
Monterey County Department of Social Services		X			Local Government Agency	Local
Monterey County Water Resources		X			Local Government Agency	Local
Monterey Regional Parks		X			Local Government Agency	Local
North County Fire Protection District		X			Local Government Agency	Local
San Benito County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC)			X		Local Government Agency	Local
San Benito County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)			X		Local Government Agency	Local
San Benito County Water District			X		Local Government Agency	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development				X	Local Government Agency	Local
Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency				X	Local Government Agency	Local
Santa Cruz County Housing Authority				X	Local Government Agency	Local
Santa Cruz County Immigration Project				X	Local Government Agency	Local
Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District				X	Local Government Agency	Local
Sunnyslope County Water District			X		Local Government Agency	Local
Watsonville Parks & Recreation Department				X	Local Government Agency	Local
Workforce Development Board		X			Local Government Agency	Local
Council of San Benito County Governments (COG)			X		Local Government Transportation Agency	Local
Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST)		X			Local Government Transportation Agency	Local
San Benito County Local Transportation Authority (LTA)			X		Local Government Transportation Agency	Local
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC)				X	Local Government Transportation Agency	Local
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)				X	Local Government Transportation Agency	Local
Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)		X			Local Government Transportation Agency	Local
Alianza Metropolitan News				X	Media	Local
Benitolink			X		Media	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Charter Communications		X	X		Media	Local
El Andar				X	Media	Local
El Sol		X			Media	Local
Growing Up in Santa Cruz				X	Media	Local
KAZA				X	Media	Local
KBAY/KEEN		X			Media	Local
KFRC		X			Media	Local
KICU				X	Media	Local
KLVM				X	Media	Local
KMST—Monterey County Office of Education		X			Media	Local
KMUV—Telemundo (North County)		X			Media	Local
KOTR 11 (My Monterey)		X			Media	Local
KRXA		X			Media	Local
KSOL				X	Media	Local
KZSC				X	Media	Local
Mountain Network News				X	Media	Local
Railway Track & Structures Magazine		X		X	Media	Local
Small Business Monthly				X	Media	Local
The Ventana				X	Media	Local
Times Publishing Group, Inc.				X	Media	Local
Aptos Life				X	Media – Newspaper	Local
Bay City News Service				X	Media – Newspaper	Local
Cabrillo College Voice				X	Media – Newspaper	Local
City On A Hill				X	Media – Newspaper	Local
Fort Hunter Liggett Newsletter		X			Media – Newspaper	Local
Good Times				X	Media – Newspaper	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Hollister Free Lance			X		Media – Newspaper	Local
Lookout Santa Cruz				X	Media – Newspaper	Local
Los Gatos Weekly-Times Saratoga News				X	Media – Newspaper	Local
Marina Gazette		X			Media – Newspaper	Local
Mid-County Post				X	Media – Newspaper	Local
Monterey County Weekly		X			Media – Newspaper	Local
San Jose Mercury News		X	X	X	Media – Newspaper	Local
San Lorenzo Valley Post				X	Media – Newspaper	Local
Santa Cruz Local				X	Media – Newspaper	Local
Santa Cruz Patch				X	Media – Newspaper	Local
Santa Cruz Sentinel				X	Media – Newspaper	Local
Scotts Valley Banner/Valley Press				X	Media – Newspaper	Local
South County Newspapers, LLC		X			Media – Newspaper	Local
The Carmel Pine Cone		X			Media – Newspaper	Local
The Greenfield News		X			Media – Newspaper	Local
The King City Rustler		X			Media – Newspaper	Local
The Monterey County Herald		X			Media – Newspaper	Local
The Salinas Californian		X			Media – Newspaper	Local
The Soledad Bee		X			Media – Newspaper	Local
The Watsonville Register Pajaronian		X			Media – Newspaper	Local
Transportation Think Tank Bulletin Board				X	Media – Newspaper	Local
ClearChannel Radio		X			Media – Radio	Local
KAZU 90.3 FM—NPR (Pacific Grove)		X			Media – Radio	Local
KCBS Radio				X	Media – Radio	Local
KCDU-FM/101.7 The Beach		X		X	Media – Radio	Local
KDON FM		X	X	X	Media – Radio	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
KEXA 93.9 FM—Blend – Spanish		X			Media – Radio	Local
KGO Radio				X	Media – Radio	Local
KHDC 90.9 FM—News/Talk – Spanish		X			Media – Radio	Local
KHIP-FM		X			Media – Radio	Local
KIDD-AM		X		X	Media – Radio	Local
KKMC-AM		X		X	Media – Radio	Local
KLEL FM				X	Media – Radio	Local
KLOK 99.5 FM – Spanish		X			Media – Radio	Local
KMBX 700 AM – Spanish		X			Media – Radio	Local
KMJV 106.3 FM – Spanish		X			Media – Radio	Local
KMPG-AM			X		Media – Radio	Local
KNBR Radio				X	Media – Radio	Local
KNRY 1240 AM—News/Talk		X		X	Media – Radio	Local
KOCN Radio		X		X	Media – Radio	Local
KPIG – FM				X	Media – Radio	Local
KPRC 100.7 & 100.9 FM – Spanish		X			Media – Radio	Local
KRAY 103.5 FM—Regional Mexican Hits – Spanish		X		X	Media – Radio	Local
KRKC – AM/FM		X			Media – Radio	Local
KRML- AM		X		X	Media – Radio	Local
KSCO 1080 AM—News/Talk		X			Media – Radio	Local
KSEA-FM 107.9 FM – Spanish		X			Media – Radio	Local
KSES 107.1 FM – Spanish		X		X	Media – Radio	Local
KSQD 90.7 FM				X	Media – Radio	Local
KTGE 1570 AM—Oldies – Spanish		X			Media – Radio	Local
KTOM FM/AM		X		X	Media – Radio	Local
KUFX FM				X	Media – Radio	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
KUSP 88.9 FM—NPR (Santa Cruz): King City 91.7, Big Sur Coast: 105.9		X		X	Media – Radio	Local
KWAV-FM		X		X	Media – Radio	Local
KYAA-AM		X			Media – Radio	Local
KYZZ Jammin 97.9 FM				X	Media – Radio	Local
La Preciosa 92.3 Radio		X		X	Media – Radio	Local
Wolfhouse Radio Group Inc. – Spanish		X			Media – Radio	Local
AT&T CABLE - TV		X	X		Media – Television	Local
Comcast Cable		X	X	X	Media – Television	Local
Community Television		X		X	Media – Television	Local
KCBA/KION-TV		X	X	X	Media – Television	Local
KCBA TV/Fox 35		X	X	X	Media – Television	Local
KCU 15 – Telemundo—Spanish Television		X	X		Media – Television	Local
KION—CBS		X	X	X	Media – Television	Local
KSBW—NBC		X	X	X	Media – Television	Local
KSBW-TV		X	X	X	Media – Television	Local
KSMS-TV (Channel 67) Univision		X	X	X	Media – Television	Local
KSTS TV 48 Telemundo		X	X	X	Media – Television	Local
KVTU				X	Media – Television	Local
Community Media Access Partnership (CMAP)			X	X	Media – Television	Local
Monterey County Channel (Comcast Channel 28)		X			Media – Television	Local
City of San Jose			X	X	Other Adjacent Government Agency	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
County of Santa Clara			X	X	Other Adjacent Government Agency	Local
Caltrans - District 4			X	X	Other Adjacent Government Agency - Transportation	State
Caltrans - District 6		X			Other Adjacent Government Agency - Transportation	State
Caltrans – District 10			X		Other Adjacent Government Agency - Transportation	State
Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG)			X		Other Adjacent Government Agency – Transportation	Local
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)			X	X	Other Adjacent Government Agency – Transportation	Local
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG)		X			Other Adjacent Government Agency – Transportation	Local
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority			X	X	Other Adjacent Government Agency – Transportation	Local
Action Pajaro Valley		X		X	Other Interested Party	Local
Apex Strategies			X	X	Other Interested Party	Local
Capitola/Soquel Community Activities				X	Other Interested Party	Local
CirclePoint			X	X	Other Interested Party	Local
Hatch Mott MacDonald				X	Other Interested Party	Local
Hollister Elks Lodge			X		Other Interested Party	Local
Hollister Rotary Club			X		Other Interested Party	Local
Leadership San Benito County			X		Other Interested Party	Local
L + G Attorneys		X	X	X	Other Interested Party	Local
Pebble Beach Company		X			Other Interested Party	Local
San Juan Oaks Golf Club			X		Other Interested Party	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk				X	Other Interested Party	Local
Santa Cruz Seaside Company				X	Other Interested Party	Local
Soroptimist International Capitola-By-The-Sea				X	Other Interested Party	Local
Steinbeck Center		X			Other Interested Party	Local
Watsonville Women's Club				X	Other Interested Party	Local
Association of Watsonville Area				X	Planned Growth Agency	Local
Fort Ord Reuse Authority		X			Planned Growth Agency	Local
Enterprise Rideshare				X	Private Transportation	Local
Taxi Companies & Airport Shuttles		X	X	X	Private Transportation	Local
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1225		X			Public Transportation Union	Local
Service Employees International Union (SEIU), PSA Chapter		X			Public Transportation Union	Local
Service Employees International Union (SEIU) - Transit Drivers		X			Public Transportation Union	Local
Teamsters Local 890 –Transit Drivers			X		Public Transportation Union	Local
California Air Resources Board (CARB)	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Coastal Commission	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Department of Conservation State Mining & Geology Board		X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE)		X	X	X	State Government Agency	State

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD)	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Department of Parks and Recreation		X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery		X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Energy Commission	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Environmental Protection Agency	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Highway Patrol (CHP)	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Integrated Waste Management Board	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Natural Resources Agency		X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Office of Historic Preservation		X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Office of Planning and Research	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC)				X	State Government Agency	Local/State
California Resources Agency	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA)		X	X	X	State Government Agency	Local/State
California State Assembly	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California State Senate	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA)	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
California Transportation Commission (CTC)	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
Caltrans	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Caltrans - District 5	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
Career Works				X	State Government Agency	State
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	Local/State
Office of Assemblymember Dawn Addis		X		X	State Government Agency	Local
Office of Assemblymember Gail Pellerin		X		X	State Government Agency	Local
Office of Assemblymember Robert Rivas		X	X	X	State Government Agency	Local
Office of Senator Anna Caballero		X	X		State Government Agency	Local
Office of Senator John Laird		X		X	State Government Agency	Local
Ranger District - State Parks	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
State Coastal Conservancy		X		X	State Government Agency	State
State of California	X	X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
State of California, Employment Development Department		X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
State Water Resources Control Board		X	X	X	State Government Agency	State
Bicycle & Pedestrian Committees	X	X	X	X	Technical Advisory Committees	Local
Elderly & Disabled Technical Advisory Committee/ Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)	X	X	X	X	Technical Advisory Committees	Local
METRO Advisory Committee (MAC)				X	Technical Advisory Committees	Local
MST Mobility Advisory Committee		X			Technical Advisory Committee	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Technical Advisory Committee		X	X	X	Technical Advisory Committees	Local
Advanced Transit Association				X	Transportation Interest Group	Local
CalVans		X		X	Transportation Interest Group	Local
Campaign for Sustainable Transportation (CFST)				X	Transportation Interest Group	Local
Carpooltoschool.com				X	Transportation Interest Group	Local
Coastal Rail Santa Cruz				X	Transportation Interest Group	Local
Coast Connect				X	Transportation Interest Group	Local
Community Traffic Safety Coalition				X	Transportation Interest Group	Local
Highway 68 Coalition		X			Transportation Interest Group	Local
Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee				X	Transportation Interest Group	Local
Measure G Citizens Oversight Committee			X		Transportation Interest Group	Local
Measure X Citizens Oversight Committee		X			Transportation Interest Group	Local
Monterey Bay Electric Vehicle Alliance		X	X	X	Transportation Interest Group	Local
Santa Cruz Hub for Sustainable Living				X	Transportation Interest Group	Local

Group	Required Contact	Monterey County	San Benito County	Santa Cruz County	Type	Federal, State, or Local
Santa Cruz Personal Rapid Transit (PRT)				X	Transportation Interest Group	Local
Big Trees Railroad				X	Transportation Provider	Local
First Transit Services, Inc.				X	Transportation Provider	Local
Lift Line				X	Transportation Provider	Local
Bureau of Indian Affairs – Regional Office	X				Tribal Government Agency	Federal
Ohlone /Costanoan Esselen	X	X	X		Tribal Government Agency	Local
Pajaro Valley Ohlone Indian Council				X	Tribal Government Agency	Local
Arana Gulch Watershed Alliance (AGWA)				X	Water Interest Group	Local
Coastal Watershed Council				X	Water Interest Group	Local
Friends of Locally Owned Water (FLOW)				X	Water Interest Group	Local
Lompico Watershed Conservancy				X	Water Interest Group	Local
Scotts Creek Watershed Council				X	Water Interest Group	Local
Surfrider Foundation		X		X	Water Interest Group	National

Appendix E: Federal and State Regulations Concerning Interested Parties, Public Involvement, and Consultation

AMBAG and our partner agencies are required to satisfy statutory and regulatory guidelines in the structuring and implementation of its planning efforts. Federal and state legislation, as well as local preference and practice, are combined to shape the statutory environment that this *2023 Public Participation Plan* must satisfy. The *2023 Public Participation Plan* has been created to comply with the following federal and state statutory requirements.

Federal Legislation

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Act of 2021 (IIJA/BIA)
In 2021, President Biden signed a new infrastructure bill into law. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will invest $110 billion of new funds for roads, bridges, and major projects, and reauthorize the surface transportation program for the next five years building on bipartisan surface transportation reauthorization bills. Building upon the FAST Act, IIJA/BIA continues public participation and consultation along with adding a new requirement of affordable housing organizations as an interested party. This bill is covered by the Justice40 Initiative, a goal established with the signing of Executive Order 14008 that 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.

Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act)
In 2015, President Obama signed into law a new transportation authorization, entitled Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act. In accordance with 23 CFR 450.316, a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) is required to engage in a metropolitan planning process that creates opportunities for public involvement, participation, and consultation throughout the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). Under this requirement, MPOs must allow for:

- Adequate public notice of public participation activities;
- Review and comment at key decision points in the development of the MTP and MTIP; and
- Multiple, accessible participation formats, including electronic and in-person.

The MPO should develop a collaborative and comprehensive Public Participation Plan, in full collaboration with the public and stakeholder communities, to be used in the development of the MTP and MTIP, as well as to frame the strategies for public and stakeholder communication and collaboration in all phases of the planning process. The Public Participation Plan itself must be prepared by the MPO with a 45-day public review and comment period. Similarly, states are required to have a documented public participation process.

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)

In 2012, President Obama signed into law a new two year transportation authorization, entitled Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) and was the first long-term highway authorization enacted since 2005. MAP-21 helped create a streamlined, performance-based and multimodal program to address the challenges facing the U.S. transportation system. MAP-21 was also created to emphasize the need for more public involvement in regional transportation decision making. This federal law requires all Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) such as AMBAG to "provide citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation agency employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with a reasonable opportunity to comment" on all transportation-related projects and plans within the Monterey Bay region. MAP-21 also required AMBAG to coordinate transportation plans with the regional growth forecast, travel demand model and other related planning activities when developing and updating major planning documents such as our MTP/SCS and MTIP for the region.

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)

The public participation requirements of SAFETEA-LU, as defined in the *Final Rule for Metropolitan Transportation Planning* and adopted in 2005, has been used to shape the metropolitan transportation planning process. The elements required by SAFETEA-LU include that:

- The participation plan must be developed in consultation with interested parties
- The participation plan must include procedures for employing visualization techniques
- The participation plan must be available and accessible to the public, including in electronically accessible formats

Overall, Title 23 CFR §450.316 (a) specifies that "the MPO shall develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process."

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prevents government agencies receiving federal funding from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin or disability. The Civil Rights

Restoration Act of 1987 extended Title VI's applicability to all programs sponsored by federally-aided agencies, regardless of the program's specific funding sources.

The concept of environmental justice emerged from these two regulations, and is founded on the principles of:

- Mitigating disproportionately high and adverse health or environmental effects on minority or low income populations
- Ensuring that all affected communities have the ability to participate fully in transportation decision making processes
- Preventing the denial, reduction or delay of receiving benefits by minority and low-income populations

Executive Order 12372 - Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs

Executive Order 12372 calls for intergovernmental review of projects to ensure that federally funded or assisted projects do not inadvertently interfere with state and local plans and priorities. The Executive Order does not replace public participation, comment, or review requirements of other federal laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA),but gives the agencies an additional mechanism to ensure federal agency responsiveness to state and local concerns.

Executive Order 12898 - Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations

Adopted in 2011, Executive Order 12898 provides for the intergovernmental review of projects to ensure that federally funded or assisted projects do not inadvertently interfere with state and local plans and priorities. This order also requires every agency to incorporate environmental justice goals as part of its mission by addressing and identifying the disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of the agency's programs and policies on disadvantaged communities.

Executive Order 13166 - Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency

Executive Order 13166 requires agencies to identify and develop services to provide those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) access to federally conducted and funded programs.

Executive Order 13175 - Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments

Executive Order 13175 requires agencies to consult and coordinate with local Indian Tribal governments. In the Monterey Bay region there are no federally recognized tribes, however, staff does notify and consult the local Esselen and Ohlone/Costanoan tribal governments.

Clean Air Act & the Air Quality Implementation Plan (Title 40 CFR § 93.105)

As amended by the Clean Air Act, Title 40 CFR § 93.105 defines the procedures for interagency consultation, resolution of conflicts and public consultation. This includes establishing a proactive public involvement process, which is outlined in this plan.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, & the Age Discrimination Act of 1975

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 amended Title 42 regarding public health and welfare, to ensure the protection of civil rights regarding discrimination based on disability. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability for any programs conducted by or receiving federal funding. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 prohibits discrimination on the basis of age for any program conducted by or receiving federal funding.

FTA Circular 4703.1 – Environmental Justice Policy Guidance for FTA Recipients

Adopted in 2012, the purpose of this circular is to provide guidance to the recipients of FTA financial assistance in order to incorporate environmental justice principles into plans, projects, and activities that receive funding from FTA. The following guiding environmental justice principles must be considered through "all public outreach and participation efforts conducted by the FTA, its grantees and sub-grantees":

(1) To avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects, including social and economic effects, on minority populations and low income populations.
(2) To ensure the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision making process.
(3) To prevent the denial of, reduction in, or significant delay in the receipt of benefits by minority and low income populations.

Title 23: 450.316 from *Federal Register Vol. 72 No. 30*

Title 23: Highways; Part 450—Planning Assistance and Standards, 450.316 Interested parties, participation, and consultation.

(a) The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) shall develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing citizens, affected public agencies, representatives of public transportation employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transportation, representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan transportation planning process.

> (1) The participation plan shall be developed by the MPO in consultation with all interested parties and shall, at a minimum, describe explicit procedures, strategies, and desired outcomes for:
>
> > (i) Providing adequate public notice of public participation activities and time for public review and comment at key decision points, including but not limited to a

reasonable opportunity to comment on the proposed Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP);

(ii) Providing timely notice and reasonable access to information about transportation issues and processes;

(iii) Employing visualization techniques to describe the MTP and MTIP;

(iv) Making public information (technical information and meeting notices) available in electronically accessible formats and means online

(v) Holding any public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times;

(vi) Demonstrating explicit consideration and response to public input received during the development of the MTP and MTIP;

(vii) Seeking out and considering the needs of those traditionally underserved by existing transportation systems, such as low income and minority households, who may face challenges accessing employment and other services;

(viii) Providing an additional opportunity for public comment, if the final MTP or MTIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the MPO and raises new material issues which interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts;

(ix) Coordinating with the statewide transportation planning public involvement and consultation processes under subpart B of this part; and

(x) Periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the procedures and strategies contained in the participation plan to ensure a full and open participation process.

(2) When significant written and oral comments are received on the draft metropolitan transportation plan and TIP (including the financial plans) as a result of the participation process in this section or the interagency consultation process required under the EPA transportation conformity regulations (40 CFR part 93), a summary, analysis, and report on the disposition of comments shall be made as part of the final metropolitan transportation plan and MTIP.

(3) A minimum public comment period of 45 calendar days shall be provided before the initial or revised participation plan is adopted by the MPO. Copies of the approved participation plan shall be provided to the FHWA and the FTA for informational purposes and shall be posted on the World Wide Web, to the maximum extent practicable.

(b) In developing Metropolitan Transportation Plans (MTPs) and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Programs (MTIPs), the MPO should consult with agencies and officials responsible for other planning activities within the Metropolitan Planning Area that are affected by transportation (including state and local planned growth, economic development, environmental protection, airport operations, or freight movements) or coordinate its planning process (to the maximum extent practicable) with such planning activities. In addition, MTPs and MTIPs shall be developed with due consideration of other related planning activities within the metropolitan area, and the process shall provide for the design and delivery of transportation services within the area that are provided by:

(1) Recipients of assistance under title 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53;

(2) Governmental agencies and non-profit organizations (including representatives of the agencies and organizations) that receive Federal assistance from a source other than the U.S. Department of Transportation to provide non-emergency transportation services; and

(3) Recipients of assistance under 23 U.S.C. 204.

(c) When the Metropolitan Planning Area includes Indian Tribal lands, the MPO shall appropriately involve the Indian Tribal government(s) in the development of the MTP and the MTIP.

(d) When the Metropolitan Planning Area includes federal public lands, the MPO shall appropriately involve the federal land management agencies in the development of the MTP and the MTIP.

(e) MPOs shall, to the extent practicable, develop a documented process(es) that outlines roles, responsibilities, and key decision points for consulting with other governments and agencies, as defined in paragraphs (b), (c), and (d) of this section, which may be included in the agreement(s) developed under §450.314.

FHWA/FTA has also provided frequently asked questions and answers on public involvement in transportation decision making in regards to Title 23 CFR 450 on their website: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/public_involvement/archive/q_and_a/index.cfm

State Legislation

Government Code 11135

Government Code 11135, subdivision (a) states that "no person in the State of California shall, on the basis of race, national origin, ethnic group identification, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, color, or disability, be unlawfully denied full and equal access to the benefits of, or be unlawfully subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity that is conducted, operated, or administered by the state or by any state agency that is funded directly by the state, or receives any financial assistance from the state." The purpose of this code is to provide all citizens protection from discrimination from any program or activity that is either conducted, funded directly by, or receives any financial assistance from the state.

Government Code 65080 & Senate Bill (SB) 375

In 2008, SB 375 was passed by the state legislature, amending Government Code 65080 to include specific language for public participation activities required by MPOs as they develop their Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for the long range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Specifically, the contents of this plan are guided by the *2017 California Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines* produced by the California Transportation Commission. These activities, outlined further in chapter 4, includes holding additional meetings and workshops, extensive consultation and coordination, updating the public participation plan, as this document does, and providing a process for members of the public to receive updates and information regarding the development of the SCS. The specific language can be found in the California Government Code section 65080 (b) (2) €. At the time of preparation of this document, the California Transportation Commission released updated draft Regional Transportation Plan guidelines for public review anticipated to be adopted in 2024.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (CPRC § 21000 et seq) requires transportation plans and programs developed by AMBAG and the RTPAs to undergo an extensive environmental review process.

The MTP and RTPs require approval by governing bodies, and as such, AMBAG and RTPAs must prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that evaluates the significant environmental impacts of the proposed projects and determine ways to mitigate the impacts to below significance. In addition, specific projects may undergo individual EIR processes depending on their scope or inclusion in the long range transportation plan EIR.

The preparation of an EIR requires extensive consultation between partner agencies and provides for a 45-day public review period.

Ralph M. Brown Act

The Brown Act (California Government Code § 54950-54963) regulates meetings of local public agencies. The Brown Act also applies to any committee or subsidiary body of a local agency, whether permanent or temporary, decision making or advisory, created by local agency governing boards. The Brown Act sets minimum standards for open meetings relative to notice posting, agenda distribution, access, location of meeting, and public input. The Brown Act requires agendas for regular meetings to allow members of the public to address the agency on any item of interest to the public within the purview of the particular agency. To give sufficient time for all interested parties to present their opinions, each agency may limit the amount of time per person for such public testimony.

California Public Records Act

Adopted in 1968, the California Public Records Act requires disclosure of records to the public upon request, unless otherwise exempt. Certain public records or portions of records may be exempt including personnel or medical files for employees and records pertaining to pending

litigation. Agencies served public records requests are subject to respond to requests within 10 days. Note, the 10-day period mentioned is not a deadline for producing records.

Assembly Bill (AB) 52- Native Americans: California Environmental Quality Act

Enacted in 2012, AB 52 amended CEQA to create a separate category for cultural resources and established a notification and consultation process with affected Tribes. By requiring consideration of tribal cultural resources early in the CEQA process, the legislature intended to ensure that local and tribal governments, public agencies, and project proponents would have information available in the project planning process to address potential adverse impacts.

To determine whether a project may have such an effect, the Public Resources Code requires a lead agency to consult with any California Native American tribe that requests consultation and is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project. That consultation must take place prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report for a project. Pub. Res. Code § 21080.3.1.

If a lead agency determines that a project may cause a substantial adverse change to tribal cultural resources, the lead agency must consider measures to mitigate that impact. Pub. Res. Code § 20184.3 (b)(2) provides examples of mitigation measures that lead agencies may consider to avoid or minimize impacts to tribal cultural resources.

Sources for Full Text of Regulations on the web:

- **Code of Federal Regulations (CFR):** http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/
- **United States Code (USC):** http://www.gpoaccess.gov/uscode/index.html
- **Executive Orders:** http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/
- **California Government Code & Public Resources Code:** http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html
- **California Code of Regulations:** http://government.westlaw.com/linkedslice/default.asp?Action=TOC&RS=GVT1.0&VR=2.0&SP=CCR-1000

Appendix F: Best Practices Guide of Public Participation Strategies

Below are links to recent studies or documents that highlight best public engagement and outreach practices nationwide, as well as federal guidelines for public participation strategies. These links may be used as references for our partner agencies, local jurisdictions and interested parties to receive background information on success stories and innovative outreach strategies other public agencies have accomplished over the past few years.

1. Caltrans Standard Environmental Reference (SER) Vol 1: Guidance for Compliance, Chapter 3-Public Participation

https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/standard-environmental-reference-ser/volume-1-guidance-for-compliance/ch-3-public-participation

2. FHWA/FTA's Public Involvement Techniques for Transportation Decision Making Report

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/public_involvement/publications/pi_techniques/fhwahep15044.pdf

3. Institute for Local Government: Public Engagement Case Stories

http://www.ca-ilg.org/public-engagement-case-stories

4. U.S. DOT's Transit at the Table II: A Guide to Participation in Metropolitan Transportation Decision Making for Transit Agencies in Small and Medium-Sized Metropolitan Areas

http://www.planning.dot.gov/documents/TransPlanning/TransTableII.pdf

5. U.S. DOT's Transportation Planning Capacity Building: Public Involvement Techniques

https://www.planning.dot.gov/planning/topic_PI.aspx

6. 2017 RTP Guidelines for MPOs section on Public Participation: At the time of preparation of this document, the California Transportation Commission released the final draft 2024 Regional Transportation Plan guidelines for public review anticipated to be adopted in January 2024

https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/rtp-2017-guidelines-mpos-011817-a11y.pdf

7. U.S. DOT's Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making

https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-10/Promising%20Practices%20for%20Meaningful%20Public%20Involvement%20in%20Transportation%20Decision-making.pdf

8. U.S. DOT's Transportation Planning Capacity Building: Public Involvement Techniques

https://www.planning.dot.gov/planning/topic_PI.aspx

9. U.S. DOT's Promising Practices for Meaningful Public Involvement in Transportation Decision-Making

https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-10/Promising%20Practices%20for%20Meaningful%20Public%20Involvement%20in%20Transportation%20Decision-making.pdf

10. California Transportation Commission SB 1 Competitive Programs Transportation Equity Supplement

https://catc.ca.gov/-/media/ctc-media/documents/programs/senate-bill-1/2022-sb1-competitive-programs-transportation-equity-supplement-a11y.pdf

Appendix G: 2050 MTP/SCS Public Involvement Plan

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I. Introduction

Development of the *2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy* (MTP/SCS) is a multi-year effort that begins in 2023. A comprehensive Public Involvement Plan (PIP) to support the *2050 MTP/SCS* is a key part of the process. The purpose of this PIP is two-fold: (1) to support the development of the *2050 MTP/SCS* by providing every available opportunity for the general public, partner agencies, and stakeholders to provide feedback; and (2) to further improve transportation decision making in the region by reaching out to underserved communities within the Monterey Bay region more effectively.

A critical component in preparing the *2050 MTP/SCS* is to provide guidance in the structuring of regional transportation planning processes to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, interagency consultation and public participation were an integral and continuing part of the regional transportation decision making process. The participation policies and procedures described in this PIP are structured to enable all participants the ability to express their genuine regional values and interests in the shaping and implementation of regional policies and decisions regarding the transportation system.

SB 375 requires AMBAG to adopt a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the development of the SCS and must include the following public involvement activities[1] and techniques:

1. Outreach efforts to encourage the active participation of a broad range of stakeholder groups in the planning process, consistent with AMBAG's *2023 Public Participation Plan*, including, but not limited to, affordable housing advocates, transportation advocates, neighborhood and community groups, environmental advocates, transportation disadvantaged representatives, home builder representatives, broad-based business organizations, landowners, commercial property interests, and homeowner associations.
2. Consultation with congestion management agencies, transportation agencies, and transportation commissions.
3. Workshops throughout the Monterey Bay region to provide the public with the information and tools necessary to provide a clear understanding of the issues and policy choices. At least one workshop shall be held in each county in the region. Each workshop, to the extent practicable, shall include urban simulation computer modeling to create visual representations of the SCS and the alternative planning strategy.
4. Preparation and circulation of a Draft SCS and an alternative planning strategy, if one is prepared, not less than 55 days before adoption of a final regional transportation plan.
5. At least three public hearings on the *Draft 2050 MTP/SCS* and alternative planning strategy, if one is prepared. To the maximum extent feasible, the hearings shall be in

[1] Government Code Section 65080(b)(2)(B)(iii)

different parts of the region and/or virtual to maximize the opportunity for participation by members of the public throughout the Monterey Bay region.

6. A process for enabling members of the public to provide a single request to receive notices, information, and updates.

The public participation policies and procedures described in this PIP are structured to comply with all applicable federal and state legislation, rules, and express the genuine regional value and interest for all residents of the Monterey Bay region to participate in the shaping and implementation of the *2050 MTP/SCS*. In pursuing its mission, "AMBAG provides strategic leadership and services to collaboratively analyze, plan and implement regional policies for the benefit of the Counties and Cities of the Monterey Bay region balancing local control with regional collaboration." AMBAG strives to inform and involve its local jurisdictions and all members of the general public throughout its *2050 MTP/SCS* development process.

II. Goals and Objectives

AMBAG and partner agencies in the Monterey Bay region seek the participation of a diverse set of communities with an interest in regional planning efforts, including low-income households, minority populations, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations, persons with disabilities, representatives from community and service organizations, tribal organizations, and other public agencies.

A. Public Participation Plan

The *2023 Public Participation Plan* identifies a more in-depth overview of AMBAG's public involvement process, which includes eight guiding principles. These principles provide the framework for this PIP, which are as follows:

1. Prioritize public engagement methods that increase equitable participation and distribution of resources in all outreach efforts, projects, and programs
2. Value public participation and promoting broad based involvement by members of the community
3. Provide varied opportunities for public review and input
4. Treat all members of the public fairly, and respect and consider all public input as an important component of the planning and implementation process
5. Promote a culture of dialogue and partnership among residents, property owners, the business community, organizations, other interested members of the public, and public officials
6. Involve underserved communities and community groups, as well as other organizations
7. Encourage active public participation throughout the entire process
8. Provide communications and agency reports that are clear, timely and broadly distributed

AMBAG has established a set of activities and goals to achieve each of the eight guiding principles by creating a framework and action plan for each outreach goal. These goals are agency wide and can also be utilized and implemented in all major plans and projects within the Monterey Bay region, such as the *2050 MTP/SCS*. The activities and goals include:

Equity

Goal: Prioritize public engagement methods that **increase equitable participation and distribution of resources** in all outreach efforts, projects, and programs.

Activity: Engage impacted and historically underserved communities early and often. Inclusive engagement, policies and practices must be considered to eliminate systematic barriers. In the AMBAG region, collaborative decision-making processes, such as citizen advisory committees and focus groups, can be established to ensure diverse representation and involvement are achieved.. Other methods include door-to-door outreach, organizing community workshops and public hearings in the communities with low engagement, utilizing digital platforms, surveys (in-person, online, by phone), social media campaigns, and partnering with community-based organizations. Additionally, AMBAG, partners and other local decision-makers should incorporate cultural sensitivity into public outreach efforts. This includes recognizing and respecting cultural norms, values, and practices of diverse communities, and adapting engagement methods accordingly. For example, TAMC has adapted outreach strategies to include interpretation accommodations for indigenous language speakers in south Monterey County.

Broad Based Involvement

Goal: Value public participation and promote **broad based involvement** by members of the community.

Activity: In addition to having a list of stakeholders and working collaboratively with our partner agencies, AMBAG and the RTPAs will also interact and outreach to community groups within the Monterey Bay Region, as input from a variety of perspectives helps to enhance the process and results. AMBAG and the RTPAs structure their major planning initiatives and funding decisions to provide for meaningful opportunities to help shape outcomes. With this in mind, AMBAG and the RTPAs will determine public participation goals for the *2050 MTP/SCS* including performance metrics, data to be collected, and monitoring strategies over the length of the outreach campaign. For example, because AMBAG's *2050 MTP/SCS* is the blueprint for both new policies and investments for the Monterey Bay Region, updating and developing the MTP/SCS is one of the best projects for interested persons to get involved. The list of all groups, stakeholders and councilmembers can be found in Appendix D of the *2023 Public Participation Plan.*

Opportunity

Goal: Provide varied **opportunities for public review and input.**

Activity: AMBAG and the RTPAs will engage with partner agencies, committees, working groups, and the public to obtain comments and suggestions during the development of future updates to the MTP/SCS, MTIP, RTP, and RTIP. When the drafts of major plans, programs, and documents are released, the public review period for each document varies from 30-55 days. AMBAG and the RTPAs will announce these public review periods through various media outlets, thereby providing as many opportunities as possible for the public to read and provide comments on the drafts of major documents to be implemented in the future. Below is a list of potential ways that AMBAG and the RTPAs will make this information available to the public:

- Websites
- News Releases
- Articles
- Press Conferences
- Radio and Television
- Newsletters, Brochures and eNews
- Agency Reports
- Posters and Inserts
- Advertising
- Online Social Media Networks
- Mapping

Environmental Justice

Goal: Treat all members of the public fairly, and **respect and consider all citizen input** as an important component of the planning and implementation process ensuring that actions taken will not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on underserved populations.

Activity: AMBAG and the RTPAs plan to actively reach out to the traditionally underserved and underrepresented communities within the Monterey Bay Region and enhance efforts to effectively involve rural communities in all major transportation planning processes. The *2023 Public Participation Plan* ensures that community concerns and engagement can guide the identification of programs, policies, and activities, and ensure that actions taken will not result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on underserved populations. AMBAG and the RTPAs will undertake specific strategies to involve all members of the public in AMBAG's regional transportation planning and investment decisions. AMBAG's

2021 Title VI Plan delves into these strategies in the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan found in Appendix E of the Title VI Plan, which outlines how AMBAG outreaches to underserved and underrepresented groups. One size does not fit all as input from diverse perspectives enhances the process.

Engagement

Goal: Promote a **culture of dialogue and partnership** among residents, property owners, the business community, organizations, other interested individuals, and public officials.

Activity: Early engagement is best. Although all participation is encouraged, agencies can put additional effort into specific areas that have the highest numbers of disadvantaged/ underserved people, based on mapping of census or other data. AMBAG and the RTPAs create support materials that are easy to understand, applicable to the lives of the participants, and visually engaging in both print and electronic format making them accessible at meetings and on agency websites. AMBAG and the RTPAs plan workshops and/or public hearings that are available virtually, and at convenient venues even for those without access to a car, and times across the region; and ensure such events are fully accessible to the public, including low-income, minority, and rural communities, persons with disabilities (physical, visual, audio) and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations. Additionally, when funding allows agencies can offer childcare at community meetings to encourage young families to participate.

Involvement of Underserved Communities

Goal: Involve underserved communities and local community groups, as well as other organizations.

Activity: Making a greater effort to partner with local community groups including schools and smaller/rural communities that feel like they don't have a voice and involve them in the public participation process as much as possible is important. Strategies can include ground truthing in neighborhoods for underserved peoples, providing materials/videos in languages other than English and Spanish, and holding enriching community events/tablings where participation is historically low. Board member attendance at these community events will be highly encouraged. An open, transparent, and culturally-sensitive public participation process will help empower affected low-income communities and communities of color to participate in the decision making process. Engaging interested persons (especially marginalized community members) in regional transportation issues is challenging, yet possible, by making it relevant, simply stated, and removing barriers to participation.

Encouragement

Goal: **Encourage active public participation** throughout the whole process.

Activity: AMBAG and the RTPAs ask thought provoking questions in public surveys, workshops and outreach meetings and engage audiences in strong discussions. Public participation is a dynamic activity that requires teamwork and commitment from all of the Monterey Bay region's agencies, from the regional level to the local level.

Clear Communication

Goal: Provide communications and agency reports that are **clear, timely and broadly distributed.**

Activity: Effective public outreach and involvement requires collaborating with regional local governments, stakeholders, and advisory groups such as partner agencies. Making all types of multimedia communication clear, accessible, and easy to understand is important to be effective. Potential methods include adding a translation link in Spanish for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) individuals through a Google Translation Widget (although agencies must be conscious of the tool's limitations) on our website and providing distributed flyers, online notices, announcements and other materials in both English and Spanish, as feasible, to engage diverse populations. Agencies also provide hearing impaired and visually impaired individuals assistance in receiving online and physical media distributions through physical outreach materials printed in larger font and in braille, upon request, to all electronic materials provided in an accessible format.

B. Title VI Plan

The *2021 Title VI Plan*[2] is a comprehensive document that guides AMBAG in the Title VI process. Title VI is a federal statute and provides that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

The *2021 Title VI Plan* emphasizes the AMBAG Title VI process and procedures, including the use of public outreach techniques and innovative strategies to specifically include Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Populations throughout the region. The LEP population we have identified in our LEP Plan will help set a precedent for future public workshops and events

[2] AMBAG 2021 Title VI Plan*:* https://ambag.org/sites/planning/Title-VI-Plan

throughout the Monterey Bay region. Because a Title VI Plan is the required guide for all Title VI related activities conducted by AMBAG, this PIP will stay consistent with the *2021 Title VI Plan* and will incorporate the procedures, strategies and techniques that will be used by AMBAG for increasing public involvement and make conscious effort to include LEP populations in the *2050 MTP/SCS* process.

III. Public Engagement

AMBAG will engage the community throughout the development of the *2050 MTP/SCS*. These activities include:

- Community workshops and events
- Public hearings
- A project website
- Visual graphics and media techniques
- Interactive surveys in English and Spanish (other languages as needed)
- Preparation of handout materials, flyers, information sheets, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), etc.

A. Face to Face Interactions

Public Outreach

Public Workshops

Workshops will be held throughout the Monterey Bay region at key milestones throughout the *2050 MTP/SCS* development process. Materials will be provided in English and Spanish (and other languages upon request); and translation services will be available at the workshops. These workshops will be held outside of typical work hours and at more convenient locations to make them more accessible to the public.

In addition, pop-up community events will be conducted to further interact with members of the public to learn about, give feedback on, and engage in the process of developing the *2050 MTP/SCS*. These pop-up events may take place at popular locations such as farmer's markets, First Friday art gatherings, neighborhood block parties, community events, etc. Board member attendance will be highly encouraged.

Public Hearings and Comment Forms

Public hearings will be conducted to receive comments on the *Draft 2050 MTP/SCS Plan*. The public hearings will be held at various locations throughout the region and/or virtually and will be advertised in local newspapers, flyers, press releases, videos, and email announcements to reach a wide variety of audiences who may be interested in receiving an opportunity to provide their input on the *Draft 2050 MTP/SCS*.

Public Information

AMBAG will create and distribute clear, concise, and engaging information to support public involvement efforts. These materials will have a consistent look and feel, reflecting the branding that will be developed for the *2050 MTP/SCS*.

Below is a menu of materials that may be used to provide information about the *2050 MTP/SCS* and its components; the development process; why this process is relevant to the region's residents; and information about how, when, and why stakeholders should get involved. All materials will be written in easy-to-understand terms with limited jargon/acronyms and will be provided in a variety of languages and formats as needed. Materials will be distributed via a range of channels, including electronically (e-mail and website); at presentations, meetings, and events; at community locations (libraries, recreation centers, senior centers, and stores); and in the media (notices and advertisements). Materials will be updated as needed throughout the process.

Project Fact Sheet

A project fact sheet will be created to provide basic information about the *2050 MTP/SCS*, its components, purpose, timeline, and information on how the public can get involved in the process.

Flyers and Press Releases

Each flyer will have engaging images, a summary of opportunities for public involvement, key messages, and basic information about the *2050 MTP/SCS* and its timeline. Flyers and notices will be prepared in English, Spanish, and other languages upon request. These flyers will be distributed to local agencies and those who plan to sign up for email updates on the website. A press release will be sent to local television, radio, and newspaper media outlets.

Public Notices

Notices for public meetings and opportunities for public comment will be published via:

- Online media outlets (project website, partner agencies websites, social media)
- Printed materials (advertisements in newspapers, printed flyers posted at strategic locations, etc.)
- Announcements (radio, meetings, videos)

In addition, to stay consistent with AMBAG's *2021 Title VI Plan*, all public notices will be printed and uploaded in English and Spanish to ensure Limited English Proficiency populations within the Monterey Bay region will be included in the *2050 MTP/SCS* process. Noticing in other languages can be made available by request.

B. Online Tools and Surveys

Project Website

A project website will be the central portal for information about the project and upcoming events. The website address will be provided on all outreach materials and will be updated regularly to maintain current content and will be the primary portal for public information about the *2050 MTP/SCS*, incorporating interactive elements to provide opportunities for broad participation. Direct communication and website information will be synched from the project website and the AMBAG website for easier accessibility.

Media Outlets

Social Media

Online publication and web-based comment of plans/programs will be created during the *2050 MTP/SCS* process, including an increased use of illustrations on affiliated social media networks, such as Twitter (X) and Instagram.

AMBAG staff and board members will also increase emphasis on public access television, radio and internet radio, coordinate media stories between partner agencies and media outlets, and target marketing/notices highlighting how planning documents may impact them throughout the *2050 MTP/SCS* process.

Newspapers and Newsletters

AMBAG will prepare and forward news releases to print and broadcast media on the *2050 MTP/SCS* and advertise through display ads in local newspapers throughout the Monterey Bay region. AMBAG's e-newsletter will report progress, encourage participation, and provide up to date information about opportunities for participation.

Surveys

Surveys will be conducted as needed for the *2050 MTP/SCS*, which also can help design future outreach strategies. These surveys will be conducted at key milestones of the planning process. To help increase awareness and to reach more people than conventional workshops, surveys will be created in English and Spanish (and other languages as needed), at critical points throughout the development of the *2050 MTP/SCS*.

IV. Consultation and Coordination Efforts

A variety of committees and boards will be consulted throughout the planning process and at key milestones to solicit feedback, provide project updates, and relay community input from the workshops and surveys. These committees and boards are made up of elected officials, staff from local jurisdictions and agencies, local leaders and organizers, and members of the general public.

AMBAG Board of Directors

The AMBAG Board of Directors consists of 21 jurisdictions within Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties. An elected official from each jurisdiction is appointed by that jurisdiction's City Council or Board of Supervisors. Each of the 18 cities are represented by one member and each of the three counties by two members, forming the 24 member AMBAG Board of Directors. A representative from the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), San Benito County Council of Governments (SBtCOG), Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC), Santa Cruz METRO, Monterey-Salinas Transit, Caltrans, Monterey Bay Air Resources District, Central Coast Community Energy, and Monterey Peninsula Airport District each serve as an ex-officio member.

The AMBAG Board meets monthly and sets policy. Day-to-day oversight is provided by the Executive Director, who is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

The AMBAG Board will meet often throughout the planning process to receive project updates, provide policy direction, determine hybrid and preferred scenarios, and ultimately to adopt the MTP/SCS. Board members will be encouraged to take leadership positions on the MTP/SCS to encourage public understanding and engagement.

Planning Directors Forum

The Planning Directors Forum (PDF) consists of planning directors and staff from the 21 jurisdictions within Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties, the three regional transportation planning agencies, the two transit operators, Caltrans District 5, and AMBAG; as well as other stakeholders. The PDF will meet regularly to address regional land use and transportation planning issues. The PDF will meet throughout the planning process and at key milestones to identify priorities, help establish initial scenario development, review draft workshop materials, and to receive project updates including feedback from the community workshops and online surveys.

Regional Transportation Planning Agencies

In the Monterey Bay region, there are three Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs): San Benito County Council of Governments (SBtCOG), Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC), Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC). Each of these three RTPAs consists of agency staff and board members, including staff from local jurisdictions, elected officials, and appointed members. The RTPAs Boards of Directors set policy and provide a source of funding for transportation planning projects within each county. AMBAG staff will meet with the three RTPAs' Boards at key milestones to present findings, provide project updates, and receive input on the MTP/SCS development, project identification, and priorities.

Technical Advisory Committees

The Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) are made up of staff from local jurisdictions and agencies, including local transit service providers and the RTPAs. The TACs review and provide technical guidance and advice on transportation projects and programs within each county, and make recommendations to the RTPA Boards or Directors. AMBAG staff will meet with the TACs at key milestones throughout the planning process to confirm transportation priorities, projects, and funding sources.

Stakeholder Contact List

A master stakeholder contact list will be maintained for distribution of press releases, flyers, and project updates. This list includes members of the AMBAG Board, partners, the Planning Directors Forum, local transportation agencies, and other related groups. Media outlets, local organizations, and workshop and survey participants who provided a valid email address are included in the master stakeholder list.

Additional contacts include government agencies such as, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Air Resources Board (CARB), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 5, state and local transportation agencies, Tribal governments, state, local and federal elected officials, and community based organizations.

Please refer to Appendix D in AMBAG's *2023 Public Participation Plan* for the current list of stakeholders within the Monterey Bay region.

Appendix H: Draft 2023 PPP Public Comments and Responses

Name	Agency/Jurisdiction/Public	Comment	Response
Craig Chatterton	County of Santa Cruz	I just received notice of the Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan for Public Comment. I have not had time to review the 126 page document, but I wanted to provide a comment and request that will help the public participate effectively in this process: The Draft Plan is 126 pages and contains very technical details about how our transportation agencies function. I seriously doubt that many local residents will have the time or motivation to digest this complex Draft and provide meaningful feedback. That said, many residents have participated in transportation meetings about issues that affect all of us - rail, highways, roads, etc. So, many residents have a high level understanding about how the public participation processes works today. I would therefore request that AMBAG provide a 1-2 page summary of the relevant changes that the Draft Plan will make and how it may affect public participation. If this information is already in the Draft Plan,	Thank you for the comment. Staff will prepare an Executive Summary to be included in the final document as suggested.

Name	Agency/Jurisdiction/Public	Comment	Response
		please highlight that and advise residents on where to find that information.	
Linda Harrison	Public	I'm just wondering if the RTC draft includes any plans for public transportation From Santa Cruz to Monterey-Carmel area? It would be so great to be able to take a bus from Santa Cruz or Aptos direct to Monterey and back. I did not read draft yet but would like if they could consider it. I lived in San Mateo county many years and could get anywhere on Cal Train. Need something here!!	Thank you for the comment. This comment is outside the scope of the Public Participation Plan and transit service projects will be reviewed during the preparation of the 2050 MTP/SCS. Additionally, please note that Santa Cruz METRO and Monterey-Salinas Transit offer connecting services in the City of Watsonville.
Bob Montague	Public	As a member of the public, I am interested in understanding and having input into issues surrounding transportation in our area. The document referenced in the Sentinel article asks for public comment. However, when I go to the RTC site and look at the document, it appears to be a 126 page document that only addresses the protocols for how transportation issues are handled. If true, I not only find this offensive and a waste of time, but I also find it to be representative of the policy wonk problems that lead a substantial portion of the public to rail against the "deep state". In what world does it make sense to have a	Thank you for the comment. In accordance with 23 CFR 450.316 issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT), as a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) is required to engage in a metropolitan planning process that creates opportunities for public involvement, participation, and consultation throughout the development of the

Name	Agency/Jurisdiction/Public	Comment	Response
		document of this length? This tome of bureaucracy only exists to justify itself and the salary of the bureaucrats who write it.	Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Under this requirement, MPOs must allow for: adequate public notice of public participation activities; review and comment at key decision points in the development of the MTP and TIP; and multiple, accessible participation formats, including electronic and in-person. The MPO should develop a collaborative and comprehensive Public Participation Plan (PPP, this document), in full collaboration with the public and stakeholder communities, to be used in the development of the MTP and TIP, as well as to frame the strategies for public and stakeholder communication and collaboration in all phases of the planning process. By

Name	Agency/Jurisdiction/Public	Comment	Response
			preparing this PPP, AMBAG is ensuring compliance of the agency and its members to allow continued eligible for U.S. DOT funding for local transportation projects.
Bob Montague	Public	My hope in following the links to this piece was to point out a safety issue that regularly happens when road construction is done in these jurisdictions. Specifically, the way that signage is placed during roadwork often creates a substantial safety hazard for cyclists. This happens because the first sign often says, “road work ahead”, followed by various other signs, and lastly by a “share the road” sign. In fact, the way this is generally done is by placing the signs in the bike lane or the normally rideable shoulder of the road, effectively forcing cyclists into the lane for motorists. If signage is to be placed so as to force cyclists into the path of motorists, then the first sign must be the “share the road” sign. I have been told by workers that doing this would be contrary to the MUTCD (manual of uniform traffic control devices) guidance. I don’t know if this is true, but if so it is wrong. Drivers should be made aware immediately to expect cyclists to be in the lane. Let me say this again. If bikes are to be forced from the	Thank you for the comment. Although this comment is outside the scope of the Public Participation Plan, bicycle and pedestrian safety is of upmost importance so messaging during the construction of transportation projects will be included in the final PPP.

Name	Agency/Jurisdiction/Public	Comment	Response
		bike lane or shoulder into the lane of motor vehicle traffic, the first signs need to make that clear. Not doing so creates a substantial safety hazard for those cyclists.	
Ryan Meckel	Santa Cruz YIMBY	Appendix D: Not sure if we're already on a list somewhere since we did get your initial outreach email, but Santa Cruz YIMBY would like to be added to the list of stakeholders (Appendix D in the PPP) for Santa Cruz County as a Land Conservation/Development Interest Group. Is this possible? Thanks for all the work you do!	Thank you for the comment. Staff will ensure to include Santa Cruz YIMBY in "Appendix D: List of Stakeholders" in the final PPP.
Amelia Conlen	Ecology Action	Pay committee members who are not participating as staff – especially LEP community members	Thank you for the comment. The suggestion that agencies consider reimbursing non-staff members for their participation in committees as funding allows or grants available will be included as a strategy in the final PPP.
Amelia Conlen	Ecology Action	Include door to door outreach in hard to reach communities	Thank you for the comment. Door-to-door canvassing as a potential outreach method has been included in the PPP.

Name	Agency/Jurisdiction/Public	Comment	Response
Amelia Conlen	Ecology Action	Work with schools in low income areas to provide opportunities	Thank you for the comment. Schools have been included in "Appendix D: List of Stakeholders," but staff will also incorporate this feedback throughout the final PPP.
Amelia Conlen	Ecology Action	Table at public locations for public input	Thank you for the comment. Tabling at public locations has been identified as an outreach method in the PPP.
Amelia Conlen	Ecology Action	Consider adopting or adapting LA Metro's CBO partnering guide to ensure that CBO's are paid for their work promoting outreach opportunities, and develop tools for ongoing relationships with CBO's.	Thank you for this resource. Staff will review and incorporate best practices identified for working with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in the final PPP.
Amelia Conlen	Ecology Action	Page 21: "...funding for public outreach is limited, therefore practical and economical options can be used to expand toolbox skill sets..." Community advocates may argue here that funding is not limited, but rather allocated elsewhere and therefore public outreach remains inadequate.	Thank you for the comment. Staff will ensure to emphasize the value of community engagement in response to this point throughout the final PPP.

Name	Agency/Jurisdiction/Public	Comment	Response
Amelia Conlen	Ecology Action	Page 21: Mention of a Google Translation Widget, although provided with best intentions, may fall short in terms of translation quality and could increase confusion for readers. And Quickmap tools assumes the general public is well-versed in deciphering map data.	Thank you for these comments on the limitations of these tools. Staff will include this feedback in the final PPP.
Amelia Conlen	Ecology Action	Page 33: Intentional approach to communicate using cultural sensitivity Intentional approach to communicate understanding the technology barriers from some folks	Thank you for the suggestions as they will be added to the final PPP.
Amelia Conlen	Ecology Action	Page 36: Meeting people where they are = intentionally planning events during times when families may be more available to attend (late evenings, weekends) Access to meetings in terms of distance and the transportation challenges some families face Offering childcare during meetings There's mention of electronic tools in this section, but no mention of hard copy materials for folks who are not technologically savvy.	Thank you for these suggestions. They will be added as potential strategies in the final PPP.

Name	Agency/Jurisdiction/Public	Comment	Response
Amelia Conlen	Ecology Action	Page 42: List of public input opportunities seems to focus on boards and commissions only	Thank you for the comment. Figure 4-1 "2023 Public Participation Plan Development Timeline" is intended to provide the schedule of the various board and committee meetings required for the adoption of the final PPP, and is not intended to summarize all the community outreach completed to solicit feedback on the document.
Amelia Conlen	Ecology Action	Page 42 – 46: Good comprehensive list of items that are possible tools for outreach with the emphasis on tailoring the outreach approach based on the community needs	Thank you for the comment.
Jill Leal	Caltrans District 5	Page 60: Scott Eades public facing contact information needs to be updated. his phone number should be 805-549-3127 and his email should be corrected to Scott.Eades@dot.ca.gov.	Thank you for the comment. The correction will be made in the final PPP.
Jill Leal	Caltrans District 5	Page 104: First paragraph: Seems to incorrectly reference this Plan as the 2019 Public Participation Plan instead of the intended 2023 Public Participation Plan.	Thank you for the comment. The correction will be made in the final PPP.

Name	Agency/Jurisdiction/Public	Comment	Response
Jill Leal	Caltrans District 5	Page 126: First word. Please remove as it is a repeated word "California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) ~~Caltrans~~ District 5".	Thank you for the comment. The correction will be made in the final PPP.
Jill Leal	Caltrans District 5	Page 21: Something to consider would be the recommendation to continue using telephone surveying. Since landlines are so rarely used these days and cell phone numbers do not represent the physical location of the associated users, making the task of obtaining a representational list of phone numbers for a constituency unreliable. Additionally, potential voters may shy away from answering an unknown phone caller.	Thank you for this comment on the limitations of using this outreach tool. Staff will include this feedback in the final PPP.
Jill Leal	Caltrans District 5	Page 34: Online Social Media Networks: This section represents a huge medium for information distribution in today's society. This section should receive much more attention whether pulled out as an added subsection or simply expanded within the existing blurb.	Thank you for the comment. Staff will emphasize the power of this outreach tool in the final PPP.
Johanna Lighthill	Public	SCCRTC Commission Meetings: Continue to allow remote (Zoom) access to meetings.	Thank you for the comment. Continued remote access to Board meetings, including for the SCCRTC, has been included in the PPP.

Name	Agency/Jurisdiction/Public	Comment	Response
Johanna Lighthill	Public	SCCRTC Commission Meetings: Provide direct links to agenda items. Currently, accessing information may require scrolling through hundreds of pages.	Thank you for the comment. Offering board agendas on agency websites that are easy to navigate will be included in the final PPP.
Johanna Lighthill	Public	SCCRTC Commission Meetings: Provide a link within each agenda item to submit comments to Commissioners and make public comments available for viewing.	Thank you for the comment. Hosting agency websites that offer easy ways to provide direct feedback on board agency items will be included in the final PPP.
Johanna Lighthill	Public	SCCRTC Commission Meetings: Provide follow-up to questions asked by meeting attendees. Commissioners are not allowed to address them during meetings, so questions often go unanswered.	Thank you for the comment. The suggestion of providing follow up to comments made during the public comment section of meetings will be included in the final PPP.
Johanna Lighthill	Public	SCCRTC Engagement: Provide monthly or quarterly interactive zoom meetings to provide public with transportation news/updates; include Q & A.	Thank you for the comment. Hosting "Ask-Me-Anything" agency meetings will be included in the final PPP.
Johanna Lighthill	Public	SCCRTC Website: Provide results of surveys, workshops, and other events that include public participation.	Thank you for the comment. The results of surveys and outreach are typically included in the final documents associated with plans, programs, and/or projects, but the suggestion of displaying the results on project

Name	Agency/Jurisdiction/Public	Comment	Response
			webpages will be included in the final PPP.
Johanna Lighthill	Public	SCCRTC Website: Create living Q & A or FAQs pages. In an effort to provide a consistent set of facts, please provide a webpage that includes questions from public and RTC responses. Update weekly/monthly. Organize by topic and date submitted. Many community members have the same questions. Providing consistent and accurate information could facilitate more productive public discussion of local issues and clarify confusing issues within the community.	Thank you for the comment. Offering FAQs on agency websites will be included in the final PPP.

Appendix I: Public Notice for Draft 2023 PPP

The following public notice was posted in the Monterey Herald, the Hollister Freelance, and the Santa Cruz Sentinel Newspapers. In addition, this public notice was uploaded to our AMBAG and partner agencies websites.

Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan

Notice is hereby given that the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) and the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies will hold public hearings to secure public comment on the *Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan (PPP)*. The *Draft 2023 PPP* has been released for a 70-day public comment period as required by state and federal transportation regulations. The federally required *2023 PPP* is a comprehensive document that guides the regional public participation process for the tri-county Monterey Bay region. The *2023 PPP* emphasizes the transportation decision making process, including the expanded use of visualization techniques and innovative online engagement strategies in public outreach. The public hearings will be held as follows:

- SCCRTC Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, August 3, 2023 at 9am at Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Room 525, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. www.sccrtc.org
- AMBAG Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 6pm at Monterey Bay Air Resources District, Board Room, 3rd Floor 24580 Silver Cloud Court Monterey, CA 93940. www.ambag.org
- SBtCOG Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 4pm at San Benito County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 481 4th Street, Hollister, CA 95023. www.sanbenitocog.org
- TAMC Board of Directors meeting on Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 9am at Monterey County Government Center in the Cinnamon Conference Room, 1441 Schilling Place, Salinas CA 93901. www.tamcmonterey.org
- Remote participation available for all public hearings. See meeting agenda for Zoom info.

The *Draft 2023 PPP* is available at: https://ambag.org/plans/public-participation-plan . Comments on the *Draft 2023 PPP* are due August 23, 2023 and may be mailed to: Heather Adamson, AMBAG, 24580 Silver Cloud Court, Monterey, CA 93940, via email at hadamson@ambag.org , or via fax at (831) 883-3755.

It should be noted that the Thursday, August 17, 2023 SBtCOG public hearing had to be postposed to Thursday, September 21, 2023 due to a lack of quorum to open the August 2023 Board meeting. As such, the following public notice was posted regarding the new public hearing date.

Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan

Notice is hereby given that the Council of San Benito County Governments will hold a public hearing on the Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan (PPP) on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 4pm at San Benito County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 481 4th Street, Hollister, CA 95023. www.sanbenitocog.org. Remote participation available for all public hearings. See meeting agenda for Zoom info. The federally required 2023 PPP is a comprehensive document that guides the regional public participation process for the tri-county Monterey Bay region. The 2023 PPP emphasizes the transportation decision making process, including the expanded use of visualization techniques and innovative online engagement strategies in public outreach. The Draft 2023 PPP is available at: https://ambag.org/plans/public-participation-plan.