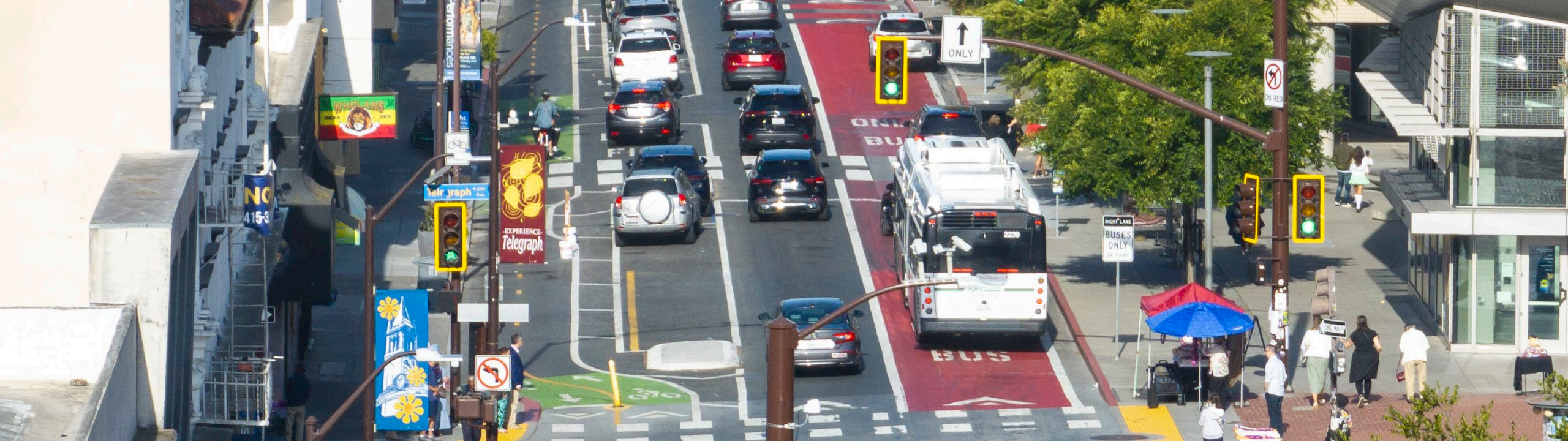




SR 26-333 Item 2.B.

Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways – Local Transit Priority Policy



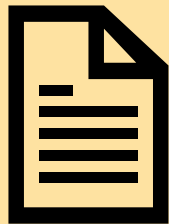
**AC Transit/City of Berkeley/City of Emeryville
Inter-Agency Liaison Committee**

July 16, 2026

Photo credit: Karl Nielsen

MTC's Regional Transit Priority Efforts

Policy



Transit Priority Policy for Roadways

*Adopted January 2026
(MTC Resolution No. 4739)*

Planning



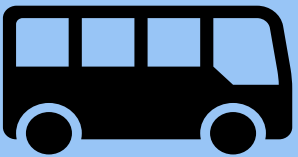
Transit Priority Roadway Assessment

**Plan Bay Area 2050+
(and Transit 2050+)**

Caltrans Coordination

- District 4 Transit Plan
- Director's Policy on Transit
- Transit Implementation Plan

Funding & Technical Assistance

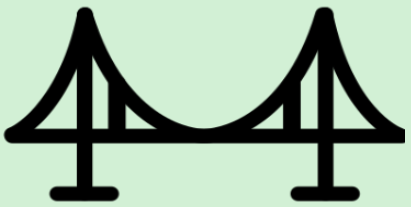


Transit Performance Initiative (TPI)

**Bus Accelerated
Infrastructure Delivery
(BusAID)**

**Innovative Deployments
to Enhance Arterials
(IDEA)**

Project Delivery



Forward Initiatives

- Bay Bridge Forward
- Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Forward
- Dumbarton Bridge Forward

Complete Streets (CS) & Transit Priority Policies

[Complete Streets Policy](#)

Adopted March 2022 – [Resolution 4493](#)

Complete Streets (CS) Policy

- Ensure people biking, walking, rolling, and taking transit are safely accommodated within the transportation network.

[Transit Priority Policy for Roadways](#)

Adopted January 2026 – [Resolution 4739](#)

Transit Priority Policy for Roadways

- Establish a common definition of transit priority
- Strengthen interjurisdictional coordination and guide agencies to consider transit in roadway projects.
- Inform prioritization of funding for transit priority projects

- Policies govern all MTC regional discretionary funds & endorsements, such as:
 - One Bay Area Grants (OBAG)
 - Active Transportation Program (ATP)

Complete Streets Policy Requirements

- **Projects on the Active Transportation Network** must be consistent with:
 - Approved local Complete Streets plans
 - NACTO All Ages & Abilities Design Principles
 - FHWA Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) Guidelines
- Require that all projects in public right-of-way requesting \$250,000 or more, or seeking an MTC endorsement must **complete a Complete Streets Checklist**, and have draft reviewed by a local or county **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)**, or equivalent.
- Projects that affect transit must complete **Transit Review**

Is Transit Review a New Requirement?

- Prior to the Transit Priority Policy approval, project sponsors only had to inform transit agencies of the project.
- The Policy encourages two-way collaboration between project sponsors and transit agencies, as opposed to one-way communication of information.
- Earlier and more robust coordination between agencies results in better projects.



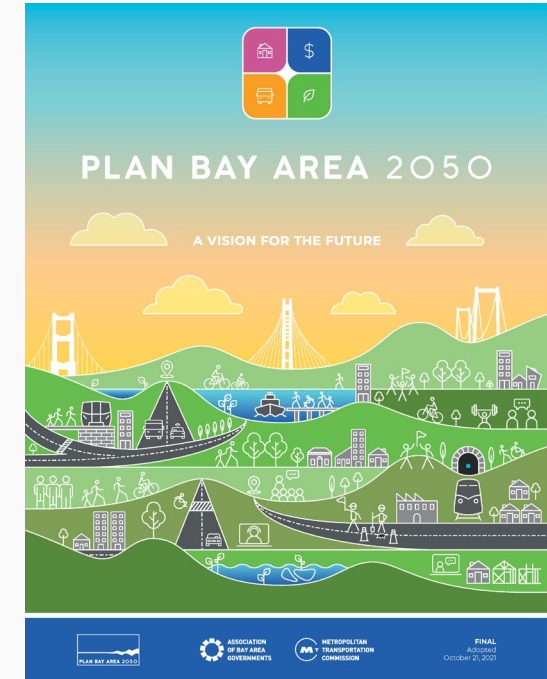
Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways

What:

- New Policy to emphasize transit priority
- Implemented via existing Complete Streets Checklist to avoid creating an additional administrative process

Goals:

1. Establish a common definition of transit priority
2. Strengthen interjurisdictional coordination and guide agencies to consider transit in roadway projects.
3. Inform prioritization of funding for transit priority projects



Implements Plan Bay Area 2050+ Strategy

Definition of Transit Priority

Transit-supportive infrastructure, design, and policies can decrease transit vehicle travel times and enable them to move more reliably by avoiding traffic congestion and minimizing delays.

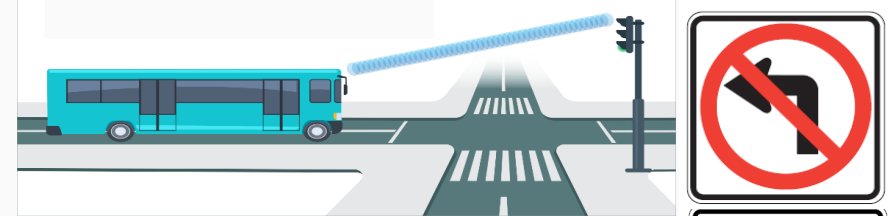
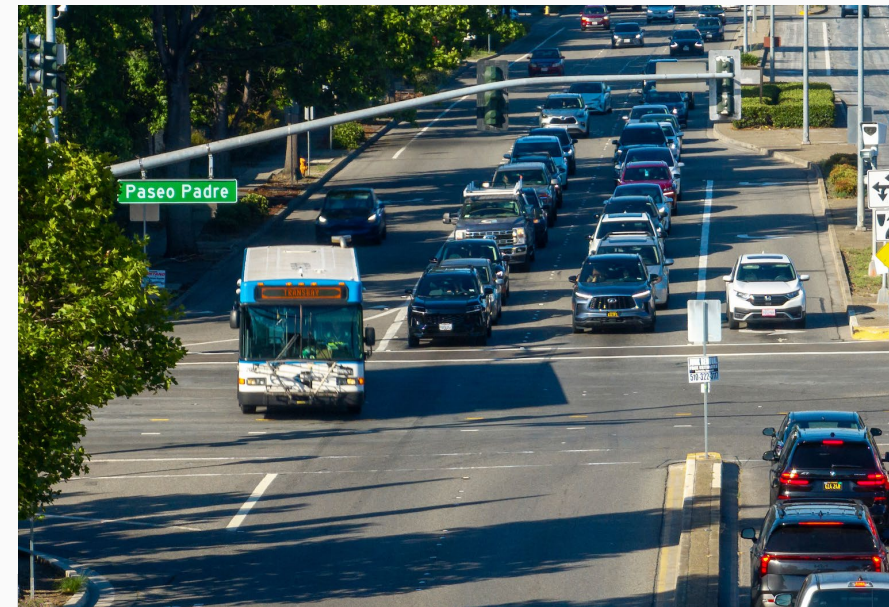


Photo credit: Karl Nielsen/MTC; Jeremy Menzies/SFMTA; Sinwaves, Inc; FHWA MUTCD

Transit-Supportive Design Principles

Transit Supportive design principles help reduce or eliminate transit delays. Some examples include:

- Bus bulbs instead of pedestrian bulbs
- Relocating bus stops to optimize stop placement
- Bus boarding islands adjacent to bikeways
- Transit Signal Priority (TSP)

Bus Bulbs make sidewalk wider at transit stops



Bus Boarding Islands separate bikes from buses



Photos: Jeremy Menzies/SFMTA, City of San Jose DOT

All Ages and Abilities Design and Transit-Supportive Design Working Together



Shellmound Street, Emeryville



Dana Street, Berkeley

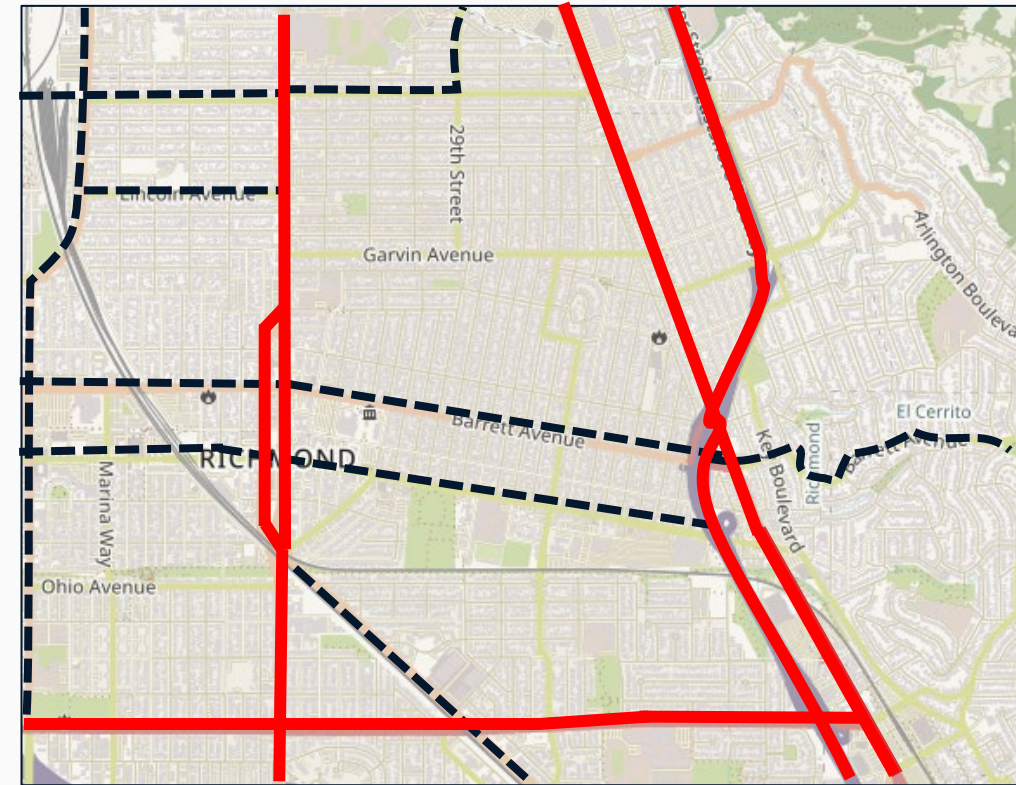
Photo AC Transit, Karl Nielsen/MTC

Transit Priority Network (TPN)

- The Transit Priority Policy for Roadways calls for the development of a regional Transit Priority Network (TPN) that identifies **key roadway corridors in the Bay Area where improving roadway transit travel time and reliability would benefit the most transit riders.**
- The TPN will guide:
 - where transit-supportive investments should be prioritized for funding
 - where projects should consider transit-supportive design elements (i.e., not only mitigate project impacts to transit, but also strive to improve transit)

Hypothetical Transit Priority Network

- Transit Priority Network (TPN)
- - - Non-TPN Corridor with Transit



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Optional: Local Resolution on Transit Priority

- **Purpose:** Promote broader local support of transit priority
- MTC would provide a variety of templates for a local policy or resolution:
 - Local resolution supporting the regional Policy
 - Local transit priority policy
 - Update to local complete streets resolution
- Funding incentives could be applied on a program-by-program basis

Examples

- City of San Francisco Transit First Policy (*City Charter*)
- City of Berkeley Transit First Policy (*General Plan*)
- City of El Cerrito Transit First Policy (*General Plan*)
- City of San José Transit First Policy (*City Council Policy, Move San José*)

Elements Required of a Local Transit Priority Policy

1. Include a goal to improve transit
2. Define Transit Priority
3. Adopt a Transit Priority Network
4. Commit to proactive collaboration with transit agencies, including:
 - Soliciting transit review of all projects along transit routes
 - Considering, and incorporating when feasible, transit supportive elements into projects along Transit Priority Network
 - Monitoring transit-supportive investments to ensure effectiveness over time
 - Documenting agreements to clarify roles and responsibilities of all agencies involved

Overall Transit Priority Timeline*

Policy Adopted
January 2026

2026

2027

Transit Coordination & Review Integrated into Complete Streets Checklist

Optional Local Policy Approval

Transit Priority Roadway Assessment (2025-27)

Develop Transit Priority Network (TPN)

Adopt TPN

Policy TPN Requirements Start

Technical Assistance & Funding

Develop Transit-Supportive Roadway Design Toolkit

Transit Review
Webinar

Call for Transit Priority Grant

*schedule subject to change

Policy Links

- [Policy Webpage](#) with various resources:
 - [Bay Area Transit Priority Policy for Roadways](#) (MTC Resolution No. 4739)
 - [Guidance for Implementing Agencies](#): Project sponsors can use this guide to determine Policy requirements for their roadway projects.
 - [Guidance on Optional Local Transit Priority Resolution or Policy](#): Local jurisdictions are encouraged to adopt their own local transit priority policy or resolution and can use this template as a starting point.
- New Complete Street Checklist Portal available via [Complete Streets Resource Page](#).

Thank You

Email: transitpriority@bayareametro.gov

For more information: Visit [Policy Webpage](#)

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