

BLUE RIBBON



**TRANSIT RECOVERY
TASK FORCE**

**TASK FORCE
FRAMEWORK + INTERVIEWS**

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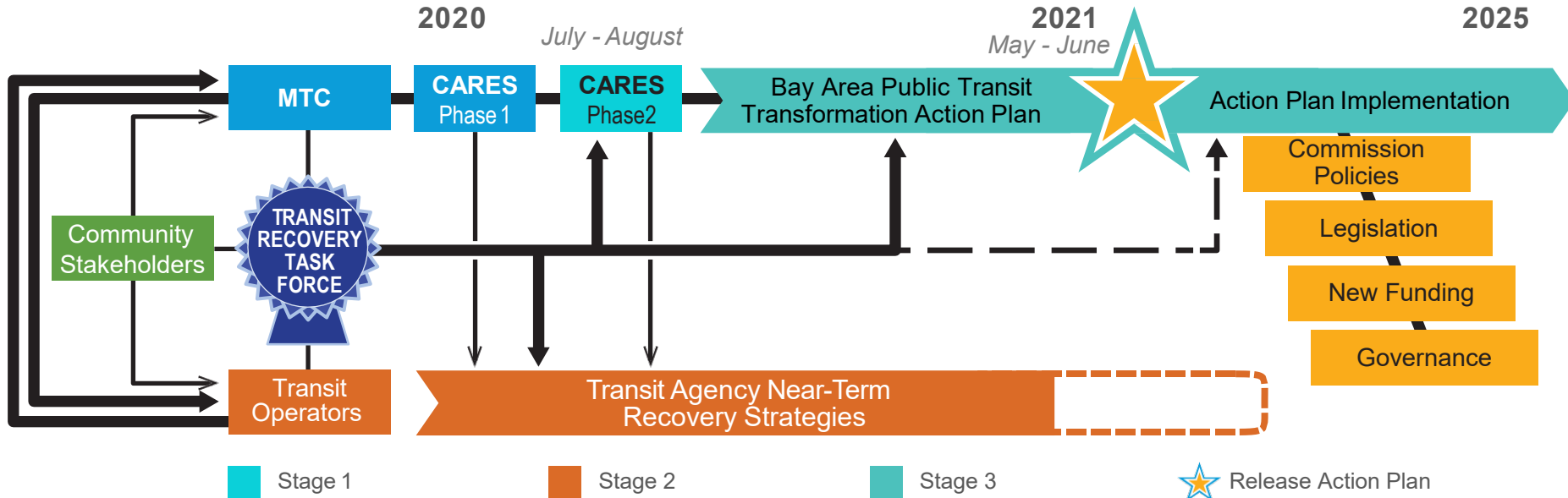
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TASK FORCE PURPOSE

The Commission appointed the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force to immediately assist MTC in understanding the scale of the crisis facing all Bay Area transit systems as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to guide its regional support through expedited distribution of CARES Act Phase 2 funds. Safety, network connectivity, financial sustainability, and transportation system equity will be important considerations.

Additionally, by mid-2021, the Task Force shall submit a Bay Area Public Transit Transformation Action Plan to the Commission for its consideration and possible adoption. The Plan should identify actions needed to re-shape the region's transit system into a more connected, more efficient, and more user-focused mobility network across the entire Bay Area and beyond.

TASK FORCE TIMELINE



INTERVIEWS SUMMARY

NEAR-TERM PRIORITIES

- Immediately achieve uniform, high operational standards of cleanliness and disinfection.
- Prioritize the needs of vulnerable and transit dependent riders in Recovery-based changes.
- Collaboratively develop and deliver a comprehensive, consistent, confidence-building transit message.
- Act with great urgency to distribute remaining CARES Act funds.
- Ensure accountability and transparency of allocations.

NEAR-TERM CONCERNS

- Simultaneous loss of both revenues and ridership has created an unprecedented challenge.
- CARES Act funding will not cover all revenue losses. Smaller agencies may not survive.
- Riders will not return unless uniform, high quality safety and cleanliness standards are evident.
- Sufficient attention will not be given to vulnerable transit riders' needs and operator security.
- Phase 1 distribution concerns need to be addressed in CARES Act Phase 2 fund distribution.

INTERVIEWS SUMMARY

TRANSFORMATION PRIORITIES

- Create a more understandable, more connected, and more efficient user-focused system.
- Make agency governance changes that achieve improved performance and cost efficiencies.
- Provide the right mix of mobility options to serve both choice and transit dependent users.
- Transit's future should include unified, affordable fare policies and digital access technologies

TRANSFORMATION CONCERNS

- Entrenched, parochial governance structure will be difficult to change.
- Near-term service reductions will make it harder to rebuild ridership.
- Transit advocates lack adequate understanding of transit's regulatory and labor constraints
- The decision making process will not adequately reflect the needs of vulnerable riders.

INTERVIEW QUOTES I

This is a permanent disruptor. There's lots of uncertainty and no one has a crystal ball.

Each stage has importance, but if we don't deal with survival there won't be a final stage.

I'm concerned we won't think big enough. We'll get stuck in turf wars.

There's not enough funding. How do we fight over it without fighting?

Seniors and the most vulnerable are the ones who are relying on transit right now. We have to be ready to serve that constituency.

We need to shape what we can and monitor what we can't.

Be bold and move beyond obstruction to a better future for us all.

INTERVIEW QUOTES II

Safety needs haven't been met, and that is critical for getting riders to return.

Urban areas cannot come back without transit, one won't work without the other.

How do we serve people who rely on transit most to fulfill their life and economic duties?

Drivers are afraid and have already experienced violence over safety enforcement.

We can't go back to the institutional and operational norms that were in place.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

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THANK YOU.

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