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**DATE:** November 6, 2023

**TO:** Planning, Policy and Legislation Committee

**FROM:** Carolyn Clevenger, Deputy Executive Director Planning and Policy  
Kristen Villanueva, Director of Planning

**SUBJECT:** 2026 Countywide Transportation Plan Overview

## Recommendation

This item will provide the Commission with an overview of a two-phased approach to updating the 2026 Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP). This is an information item.

## Background

Approximately every four years, Alameda CTC prepares a CTP that establishes a vision and goals for the transportation system in Alameda County, as well as recommends transportation project priorities and strategies that will achieve the vision and goals over time. The CTP is a long-range planning document that directly feeds into regional transportation plans produced by MTC/ABAG. Over the years, recommendations from past CTPs have also informed the agency's funding and legislative advocacy, programming actions, capital project development, programs implementation and priorities for planning initiatives.

The current CTP was a major update and was adopted in 2020 after nearly two years of extensive engagement and technical analysis. Called the 2020 CTP, this plan articulates a vision and focused goals for the county's transportation system that support vibrant and livable communities. The vision and goals are implemented through two core recommendations, a prioritized list of transportation projects to advance in the first 10 years of the plan, and a set of strategies that complement the priority projects and programs that include policies, legislative advocacy efforts, planning priorities, funding efforts, and project implementation guidance. Information on how the 2020 CTP was developed and its core recommendations can be found on the agency's [CTP webpage](#).

To better sync our countywide efforts with the regional transportation plan schedule and requirements, and to provide time for the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic on the transportation to stabilize, this current update to the CTP will be completed in 2026. This creates an opportunity for a two-phased development process for the next CTP that includes

an initial policy phase followed by a CTP development phase. This item focuses on the approach for the first year, the policy blueprint phase, and how it will be the foundation of the 2026 CTP. This item also describes the community engagement approach for the policy blueprint phase.

### **Policy Blueprint Proposed Approach – Focus on Safety, Equity, and Climate**

Throughout 2024, Commissioners will have the opportunity to provide input on and take actions that establish the framework for the next CTP update. Staff is proposing to focus policy discussions on topics that advance the goals and priorities of the 2020 CTP, advance key policy actions taken since the 2020 CTP on the Countywide Bikeways Network and the Race and Equity Action Plan (REAP) and elevate new topics for consideration such as climate resilience.

Presentations and policy discussions next year will be organized around the three Commission priorities of safety, equity, and climate. The following is a draft list of issue areas and strategies that will be the focus of discussion in the policy blueprint year:

- Making Alameda County safer
- Making Alameda County more equitable
- Advancing clean transportation in Alameda County
- Encouraging mode shift through land use and transportation demand management (TDM)
- Encouraging mode shift through multimodal interstates
- Encouraging mode shift through multimodal roadways and bicycle connections
- Climate resilient Alameda County
- Economically resilient Alameda County and goods movement

Staff will research these key focus areas, collaborate with partners both in the region and nationally, and explore best practices, innovative activities and opportunities for advancing these strategies in Alameda County. Examples of potential policy recommendations include new planning initiatives or programs, agency priorities for capital project funding and delivery, funding and legislative advocacy, and partnerships. As part of the policy focus area of making Alameda County safer, Alameda CTC will update the countywide High Injury Network, starting in 2024.

The Commission will provide policy direction throughout the year that will culminate in an approval of the CTP policy blueprint, which will include updates to the vision and goals from the 2020 CTP and establish the prioritization framework for the 2026 CTP, among other policy areas that arise throughout the year. At the end of the policy blueprint phase, staff will proceed with the detailed development of the 2026 CTP, including continued outreach, a needs assessment, a call for projects and technical evaluation.

## **Relationship with Plan Bay Area**

The CTP is Alameda County's primary input to MTC/ABAG's regional transportation plan/sustainable community strategy, or Plan Bay Area. In addition, county transportation agencies, local jurisdictions and transit agencies often have key implementation roles in advancing projects and policies included in the regional plan. Throughout 2024, MTC/ABAG will be working on the current update to the regional plan, called Plan Bay Area 2050+. This builds upon the last major update of Plan Bay Area, Plan Bay Area 2050. It includes a new long-range transit planning effort called Transit 2050+ and incorporates more detail on resilience and climate adaptation. Staff have been coordinating with MTC/ABAG regarding inputs into Plan Bay Area 2050+, which have been generally minor updates to inputs provided for Plan Bay Area 2050. Policy discussions next year will help inform inputs to the Implementation Plan of Plan Bay Area 2050+.

## **Inclusive Engagement & Equity Framework**

As approved in the agency's REAP adopted earlier this year, the CTP is to be informed by inclusive community engagement and developed with an equity framework. Staff proposes that engagement for the policy blueprint year be informed by listening sessions, focus groups, and interviews with Community-based Organizations or CBOs from equity communities across the county. This engagement will provide input on priorities throughout the policy blueprint phase as well as inform the methods for broader community engagement for the CTP phase.

Staff proposes at least two rounds of engagement with CBOs with the first round starting in January. The initial engagement will include listening sessions and focus groups to discuss needs and priorities around the topic areas noted above. Staff will work closely with member agencies to identify stakeholders and CBOs active in their communities throughout the county for this engagement. Additional supplemental engagement focused on the county's Equity Priority Communities and Justice40 communities, as well as traditionally harder to reach groups such as transit riders and older adults and people with disabilities, who are disproportionately low-income, and communities of color will be carried out to ensure robust engagement from equity communities.

The second round of engagement will occur in the later part of 2024 to inform the CTP blueprint policy approval as well as the needs assessment and strategies for the 2026 CTP.

## **Next Steps**

This item is the official kick off of a two-phased development of the 2026 CTP. Staff will incorporate Commission input on the policy blueprint phase as well as the first round of community engagement and begin community engagement and technical efforts. Staff will return to the Commission in early 2024 with discussion of safety, the first major policy area of the blueprint.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no fiscal impact. This is an information item only.