

# CITY OF OAKLAND



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May 26, 2021

To: Executive Director Therese McMillan, Metropolitan Transportation Commission

From: Mayor Libby Schaaf, City of Oakland

Subject: Draft Final Plan Bay Area 2050

The City of Oakland appreciates this opportunity to provide comment on MTC's Draft Final Plan Bay Area 2050 Regional Plan and we thank the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's leadership and staff for their hard work to date on this rigorous regional planning effort.

The City of Oakland's paramount goal is to champion racial equity at every opportunity of our work. We applaud Plan Bay Area's strategies and policies to advance the region's success in the next thirty years and propose MTC focus its efforts to advance the following priorities within the next five years to advance racial equity.

### **Ensure Affordable housing**

I strongly encourage MTC and the 9-county Bay Area to advance solutions to strengthen renter protections, preserve affordable housing, allow for a greater mix of densities in high-resource areas, and build more affordable housing (Strategies H1-H4). Oakland and our neighbor city, Berkeley, are leading the region in efforts to eliminate single family zoning; other Bay Area cities should do the same. Most importantly, we are also partnering with regional housing advocates to advance opportunities for a housing infrastructure bond – a necessary initiative for the future success of the Bay Area.

### **Build Safe and Complete Streets**

Everyone, no matter their neighborhood, deserves safe and welcoming streets to play, recreate, socialize, and travel. In 2020, Oakland demonstrated to cities across the country that when we take bold actions to reclaim our streets for people, everyone wins. We also know that by working with our community members we can deliver critical traffic safety improvements that advance racial equity in a culturally competent manner that uplifts and respects our culture. I encourage MTC to partner with cities like Oakland to advance community-led transportation projects (Strategy T2) that build toward a network of complete streets (T8) and a regional vision zero policy (T9).

### **Bridge the Digital Divide**

As the world reopens and our neighborhoods begin to reconnect, we must remember that for many, a digital connection is just as important as a physical one. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, our office launched a groundbreaking campaign called Oakland Undivided. Our program provides Oakland elementary and high school students with free laptops and WIFI hotspots, and – importantly – includes technical support

and training for families. I recommend MTC advance efforts to bridge the digital divide to reduce vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions and focus those efforts to advance racial equity and increase access to digital resources (Strategy EC3).

As MTC staff continue to refine and finalize the Plan Bay Area 2050 Regional Plan, please consider Oakland's priorities for advancing racial equity. Finally, I welcome MTC to meet with Oakland project managers on the attached subjects to learn more about our best practices and share in our success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Libby Schaaf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "L".

Libby Schaaf  
Mayor

<b>PBA Strategy</b>	<b>Oakland Project</b>
EC3 - Invest in High-Speed Internet in Underserved Low-Income Communities	Oakland Undivided
T2: Support Community-led Transportation Enhancements in Communities of Concern	East Oakland Mobility Action Plan, West Oakland Community Action Plan, Chinatown Circulation Plan and many specific capital projects
T8: Build a Complete Streets Network	Oakland Equitable Paving Program
T9: Advance Regional Vision Zero Policy through Street Design and Reduced Speeds	Slow Streets, Essential Places OakDOT Safe Oakland Streets Initiative
H2: Preserve Existing Affordable Housing & Strategy H4: Build Adequate Affordable Housing	Exploring a new local housing and infrastructure bond
H3: Allow a Greater Mix of Housing Densities and Types in Blueprint Growth Geographies	Studying eliminating exclusionary zoning
H5: Integrate Affordable Housing into All Major Housing Projects	Updating Affordable Housing Impact Fee and On-Site Inclusionary Zoning Requirements
EN9: Expand Transportation Demand Management Initiatives	Oakland Mobility Transportation Demand Management (OakMob TDM), West Oakland E-Bike Lending Library
EN8: Expand Clean Vehicle Initiatives	Oakland Zero Emission Vehicle Action Plan