

**From:** [Kathy Jordan](#)  
**To:** [info@planbayarea.org](mailto:info@planbayarea.org)  
**Subject:** re public comment re Plan Bay Area 2050  
**Date:** Monday, August 10, 2020 3:18:09 PM

\*External Email\*

To Planbayarea:

Please consider that the pandemic has caused a radical, possibly permanent “phase change” in our environment in a number of ways:

- **Vehicle Traffic and Remote Work:** Because of the Covid 19 crisis, car usage has dropped substantially throughout Palo Alto and Silicon Valley (<https://www.ite.org/about-ite/covid-19-resources/covid-19-traffic-volume-trends/>) as substantial numbers of commuters have shifted to working remotely. Even though the shift was occasioned by the pandemic, a May 2020 Bay Area Council survey of 100 businesses found that 20% of the firms surveyed expect to go fully remote post-Covid 19. Executives in the other firms surveyed said they expect only 74% of their workers to return to working in the office. Just today, Siemens announced it will permit its employees to work remotely up to three days/week - permanently (<https://www.inc.com/justin-bariso/this-companys-new-2-sentence-remote-work-policy-is-best-ive-ever-heard.html?cid=search>), while Google announced its employees can work from home for another year, until July 2021 (<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/07/27/895734132/google-employees-can-work-from-home-until-july-2021>)
- **Covid 19 Timeframe:** There may still be a lengthy wait before a Covid 19 vaccine is developed and made available for everyone, which portends continued social distancing and continued associated impact on mass transit, including Caltrain. “Even if the optimists are right and a COVID-19 vaccine is approved for widespread use as early as this fall, it is likely to be in short supply at first.” <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/line-forming-covid-19-vaccine-who-should-be-front> Dr. Fauci was recently quoted as saying

Fauci - chance of vaccine being highly effective not so great

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/08/07/coronavirus-vaccine-dr-fauci-says-chances-of-it-being-highly-effective-is-not-great.html>

and

"The coronavirus is so contagious, it won't likely ever disappear."

Dr. Anthony Fauci

<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/08/07/coronavirus-vaccine-dr-fauci-says-chances-of-it-being-highly-effective-is-not-great.html>

These realities have and will affect mass transit, vehicles on the road, the world of work, commuting, and homelife. This phase change is causing a dramatic shift, **with virtual space being swapped for physical space**. “Work at home” and more dramatically “work anywhere” is the new reality for large portions of the workforce.

Thus, previous paradigms used in the planning of Plan Bay Area 2050 ring false in today's world. We have seen the reduction in emissions through remote work. We have seen the reduction in traffic and congestion. We can see the possibility of work being located at home or closer to home and commutes being reduced, or only undertaken a few times/week, rather than every day.

Please stop, and please incorporate these changes into Plan Bay Area. Also, consider and incorporate the reality that population growth is not happening any more in the Bay Area, nor in much of California. This is the reality. Planning for something other than reality does not make sense. Forcing cities and counties to adopt plans based on something that isn't reality also does not make sense.

Thank you.

Best,

Kathy Jordan