



Proposed Integration of MTC- ABAG Planning Departments

Cities Association of Santa Clara County
October 8, 2015

Ken Kirkey, Planning Director, Metropolitan Transportation Commission



Proposal – Integrated Regional Planning

- MTC is proposing to establish an Integrated Regional Planning Department serving the policy boards of both MTC and ABAG
- Existing statutory authority of MTC and the ABAG Executive Board would be respected and maintained
- No change to other ABAG functions such as Insurance Pool, Finance Authority and Estuary Program

Proposal – Integrated Regional Planning

- Bay Area is the only region in the state that does not have an Integrated Land-Use, Transportation, Housing Department
- Two departments attempting to do one integrated Regional Transportation/Sustainable Communities Strategy
- Depletes resources to assist cities/counties related to housing affordability, congestion, climate adaptation, etc.



Past Proposals – Current Proposal

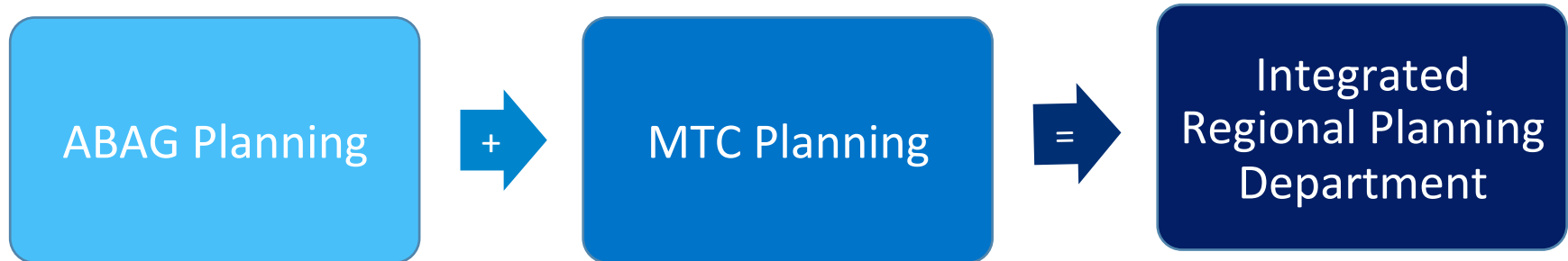
- **Past Merger Proposals**

- Number & Distribution of Governing Board Seats
- Stalling all prior efforts at a merger

- **Integrated Regional Planning Department - proposal**

- Focused exclusively on staff integration
- Bring together land-use, housing, and transportation staff

Integrated Regional Planning Department - Proposal



How can MTC take on the Complexities of Regional/Local Housing Policy as a Transportation Agency?

ABAG would retain authority over final policy decisions related to housing.

- **Incorporating housing and land-use planners within MTC's organizational structure would represent a shift for MTC as it formally takes on these subject areas**
- **MTC is committed to working closely with ABAG staff who would transfer to new department and building upon/expanding existing forums of communication with local jurisdictions**

What benefits would one Integrated Regional Planning Department provide to local jurisdictions?

- Create a “one-stop-shop” for an expanded *technical assistance* program focused on serving local governments better
- Use taxpayer dollars more productively by *accelerating internal processes and improving external communications* between regional agencies and cities
- Bolster staff resources on *policy development and analysis* to foster a more comprehensive approach to develop solutions to the region’s challenges
- Designated staff assigned to serve Silicon Valley

Other Issues/Next Steps ?

- Commission will discuss Integrated Planning Dept. proposal on October 28th
- A number of related issues to be considered (ABAG overhead, union membership, scope of proposed department)
- If the Commission moves to proceed, we will be reaching out to your staff to inform how best to serve your jurisdiction
- Questions - kkirkey@mtc.ca.gov