

MTC RESOLUTION 3434 TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) POLICY FOR REGIONAL TRANSIT EXPANSION PROJECTS

Adopted July 27, 2005

1. PURPOSE

The San Francisco Bay Area — widely recognized for its beauty and innovation — is projected to grow by almost two million people and one and a half million jobs by 2030. This presents a daunting challenge to the sustainability and the quality of life in the region. Where and how we accommodate this future growth, in particular where people live and work, will help determine how effectively the transportation system can handle this growth.

The more people who live, work and study in close proximity to public transit stations and corridors, the more likely they are to use the transit systems, and more transit riders means fewer vehicles competing for valuable road space. The policy also provides

support for a growing market demand for more vibrant, walkable and transit convenient lifestyles by stimulating the construction of at least 42,000 new housing units along the region’s major new transit corridors and will help to contribute to a forecasted 59% increase in transit ridership by the year 2030.

This TOD policy addresses multiple goals: improving the cost-effectiveness of regional investments in new transit expansions, easing the Bay Area’s chronic housing shortage, creating vibrant new communities, and helping preserve regional open space. The policy ensures that transportation agencies, local jurisdictions, members of the public and the private sector work together to create development patterns that are more supportive of transit.

TABLE 1: Resolution 3434 Transit Extension Projects Subject to Corridor Thresholds

PROJECT	SPONSOR	TYPE	THRESHOLD IS MET WITH CURRENT DEVELOPMENT?
BART East Contra Costa Rail Extension	BART/CCTA	Commuter Rail	No
BART — Downtown Fremont to San Jose/Santa Clara (a) Fremont to Warm Springs (b) Warm Springs to San Jose/ Santa Clara	(a) BART (b) VTA	BART extension	No
AC Transit Berkeley/Oakland/ San Leandro Bus Rapid Transit: Phase 1	AC Transit	Bus Rapid Transit	Yes
Caltrain Downtown Extension/Rebuilt Transbay Terminal	TJPA	Commuter Rail	Yes
MUNI Third Street Light Rail Transit Project Phase 2 — New Central Subway	MUNI	Light Rail	Yes
Sonoma-Marin Rail	SMART	Commuter Rail	No
Dumbarton Rail	SMTA, ACCMA, VTA, ACTIA, Capitol	Corridor Commuter Rail	No
Expanded Ferry Service Phase 1: Berkeley, Alameda/Oakland/Harbor Bay, and South San Francisco to San Francisco (Note 1)	WTA	Ferry	No
Expanded Ferry Service Phase 2: Alameda to South San Francisco, and Hercules, Antioch, Treasure Island, Redwood City and Richmond to San Francisco (Note 1)	WTA	Ferry	No

Note 1: The WTA Ferry Expansion “Corridor” for the purposes of the TOD policy consists of all new terminals planned in Phase 1 and Phase 2.

There are three key elements of the regional TOD policy:

- (a) Corridor-level thresholds to quantify appropriate minimum levels of development around transit stations along new corridors;
- (b) Local station area plans that address future land use changes, station access needs, circulation improvements, pedestrian-friendly design, and other key features in a transit-oriented development; and
- (c) Corridor working groups that bring together CMAs, city and county planning staff, transit agencies, and other key stakeholders to define expectations, timelines, roles and responsibilities for key stages of the transit project development process.

2. TOD POLICY APPLICATION

The TOD policy only applies to physical transit extensions funded in Resolution 3434 (see Table 1). The policy applies to any physical transit extension project with regional discretionary funds, regardless of level of funding. Resolution 3434 investments that only entail level of service improvements or other enhancements without physically extending the system are not subject to the TOD policy requirements. Single station extensions to international airports are not subject to the TOD policy due to the infeasibility of housing development.




3. DEFINITIONS AND CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

For purposes of this policy “regional discretionary funding” consists of the following sources identified in the Resolution 3434 funding plan:

- FTA Section 5309- New Starts
- FTA Section 5309- Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary
- FTA Section 5309- Rail Modernization
- Regional Measure 1- Rail (bridge tolls)
- Regional Measure 2 (bridge tolls)
- Interregional Transportation Improvement Program
- Interregional Transportation Improvement Program- Intercity rail
- Federal Ferryboat Discretionary
- AB 1171 (bridge tolls)
- CARB-Carl Moyer/AB434 (Bay Area Air Quality Management District)*

These regional funds may be programmed and allocated for environmental and design related work, in preparation for addressing the requirements of the TOD policy. Regional funds may be programmed and allocated for right-of-way acquisition in advance of meeting all requirements in the policy, if land preservation for TOD or project delivery purposes is essential. No regional funds will be programmed and allocated for construction until the requirements of this policy have been satisfied. See Table 2 for a more detailed overview of the planning process.

TABLE 2: Regional TOD Policy Implementation Process for Transit Extension Projects

TRANSIT AGENCY ACTION	CITY ACTION	MTC/CMA/ABAG ACTION
<i>All parties in corridors that do not currently meet thresholds (see Table 1) establish Corridor Working Group to address corridor threshold. Conduct initial corridor performance evaluation, initiate station area planning.</i>		
		
Environmental Review/ Preliminary Engineering/ Right-of-Way	Conduct Station Area Plans	Coordination of corridor working group, funding of station area plans
Step 1 Threshold Check: <i>the combination of new Station Area Plans and existing development patterns exceeds corridor housing thresholds .</i>		
		
Final Design	Adopt Station Area Plans. Revise general plan policies and zoning, environmental reviews	Regional and county agencies assist local jurisdictions in implementing station area plans
Step 2 Threshold Check: <i>(a) local policies adopted for station areas; (b) implementation mechanisms in place per adopted Station Area Plan by the time Final Design is completed.</i>		
		
Construction	Implementation (financing, MOUs) Solicit development	TLC planning and capital funding, HIP funding

* The Carl Moyer funds and AB 434 funds are controlled directly by the California Air Resources Board and Bay Area Air Management District. Res. 3434 identifies these funds for the Caltrain electrification project, which is not subject to the TOD policy.

4. CORRIDOR-LEVEL THRESHOLDS

Each transit extension project funded in Resolution 3434 must plan for a minimum number of housing units along the corridor. These corridor-level thresholds vary by mode of transit, with more capital-intensive modes requiring higher numbers of housing units (see Table 3). The corridor thresholds have been developed based on potential for increased transit ridership, exemplary existing station sites in the Bay Area, local general plan data, predicted market demand for TOD-oriented housing in each county, and an independent analysis of feasible development potential in each transit corridor.

- Meeting the corridor level thresholds requires that within a half mile of all stations, a combination of existing land uses and planned land uses meets or exceeds the overall corridor threshold for housing (listed in Table 3);
- Physical transit extension projects that do not currently meet the corridor thresholds with development that is already built will receive the highest priority for the award of MTC’s Station Area Planning Grants.
- To be counted toward the threshold, planned land uses must be adopted through general plans, and the appropriate implementation processes must be put in place, such as zoning codes. General plan language alone without supportive implementation policies, such as zoning, is not sufficient for the purposes of this policy. Ideally, planned land uses will be formally adopted through a specific plan (or equivalent), zoning codes and general plan amendments along with an accompanying programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as part of the overall station area planning process. Minimum densities will be used in the calculations to assess achievement of the thresholds.
- An existing end station is included as part of the transit corridor for the purposes of calculating the corridor thresholds; optional stations will not be included in calculating the corridor thresholds.

- New below-market housing units will receive a 50 percent bonus toward meeting the corridor threshold (i.e. one planned below-market housing unit counts for 1.5 housing units for the purposes of meeting the corridor threshold. Below market for the purposes of the Resolution 3434 TOD policy is affordable to 60% of area median income for rental units and 100% of area median income for owner-occupied units);
- The local jurisdictions in each corridor will determine job and housing placement, type, density, and design.
- The Corridor Working Groups are encouraged to plan for a level of housing that will significantly exceed the housing unit thresholds stated here during the planning process. This will ensure that the Housing Unit Threshold is exceeded corridor-wide and that the ridership potential from TOD is maximized.

5. STATION AREA PLANS

Each proposed physical transit extension project seeking funding through Resolution 3434 must demonstrate that the thresholds for the corridor are met through existing development and adopted station area plans that commit local jurisdictions to a level of housing that meets the threshold. This requirement may be met by existing station area plans accompanied by appropriate zoning and implementation mechanisms. If new station area plans are needed to meet the corridor threshold, MTC will assist in funding the plans. The Station Area Plans shall be conducted by local governments in coordination with transit agencies, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), MTC and the Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs).

Station Area Plans are opportunities to define vibrant mixed use, accessible transit villages and quality transit-oriented development – places where people will want to live, work, shop and spend time. These plans should incorporate mixed-use developments, including new housing, neighborhood serving retail, employment, schools, day care centers, parks and other amenities to serve the local community.

TABLE 3: Corridor Thresholds Housing Units — Average per Station Area

Project Type	BART	Light Rail	Bus Rapid Transit	Commuter Rail	Ferry
Housing Threshold	3,850	3,300	2,750	2,200	750

Each corridor is evaluated for the Housing Threshold. For example, a four station commuter rail extension (including the existing end-of-the-line station) would be required to meet a corridor-level threshold of 8,800 housing units.

Threshold figures above are an average per station area based on both existing land uses and planned development within a half mile of all stations. New below market rate housing is provided a 50% bonus towards meeting housing unit threshold.

At a minimum, Station Area Plans will define both the land use plan for the area as well as the policies—zoning, design standards, parking policies, etc.—for implementation. The plans shall at a minimum include the following elements:

- Current and proposed land use by type of use and density within the half-mile radius, with a clear identification of the number of existing and planned housing units and jobs;
- Station access and circulation plans for motorized, non-motorized and transit access. The station area plan should clearly identify any barriers for pedestrian, bicycle and wheelchair access to the station from surrounding neighborhoods (e.g., freeways, railroad tracks, arterials with inadequate pedestrian crossings), and should propose strategies that will remove these barriers and maximize the number of residents and employees that can access the station by these means. The station area and transit village public spaces shall be made accessible to persons with disabilities.
- Estimates of transit riders walking from the half mile station area to the transit station to use transit;
- Transit village design policies and standards, including mixed use developments and pedestrian-scaled block size, to promote the livability and walkability of the station area;
- TOD-oriented parking demand and parking requirements for station area land uses, including consideration of pricing and provisions for shared parking;
- Implementation plan for the station area plan, including local policies required for development per the plan, market demand for the proposed development, potential phasing of development and demand analysis for proposed development.

The Station Area Plans shall be conducted using existing TOD design guidelines that have already been developed by ABAG, local jurisdictions, transit agencies, the CMAs and others. MTC will work with ABAG to provide more specific guidance on the issues listed above that must be addressed in the station area plans and references and information to support this effort. MTC is conducting an analysis of parking policies that will be made available when complete, and shall be considered in developing local parking policies for TODs.

6. CORRIDOR WORKING GROUPS

The goal of the Corridor Working Groups is to create a more coordinated approach to planning for transit-oriented development along Resolution 3434 transit corridors. Each of the transit extensions subject to the corridor threshold process, as identified in Table 1, will need a Corridor Working Group, unless the current level of development already meets the corridor threshold. Many of the corridors already have a transit project working group that may be adjusted to take on this role. The Corridor Working Group shall be coordinated by the relevant CMAs, and will include the sponsoring transit agency, the local jurisdictions in the corridor, and representatives from ABAG, MTC, and other parties as appropriate.

The Corridor Working Group will assess whether the planned level of development satisfies the corridor threshold as defined for the mode, and assist in addressing any deficit in meeting the threshold by working to identify opportunities and strategies at the local level. This will include the key task of distributing the required housing units to each of the affected station sites within the defined corridor. The Corridor Working Group will continue with corridor evaluation, station area planning, and any necessary refinements to station locations until the corridor threshold is met and supporting Station Area Plans are adopted by the local jurisdictions.

MTC will confirm that each corridor meets the housing threshold prior to the release of regional discretionary funds for construction of the transit project.

7. REVIEW OF THE TOD POLICY

MTC staff will conduct a review of the TOD policy and its application to each of the affected Resolution 3434 corridors, and present findings to the Commission, within 12 months of the adoption of the TOD policy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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