

A FASTER Bay Area

A Seamless Transportation System Based On:

Freedom

Affordability

Speed

Transparency

Equity

Reliability



The Bay Area Today

The Bay Area is home to one of the most dynamic economies in the world.

However, the region's infrastructure is based on pre-1960's models unable to keep pace w/ population & economic growth.

Silicon Valley had a 21% increase in commute time, the largest increase for innovation regions in the Leadership Group's Competitiveness Project (2010-2017).

46 % of respondents to a recent Bay Area Council poll stated they are considering leaving the region altogether.



FASTER Principles

- Fund projects that fill in our missing links to create a regional transportation system but also provide more frequent and reliable service
- Provide freedom of access, mobility, and a true alternative to driving alone
- Solve for existing barriers - including affordability, reliability, and ability to access the system
- Support economic development: transit allows new areas for housing and business development throughout the 9 counties
- Prioritize the development and implementation of a true regional transit system
- Move from anywhere to anywhere within the region in 60 minutes or less and to/from the mega-region in 90 minutes or less

Key Public Opinion Research Findings

- Voters recognize the transportation challenges facing the region, and there is significant interest in regional transportation improvement
- Voters are seeking a modern, reliable, and accessible transit system that connects the Bay Area
- Conceptual willingness to raise taxes for transportation investments is above two-thirds, the threshold needed for passage
- Differences in support between funding mechanisms are slight, and within the margin of error
- A regional measure is viable in the right environment; however, organized and funded opposition will likely result in defeat



Funding Mechanism

Based on our research, the **One Cent Sales Tax** generated substantial funding, has the flexibility to fund operations, is politically viable, and is a funding source that has historically garnered broad support for transportation investments in the Bay Area.

It is expected to generate **\$100.6 billion over 40 years**.

Pros

- Use of proceeds are not restricted and straightforward tax that voters understand
- The revenue is sufficient to fund a long-term strategic plan for capital improvements and operating budgets
- Bay Area employers contribute significantly in sales tax, with more than 35 percent of sales tax paid by businesses (roughly \$550 million annually from this measure)
- Sales taxes are not paid on three big expenses: housing, health care and groceries

Cons

- Regressive
- May be perceived to compete with local sales tax measures



Process

Summer: Develop FASTER Core Vision and Key Outcomes

Sept/Oct: Develop Draft Framework for Proposed Funding Categories

- Collect ideas and feedback from town hall meetings in all Bay Area counties, technical experts, stakeholders, elected officials, and the general public
- Based on feedback define funding categories/buckets
- Create performance measures for each key outcomes
- Presentation to MTC

Nov/Dec: Develop Final FASTER Framework

- Proposed programs and projects with funding levels
- Proposed supercharging policies
- Final proposed revenue mechanism
- Presentation to MTC

Jan 2020: Legislature considers FASTER proposal

Late Spring/Summer: MTC Places on Ballot



Feedback from Outreach to Date

- Focus on transit
- Focus on major investments which will transform our transit system. Don't spread it around like peanut butter
- Integrate regional rail into a seamless system
- Regional express bus running on fast express lanes
- Discount fares for low-income riders and for regional trips
- Great walk and bicycle access to transit stops
- Flexible transportation using new technologies
- Fix and speed up existing transit systems



Next Steps

Focused on a one cent sales tax for November 2020 ballot

Exploring rebates, affordable fares, and other options to address regressivity

Working with transit agencies on projects that have some funding and could be completed in 5-10 years

Collecting programmatic and project ideas that fit FASTER principles

Can you help us with projects, programmatic ideas, and/or FASTER outreach?

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