

Regional Transit Connections Plan

Frequently Asked Questions



What is the Regional Transit Connections Plan?

The San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) is developing the Regional Transit Connections Plan (the RTC Plan) which will provide guidance for a new competitive grant program. The new grant program will fund transit improvements that connect San Mateo County with San Francisco, Alameda and Santa Clara Counties.

The TA's Strategic Plan for 2020 - 2024 recommends the development of an RTC Plan to support long-term policy guidance and financial planning for Measure W funds. The RTC Plan will establish guidelines for a competitive RTC grant program (the RTC Program), provide information to potential applicants about regional travel trends and unmet needs, and develop a capital improvement program to support funding decisions.



What is the TA?

The TA is an independent government agency that funds and delivers transportation programs and projects throughout San Mateo County. Voters in San Mateo County created the TA through the passage of Measure A in 1988. The TA's role is to administer the proceeds from the Measure A and W local sales tax measures to fund transportation-related projects and programs. Learn more at smcta.com.



What is regional transit?

Regional transit includes trains, express buses and ferries that connect San Mateo County with San Francisco, Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. This includes services provided by agencies like SamTrans, Caltrain, BART, San Francisco Bay Ferry and more.



Why is improving regional transit important?

According to the TA's Strategic Plan for 2020 – 2024 about 42% of commute trips made by San Mateo County residents had a destination in other Bay Area counties, and 30 – 35% of commute trips ending in San Mateo County originated in other counties. Recent analysis shows that on a typical weekday, over 700,000 trips originate in San Mateo County and end in either Alameda, San Francisco or Santa Clara Counties. New and enhanced regional transit services would support commuters while also making it easier to sustainably access schools, parks, medical facilities, and more.



How is the RTC Program funded?

In 2018, San Mateo County voters approved Measure W, a 30-year, half-cent sales tax to fund transportation investments. Ten percent of Measure W funds are dedicated to the RTC Program.



What potential benefits could the RTC Program deliver?

The RTC Program will fund regional transit infrastructure and operational improvements for express bus, rail and ferry services. By enhancing the regional transit experience, the RTC Program will encourage drivers to choose transit and help improve travel to and from San Mateo County, while also helping the county reach its climate goals.



How will the RTC Program serve equity priority communities?

The RTC Program will study current regional travel trends to help ensure TA investments serve historically underserved communities. The grant application evaluation process will include criteria that addresses the needs of these communities as part of the scoring and ranking process.



How can I provide feedback?

- The TA will be conducting an online survey, hosting virtual community meetings, and joining community events throughout the region.
- Check out our project website at smcta.com/RTC to get updates on how and where to attend in-person and online events.
- Feedback can also be provided by contacting San Mateo County Transit District Customer Service at 1-800-660-4287 or emailing info@smcta.com.



How will my input be used?

TA staff will use your feedback to develop priorities for the types of projects that should be funded through the RTC Program. Don't miss this opportunity to make your voice heard about San Mateo County's transit connections.