VITAL SIGNS

Taking the Pulse of the San Francisco Bay Area - Together

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Metropolitan Transportation Commission &
Association of Bay Area Governments
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Public expectations for transparency have never been higher.
Technology provides us an ability to move beyond paper reports.
VITAL SIGNS

The Bay Area’s Performance Monitoring Initiative
Plan Bay Area established a regional vision for transportation, land use, and housing in the 21st century.
Planners sometimes spend too much time forecasting.

**Not an actual travel demand model.**
Vital Signs seeks to track implementation of sustainability objectives in the region, creating a “one-stop shop” for tracking regional and local trends.
Cutting-edge regions across the globe are leveraging technology.
Passenger transit trips per day, regional total, 2008-11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>CTA</th>
<th>METRA</th>
<th>PACE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,679,117</td>
<td>278,855</td>
<td>131,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,657,953</td>
<td>260,249</td>
<td>112,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,644,323</td>
<td>255,523</td>
<td>111,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,688,256</td>
<td>263,429</td>
<td>115,923</td>
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Note: Does not include paratransit trips.
Source: National Transit Database.
VITAL SIGNS

Performance Monitoring
Data Visualization
Open Data
The biggest hurdle: data silos and institutional barriers.
The interactive Vital Signs website allows residents to explore trends on the regional, county, city, and even neighborhood levels.
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Users can create customized charts that can be exported to PowerPoint with one click.

**National Context**

In terms of generating transit ridership, the San Francisco Bay Area is being outpaced by its peers.

While the Bay Area remains one of the nation’s most transit-oriented metro areas, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and Miami have all experienced notable growth in overall and per-capita ridership since 2002. In that same time, the Bay Area has seen declines in both measures – a 3 percent slide in total ridership and a 10 percent decline on a per-capita basis. The only metros with greater declines in ridership than the Bay Area were Houston, Dallas and Atlanta.

**Regional Performance**

Bay Area bridge conditions have significantly improved over the past decade.

Bay Area bridges and overpasses are in their best shape since 1998, thanks to substantial efforts to improve the seismic and structural safety of these critical facilities. In 2012, the share of bridges flagged as structurally deficient fell by two percentage points – and now stands at just 15 percent.
Housing Growth by City and Unincorporated Area by Decade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Permitted Units 2010 through 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>2,800 units/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Jose</td>
<td>2,700 units/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dublin</td>
<td>700 units/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unincorporated Contra Costa County</td>
<td>560 units/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunnyvale</td>
<td>540 units/year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average number of units: 696.3 per year
1 killed in November 2002

**Location:**
ALMA ST at EVERETT AV

**City:**
PALO ALTO

**County:**
SANTA CLARA

**Time of day:**
9:00 PM

**Pedestrians killed:**
1

**Bicyclists killed:**
0

**Motorists killed:**
0
EVEN IF IT'S LONG, YOU CAN RELY ON IT

Finally, a vital dose of relief

San Francisco Chronicle

From among the brutal commutes, a new king of gridlock is crowned

San Jose Mercury News

TRAFFIC CONGESTION UP 65 PERCENT

Economy on rise — and so is risk of gridlock

San Jose Mercury News
Cathy Chea @urbangeekbot
New Bay Area Vital Signs tool from @MTCBATA visualizes/tracks transpo performance data! Your turn SoCal! #opendata vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov

CA High-Speed Rail @CaHSRA
Data, lots of data, the most data. @MTCBATA unveiled their Vital Signs site and it’s awesome. #BayArea #SF #transit vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov

TransForm @TransForm_Alert
We are nerding out on @MTCBATA’s new Vital Signs website: bit.ly/1x91RVY

TransitWiki @TransitWiki
Awesome new #data tool out of @MTCBATA. vitalsigns.mtc.ca.gov Enjoy, #transponerds!

Melanie Curry @currymel
New Vital Signs website from MTC is fun for all data nerds la.streetsblog.org/2015/02/06/new... via @streetsblogla
Bay Area residents have used the Vital Signs tool at least once
The reality: it’s a marathon, not a sprint.
The quantity of data available is increasing at an exponential rate; the public should not have to navigate multiple government agencies’ complex websites to track trends in their communities.
Data visualization is essential for communicating complex information to the public at large.
There are economies of scale when it comes to publishing and visualizing “Big Data”.

Image Source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/wwworks/2712986388
Finally, there’s always room for improvement – for example, syncing more closely with long-range planning, integrating new technologies, and better serving the public.