

The Bay Area Affordable Housing Regional Bond: A Climate Solution

This November, Bay Area voters will have the momentous opportunity to pass an affordable housing bond that would unlock up to **\$20 billion toward housing and homelessness solutions**, creating up to **72,000 new affordable homes**¹. The Bay Area is suffering a severe affordable housing deficit, with hundreds of thousands of residents experiencing homelessness and millions more struggling to pay rent; passing this bond would significantly mitigate this crisis.

In addition to the benefits for our rent-burdened and houseless neighbors, this massive infusion of funding for affordable housing will also have **significant climate benefits**, in particular by helping the Bay Area **reduce our greenhouse gas emissions from transportation**, California's largest source of emissions. TransForm has analyzed the potential climate impacts of the affordable housing bond and found significant benefits from building more homes near transit.

This housing bond has the potential to:

Build 40,831 units within a half mile of transit.

TransForm conservatively estimates that 40,831 of the 72,000 units funded by the bond would be built within a half mile of frequent transit.

Generate 5.7M additional transit trips annually.

Low-income households nearly triple their transit ridership when they move within a half mile of transit but too many are getting priced out of areas near transit. With 40,831 more affordable housing units near transit built with this bond, TransForm calculates there would be 5,702,822 additional transit trips per year.

Reduce GHG by 3 million tons.

Since low-income households drive less when living near transit, this investment in affordable housing would result in a **reduction of 10.3 billion miles of driving and 3 million metric tons of carbon emissions**.

Affordable housing near transit provides a significant benefit for our climate and comes with a host of economic and health benefits as well, particularly for low-income residents.

Affordable housing is a critical climate solution. The regional housing measure is a win-win investment, providing affordable housing for thousands of families while benefiting the climate.



Photo: John Scheuerman

Lower Income households drive nearly 50% fewer miles when living within a quarter mile of frequent transit

\$120M in savings on travel.

A dramatic reduction in vehicle use and ownership would **save residents living in newly created affordable housing near transit \$120 million per year** in travel costs because transit trips are less expensive than car trips.

This fact sheet is a summary of our findings. [Read the full methodology here.](#)

Learn more about the bond and BAHFA, the agency that would place it on the ballot, by [clicking here.](#)

¹ [Bay Area Affordable Housing Bond](#)

² [Why Affordable Housing is an Effective Climate Strategy](#)