

Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2008

Paul Branson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Attending: Janet Abelson, Ken Altenburger, Steve Belkin, Joe Bischofberger, Eleanor Bloch, Myrtle Braxton, Richard Burnett, David Grant, Eugene Halliday, Rich Hedges (via telephone), Julio Lacayo, Marshall Loring, Joshua Miele, Dennis Trenten, Doug Weir, Craig Yates, Shirlee Zane -- and Commissioner Giacomini. Members reported as unavailable: Bruce Oka, Barbara Rhodes.

Audience Member Self-introductions

- Jan Garrett, Ed Roberts Campus
- Patti Sparks, Contra Costa County Aging & Adult Services

Public Comment from Audience Members

Ms. Garrett was grateful to EDAC for its long support of the Ed Roberts Campus and happily announced its May 31st groundbreaking. She said time would be made to acknowledge the EDAC members in attendance and would keep EDAC apprised of the details of the event as they become available.

EDAC Minutes

Dec. 6, 2007 - moved for approval by Mr. Hedges, seconded by Mr. Altenburger, and approved. Mr. Belkin and Mr. Yates abstained.

Jan. 3, 2008 - Mr. Miele asked that minutes show:

(1) an MTC consultant making the 511 Transit Trip Planner accessible by screen readers, (2) the telephone portion of 511 on a future EDAC agenda, (3) member comments as distinct from staff replies. Mr. Hedges moved approval as corrected, Ms. Bloch seconded, and the minutes were approved. Mr. Belkin and Mr. Yates abstained.

Advisory Council

Mr. Grant reported on the Council's Jan. 9th meeting when members elected Bob Planthold chair and, among other items, advised a stronger statistical base for the T-2035 Collisions/Fatalities section by examining data on injury accidents and fatalities.

EDAC Subcommittees

Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chair Trenten met before EDAC to hear MTC's Nancy Okasaki on regional emergency preparedness. At a Feb. 6 workshop attended by subcommittee member Rich Burnett, National Transportation Institute staff spoke on response times, recovery times, mitigation measures, and liability of authorities. Subcommittee member concern: no database or funding exists to locate elderly and disabled persons after an emergency short of total reliance on neighbors.

Chair's Report

Chair Branson said he was pleased with the open process for T-2035. He asked staff to track AB 1637 (DeSaulnier) that proposes non-emergency medical transportation be allowable. [It was later reported that the bill has stalled.]

Staff Report

Ms. Vogler reported on T-2035 meetings remaining for advisors: Feb. 13 (after Advisory Council), Mar. 11 (before MCAC), and Apr. 3 (after EDAC) and encouraged continued attendance.

New Freedom Proposed Program of Projects

Christina Atienza distributed material on the recommended program of projects for the region's \$1.5 million large urbanized area apportionment, reminding that FY 2006 monies expire Sept. 30th. Reporting on the restrictions and qualitative criteria that were applied, and that the program was oversubscribed by 75%, she answered members' questions. Members agreed to endorse the program as a good use of the funds, after a motion by Mr. Hedges and second by Ms. Zane. Members Bloch, Branson, Loring, and Yates abstained. Ms. Atienza was to provide additional material via e-mail, and present the Caltrans small urbanized areas call for projects item at the next EDAC meeting.

Enhanced Taxi Study Results

Ms. Vogler introduced Amy Van Doren of Marin Transit to review their recently completed taxi study and distribute additional material. Members were keenly interested in Marin's program, asking questions about the feasibility of such a program going regionwide; the challenge of convincing taxi companies of the program's financial viability (one company has already signed up, and another, a taxi cooperative that is reluctant to sign plans to pursue a similar program on its own); creating a voucher payment system or some mechanism for passengers – who can afford to – to pay more; the need for legislation to regulate drivers who refuse passengers in wheelchairs, which sometimes occurs if there is a taxi monopoly such as at certain BART stations; if change is needed, having MTC provide oversight. Chair Branson suggested mobility management centers as a place to coordinate such a taxi program.

Joint Advisor Workshop Follow-up on T-2035

Ms. Vogler emphasized major policy and program areas that have already emerged from advisor input: (1) develop a mobility management strategy; (2) develop a long-range plan aimed at coordinating and supporting transportation programs and transit services; (3) integrate universal accessibility criteria into regional funding policies and programs. The committee held a detailed discussion of T-2035 project ideas.

Other Business (none), Next Meeting (3/7/08), Adjournment (12:30PM)