METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TTY/TDD 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

D R A F T

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Napa County and Cities

Scott Haggerty, Vice Chair
Alameda County

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City and County of San Francisco

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MINORITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes – February 12, 2008

Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Chair Raphael Durr. Those in attendance were Chair Raphael Durr and Charles Rivasplata of Marin County; Vice Chair Michael Rubiano and Darnell Turner of Contra Costa County; Vice Chair James McGhee and Harvey Louie of San Francisco; Jacquee Castain, Carlos Castellanos and Homira Shafaq of Alameda County; Gerald Rico of Napa County; Michael Lopez and Eric Shaw of Santa Clara County; William Allen and Carlos Romero of San Mateo County; Marla Harvey of Solano County; Michael D'Augelli, Native American Representative; and Randi Kinman and Dawn Love, Low-Income Representatives.

MTC employees in attendance were Catalina Alvarado, Pam Grove, Georgia Lambert and Raymond Kan.

Andrea Banks and Holly Miller from Public Advocates were also in attendance.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the January 8, 2008 meeting were approved.

Chair's Report

Chair Durr expressed his thanks to MCAC for the opportunity to serve as chair. He then called for the election of the 2008 officers.

MCAC 2008 Officer Elections

Pam Grove, staff liaison, explained members were be vote for chair and two vice chair positions. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Candidates, nominated last month, were invited to make statements. Michael Rubiano and James McGhee, chair candidates, both spoke briefly. Randi Kinman, Carlos Romero and Darnell Turner, the vice chair candidates, declined to make statements. Ballots were cast and counted by the committee secretary during the meeting. Ms. Grove announced that the results were extremely close; Mr. McGhee was elected the new chair and Ms. Kinman and Mr. Turner were elected as vice chairs. Chair Durr turned the meeting over to Mr. McGhee, who thanked everyone for their confidence in him and chaired the rest of the meeting.

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<u>Discussion of Transportation 2035 Joint Advisors Meeting</u>

Ms. Grove said that ten MCAC members attended the Jan. 17 Transportation 2035 Joint Advisors workshop, where a list of potential regional projects for possible inclusion in MTC's Call for Projects for the Transportation 2035 Plan was created. It was presented to the full committee for further discussion, and MCAC members expressed particular interest in the following topics.

Transit Service & Network Connectivity:

- Improve public transportation to major destinations under current development.
- Improve access to BART by bus throughout the region.
- *A new recommendation from MCAC: Improve inter-county transit services.*
- *A new recommendation from MCAC: Late-night bus service on weekends, after BART and Caltrain close, to combat drunk driving.*
- *A new recommendation from MCAC: Improve seamless travel between modes and last-mile transit service. Use of flexible route shuttles, accessible taxis, car-sharing programs, ready-availability of bicycles. Good map information for those walking the "last mile."*

Demand-Responsive Transit Service:

- Shuttle services for low-income transport to parks, museums and other social/recreational destinations.
- Expand paratransit beyond the ¾-mile limit. *MCAC members suggested this could be inclusive of non-emergency transport services.*

Transit Access & Safety:

- Implement recommendations from Transit Connectivity Plan (especially hub signage program). *MCAC members added the recommendation to include schedule information for connecting transit operators and information in multiple languages.*
- Make schedule information available at all bus stops (real-time preferable, but could be printed materials or posted on signs). *MCAC members recommended information in multiple languages, and in audible/accessible formats.*
- Create regional program to enhance personal safety/security for transit riders (both at transit hubs and on-board vehicles).

Transit Fare:

- Universal fare structure for the Bay Area; inter-agency seamless service (possibly regional affordability program). *MCAC members recommended a low-income fare structure.*
- Implementation of TransLink® on all transit systems. *MCAC members recommended a low-income fare structure.*

Non-Motorized Travel:

- Provide bicycles for rent (or free) in urban areas. *MCAC members recommended attaching safety and signage information to any bicycle program.*

Technology:

- *A new recommendation from MCAC: Use WiFi technology to allow transit riders to get next bus information; possible public/private partnership.*
- *MCAC members reminded MTC to make sure to include low-income residents in any high-tech solutions.*

Discussion of Transportation 2035 Joint Advisors Meeting (continued)

Traveler Information:

- Expand 511 transit phone information service to 24 hours a day (currently, individual transit operators answer 511 transit phone calls; hours of operation vary between operators).
- Improve the accuracy and reliability of the 511 TakeTransit Trip Planner.
- Create comprehensive materials to assist *any drivers* transitioning to non-driving status.
- More info about carpool lanes and casual carpools; expansion of carpool lane hours.

The above items will be highlighted as of special importance to MCAC members at the T2035 Joint Advisors Committee Workshop on Feb. 13.

Subcommittee Reports

Lifeline/EJ: At its January 24, 2008 meeting, Darnell Turner was elected as chair and Michael Lopez as vice chair. Mr. Turner said MTC Senior Planner Lisa Klein attended the meeting and presented two options for an affordability measure for the project evaluation portion of T2035. MTC staff explained what Lifeline is and why it is being evaluated, stressing that staff is evaluating the administration of the program, not the projects themselves, because many of the projects aren't off the ground yet. The evaluation should be completed before summer, when the next "Call for Projects" will be announced to solicit projects for funding with Lifeline funds. This subcommittee will meet again Feb. 26; MCAC and the subcommittee will provide further comments on the evaluation in March and April, and the evaluation will go before the Commission for adoption in May. Ms. Love said she is unable to attend the subcommittee meetings and would appreciate receiving notes from the meetings.

T2035 Equity Analysis: At its January 29, 2008 meeting, Carlos Romero agreed to serve as interim chair and Carlos Castellanos agreed to serve as interim vice chair. Mr. Romero reported that the subcommittee's primary issue is looking at the methodology of MTC's T2035 equity analysis. The current model will most likely be used, but surveys could be integrated into the data. A request was made for ABAG to attend the next meeting and discuss how their projections forecasts are developed. Mr. Romero also reported Ms. Klein again gave her presentation of the two affordability options for the project performance evaluation, and the subcommittee was not entirely satisfied with either alternative, and that discussion will continue on this issue. Mr. Allen noted that "low income" is defined as $70K per year per household.

Internship: Ms. Castain reported on two good meetings. The internship brochures are being distributed and student recruitment is underway. The number of employers requesting a high school intern has now grown to 40. The job site and student application materials have been posted on MTC's Web site; the deadline for student applications is March 28. The internship program was advertised via cable television on a public affairs program produced and hosted by MCAC member Darnell Turner. Ms. Castain, Ms. Grove and Ms. Alvarado were interviewed by Mr. Turner on Jan. 31 at Comcast Studios in Walnut Creek. The half-hour program will air for approximately two weeks on cable stations around the Bay Area.

Mr. Eric Shaw and Mr. Castellanos requested the "Paid Internships" flyer be emailed to them.

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Community Liaison Officer's Report

Ms. Grove said her report is in the packet, but she outlined the highlights. MCAC member Bill Allen had asked staff to do some research on a proposed shuttle – see newspaper article in packet. The main difference between this and a previous shuttle effort is there are several funding sources for this particular shuttle. The Peninsula Congestion Relief Alliance is managing this project. Ms. Grove also stated this shuttle is a good example of the type of project that qualifies for MTC Lifeline funding, commenting that a new Call for Projects for funding under the Lifeline Program is expected this summer. For more information about the shuttle, contact Christine Maley-Grubl at the Peninsula Congestion Relief Alliance (Christine@commute.org).

Steve Heminger, executive director of MTC, served on a National Transportation Commission. The Executive Summary from the Commission's report, released last month, was included in the packet. The entire report is on MTC's Web site.

Ms. Grove went over the schedule for upcoming meetings included in her report.

Other Business/Public Comment

There was no public comment or other business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2008.