



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Commission

DATE: March 19, 2008

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Policy

W. I.

RE: Transportation 2035: Proposed Final Vision Policy Strategies

The Planning Committee seeks provisional approval from the Commission on the Proposed Final Vision Policy Strategies for the Transportation 2035 Plan.

Planning Committee Action

The Planning Committee received a staff presentation on the Draft Vision Policy Strategies on February 8, 2008. The Draft VPS was subsequently circulated to the Joint Policy Committee, Bay Area Partnership, and MTC advisory committees and stakeholders for their review. At its March 14 meeting, the Planning Committee provided its review comments, received public and partner input, and voted to approve the Proposed Final Vision Policy Strategies. The Vision Policy Strategies have been updated to reflect all comments received to date (Attachment A). Comments from partner agencies that were received after the Planning Committee meeting are shown in underline/strike-out type.

Recap of Vision Policy Strategies

The Vision Policy Strategies are derived from the lessons learned from the vision scenario analysis that was presented at the October 26 Bay Area on the Move Summit. Based on these lessons learned, staff identified five important policy areas for the Transportation 2035 Plan:

1. Investments
2. Pricing and Affordability
3. Focused Growth
4. Technology
5. Individual Actions

Staff prepared a statement articulating the vision for the Transportation 2035 Plan. In addition, for each of these five policy areas, staff has prepared a policy brief that explains where we are today, describes the challenges to overcome, and identifies policy strategies that will take us on a shared journey to get to where we want to be. For illustrative purposes, we sketch out what this “journey” might look like; we show a continuum of efforts and innovations that will help us move from today towards attainment of our vision in 2035. The continuum categorizes short, medium and long-term improvement strategies based available resources, the state of various technologies and/or the time needed to realize the full impact of improvements (mainly in the land use arena). Attachment A describes the Vision Policy Strategies.

Planning Process

The Vision Policy Strategies serve to inform the project evaluation process, influence the ensuing investment trade-off discussions, and help with benchmarking achievement of performance objectives over time. Staff sees this process unfolding through the following key steps:

1. Identify the most cost-effective projects/programs with respect to the performance objectives (i.e., the quantitative project evaluation approach which was approved by the Planning Committee in February 2008);
2. Assess how projects/programs advance the Commission's vision policy strategies (i.e., qualitative policy evaluation approach);
3. Debate the trade-offs among various investment strategies that consider both performance objectives and Vision Policy Strategies as part of the deliberations, as well as other considerations the Commissioners may bring to the table;
4. Determine which projects/programs we can afford within the revenues projected to be reasonably available to the region over the next 25 years (i.e., dollars and cents approach);
5. Develop an investment plan of projects/programs for the financially constrained plan; and
6. Identify an investment plan of projects/programs that would be funded with potential new revenue sources such as the regional gas fee, SMART district tax, or others for the unconstrained plan.

As part of its deliberations, the Commission will take into account the (a) Three Es, goals and performance objectives set for the plan; (b) results from the project performance and policy assessments; (c) financial constraints, and (d) and input received from partners, stakeholders and the public. Ultimately, the Commission will exercise its policy discretion and decide on the program of projects/programs for the financially constrained plan in July 2008.

Schedule

Below are the upcoming key Transportation 2035 milestones:

Early May	MTC staff releases project performance & policy assessment results
May - July	Partners, stakeholders, the public and Commission to review evaluation results and begin investment trade-off discussions
July 11	Planning Committee approves Final Draft T2035 Investment Plan
July 23	Commission approves Final Draft T2035 Investment Plan
Aug.-Nov.	Prepare equity analysis, EIR, and air quality conformity analysis
December 12	Planning Committee releases Draft T2035 Plan & Draft EIR for public review
March 2009	Commission approves Final T2035 Plan

Recommendation

The Planning Committee seeks provisional approval from the Commission on the Proposed Final Vision Policy Strategies for the Transportation 2035 Plan. This provisional approval enables the Commission to revisit and make further refinements to the Vision Policy Strategies prior to adopting them as part of the final Transportation 2035 Plan in early 2009.

Therese McMillan

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