

Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2008

Paul Branson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.
Members in attendance: Ken Altenburger, Joe Bischofberger, Eleanor Bloch, Richard Burnett, David Grant, Rich Hedges, Marshall Loring, Doug Weir, Craig Yates, Shirlee Zane. Also in attendance: Commissioner Giacobini. Members reported as unavailable: Janet Abelson, Myrtle Braxton, Eugene Halliday, Julio Lacayo, Joshua Miele, Barbara Rhodes.

Audience Member Self-introductions

- Margaret Arimura, Napa resident
- Anh Nguyen, self
- Bob Planthold, self
- Catherine Xinyuan Yang, Sustainable Pacific Rim Cities

Public Comment from Audience Members

1) Mr. Planthold encouraged attendance at MCAC's Lifeline Subcommittee meetings; 2) Margaret Arimura encouraged consideration of rail transit by magnetic levitation (maglev).

EDAC Minutes of April 3 were approved; Mr. Loring abstained.

Member Updates

Several members made brief announcements, reports. A petition was made available to sign in opposition to the proposed state budget cuts.

Advisory Council Report

Mr. Grant reported on the council's April 9 meeting: I-80 corridor study findings; replacement of the 511 trip planner; discussion on eliminating TLC's housing incentive program to be able to fund larger TOD projects, a suggestion that MTC consider hiring an economist to do

econometric analysis of congestion pricing proposals and transport economics in general.

EDAC Subcommittee Reports

Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chair Burnett said he and Ms. Bloch recently attended a seminar in San Jose on disaster preparedness that he will discuss with members at their June subcommittee meeting.

Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee Chair Grant said that in their search for statistical data suggesting target areas to look at for accident and injury issues, a draft pedestrian safety report would soon be available from the Regional Pedestrian Committee.

Ms. Zane said Santa Rosa's police dept. was recently awarded a \$300K state grant to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety (contact: Raphael Rivero), and that results will be closely watched for the effectiveness of the grant's programs.

Mr. Loring said Caltrans Dist. 4 had organized a pedestrian committee and that Mr. Hedges had joined it.

Chair's Report

Chair Branson said the importance of EDAC's work increases even more when state budget reports are dire, and that populations likely to be hit hardest are those EDAC advocates for. Being part of T-2035 remains important, especially local outreach meetings, in order to lend EDAC's voice to the input requested. His message to subcommittees: maintain the momentum of your current good work.

Staff Report

Ursula Vogler asked members to attend T-2035 workshops that will be held in their county over the next few weeks. Also, she also reminded members to nominate people/organizations for MTC's awards program as the awards deadline has been extended to May 23. The awards honor the nominees and also raise awareness for their important work.

Legislative Report

Ellen Griffin of MTC reported on bills of interest to members, particularly several "fee" bills. In response to a member's comment about politicians who pump up budget deficit numbers to make themselves look better later, Ms. Griffin suggested that using bad budget news may work to fix some of what's wrong.

Draft 2000 Transportation Improvement Program

Craig Goldblatt of MTC (for Sri Srinivasan) reviewed the draft that covers the 4-year period beginning FY 2008-09 through FY 2011-12. He said federal funding and associated actions are predicated upon projects being listed in the TIP, i.e., not listed, not funded. For data searches of TIP projects by city and by county, he directed members to MTC's Web site (www.mtc.ca.gov).

Hub Signage Program Update

Jay Stagi of MTC showed examples of and sought comments on the Hub Signage Program as part of the Transit Connectivity Plan. The program is scheduled for completion by the end of 2009.

Member comments/questions:

- Will there be logos at bus stops and transit hubs? [Yes, at hubs but not at individual bus stops (logos assist connections between operators)]
Will there be logos showing facilities for the disabled? [Yes]
Will the logos for disabled be the same size as other logos? [Yes]
- Use signage material made from a hard fiberglass; no aluminum or copper, due to theft
- The 511 swirl ought to have the word “dial” added to it because the 511 swirl looks merely like a logo (and not a prompt to dial “511”)
- Situate signs as close to train exits as possible so riders don't go “outside” or “upstairs” needlessly
- Include signs for grade-separated services, e.g., “F-line, upstairs”
- Arrows:
 - BART signage shows arrows for “airport” without referencing Oakland or San Francisco, which confuses the non-locals
 - Have only one arrow per sign, multiple arrows are confusing
- Color / type size:
 - Black backgrounds are less readable than green [BART already has white text on black backgrounds, but it will not be used outside]
 - Thank you for having type sizes readable by “older eyes,” with or *without* their eyeglasses
 - BART's tinted windows make reading station names too difficult [Comment to be transmitted to Tian Feng at BART]

- BART train operator announcements ought not be made during the peak noise period of when the train pulls into the station
- Will signs have “changeability”? [Yes, real time displays will be electronic, and the printed transit information displays will be updated quarterly to reflect changing routes, schedules, and fares]
- Will there be maps at the stations to navigate at the station? [Yes, and will also be available online]

Generally, members said the revised signage is an improvement and appreciated the presentation.

511 Take Transit Trip Planner Update

Tom Spiekerman of MTC staff that a comprehensive review of the new 511 Transit Web page was done. He said that MTC selected a commercial “off the shelf” trip planner, similar to the one used in London and soon by the Chicago Regional Transit Authority. He anticipated fully accessible screen readers to be developed by July. On a pilot basis, he is also looking at ways to provide wheelchair data. He demonstrated the new beta site, its full screen width with more information per page (less “page jumping”), and other features such as Plan-A-Trip, a new section on rail systems, address matching, etc.

Member comments:

- Can hours and rates for discount fares be shown, not just “adult fares”? [Yes, a tab or a link can be provided]
- Consider showing a comparison of a trip’s travel cost by auto vs. transit as is shown at LA Metro
- 511 Rideshare site needs an upgrade. Mr. Spiekerman mentioned that the Rideshare site wasn’t in his purview. He did, however, mention that other 511 sites were planning upgrades, and the 511 Rideshare site was one of them.

Program Management Plan for JARC-New Freedom

Christina Atienza of MTC staff distributed a memorandum with details about the combined draft Program Management Plan for both the Job Access and Reverse Commute program and the New Freedom program. Comments due by May 23, 2008.

Other Business

Commissioner Giacobini again encouraged participation in Rail-Volution: Building Livable Communities With Transit, Oct. 26-29, 2008 in San Francisco, especially for discussions about the population of elderly and disabled persons. She once again requested that EDAC members, with help from MTC staff, submit a presentation on the accessible Transit Oriented Development issue. Ms. Vogler said she would coordinate this effort.

EDAC's next meeting was scheduled for June 5, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.