

RBWG Meeting Summary

April 17, 2008

1:00-3:00 PM

1. Introductions

Sean Co, MTC
Bob Eltgroth, CABO
Lynne March, SCTA
Barry Bergman, City of Alameda
Eric Schatmeier, TAM
Sabrina Merlo, BABC
Lee Huo, ABAG/Bay Trail Project

Doug Johnson, MTC
Beth Walukas, ACCMA
Melissa Pelkey, SFCTA
Sarah Syed, BART
Jennifer Stanley, City of Oakland
Sara Woo, Solano Transportation Authority

2. Summary of February Meeting

3. Regional Bicycle Plan Release

Sean Co stated that the draft Regional Bicycle Plan (RBP) Updates will be released and discussed at the May 9, 2008, meetings for the MTC Planning Committee and Partnership Technical Advisory Committee. He indicated that the draft Plan would also be presented at the June 19, 2008, Regional Bicycle Working Group meeting, and that the final draft of the RBP will be completed on July 18, 2008. Sean said that the RBP will be on the same schedule as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and both are scheduled for adoption by the Commission on February 23, 2009.

4. Regional Program and Projects

Sean Co discussed the process for submitting projects and programs for evaluation in Transportation 2035. All 9 counties submitted projects for evaluation, and MTC submitted all of its regional programs (both new and old) for evaluation including the entire Regional Bicycle Network, Safe Routes to School, Safe Routes to Transit, Transportation for Livable Communities, Climate Action Campaign, etc. Both quantitative and qualitative analyses were conducted. Sean stated that 2,100 miles of projects were submitted by the Congestion Management Agencies (CMA) which had a total project cost of \$1.3 billion. Half of the \$1.3 billion project costs were for bridges including the San Rafael-Richmond Bridge and the West Span of the Bay Bridge. Results will be presented at the May 9, 2008, Planning Committee meeting.

Sara Syed and Sean Co had a discussion about how the different bicycle and pedestrian program funds would be distributed. Sara also commented that flexibility in the use of bicycle and pedestrian programs funds would be good. Barry Bergman said that some bicycle and pedestrian funds have crossover and asked if a project could apply for multiple sources of funding. Sean Co explained that it had not been determined yet.

Sabrina Merlo expressed concerns over the change in scope of how money will be distributed for the various programs and asked how the Regional Pedestrian Committee (RPC) reacted to these changes. Sean Co explained that the RPC wasn't happy about the changes, and that they were particularly unhappy about taking the pedestrian component out of bicycle funding sources.

5. Evaluation of the Regional Bicycle Program

Sean Co presented the draft results of the evaluation of the Regional Bicycle Program (RPC). He indicated that the number of bicycle trips appeared undercounted and that the 0.06% growth attributed to all bicycle and pedestrian improvements seemed low. Two previous studies were used to develop assumptions for the estimates on bicycle trip increases. Several members of the group discussed the accuracy of the evaluation data.

Beth Walukas and Barry Bergman suggested that it would be helpful if the evaluation data table included a definition for each data column and the assumptions utilized to determine the numbers in each data column. Beth also asked if there was a qualitative analysis to evaluate the RPC. Doug Johnson explained that there is a policy element to evaluating the value of the RPC.

Sarah Syed suggested that it would be better to have specific projects as examples for evaluation rather than large "catch all" evaluations using all \$1.3 billion worth of projects. She also suggested contacting a U.C. Berkeley researcher that worked with the Environmental Defense Fund to assist in developing benefit-cost evaluations.

Jennifer Stanley suggested adding "lane miles" as a category.

Sabrina Merlo expressed concern that the health costs were not addressed in the evaluation numbers. She also asked how the fatalities and injury numbers were determined. Sean Co explained that the numbers were taken from a car model that used injuries/fatalities per vehicle mile traveled. Doug Johnson said that these numbers make an argument that a safety factor is needed. He talked about how the costs of life and health are so high that it gives an argument for completing the bicycle network.

Barry Bergman asked how the evaluation will be used. Sean Co said it's uncertain.

6. Schedule for Transportation 2035

Sean Co discussed the meeting schedule for Transportation 2035 and indicated that one public workshop would be held in each of the nine Bay Area counties between May 7 through 27, 2008. Each meeting will be attended by one MTC commissioner, the Planning Director, and one member of the planning staff.

7. Routine Accommodation Status

Sean Co gave a summary of the Routine Accommodation on-line application process and function. He indicated that the on-line form is done and that Lifeline or CMAQ Cycle 4 will be the first opportunity to use the on-line Routine Accommodation application. This will likely occur in Fall of this year. Sean explained that Caltrans will not be affected by the Routine Accommodation process since MTC doesn't fund Caltrans projects.

8. Other Items

Sean Co provided an update on BikeMapper 2.0 and explained that MTC constructed it for the San Francisco Environmental Department using funding from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. He said that BikeMapper 2.0 hasn't been implemented yet, but they are working towards it. After the Regional Transportation Plan is completed, MTC will implement BikeMapper 2.0 for the other Bay Area counties.

Sean Co mentioned that Michelle DeRobertis (VTA) brought up the topic of proposing changes to the TDA-3 Fund Guidelines at a previous RBWG meeting. He asked everyone to think about any proposed changes for discussion at the next meeting.

Sarah Syed announced that BART's summer internship program is looking for a graduate student intern to work on station profile analysis and to help update the BART bicycle plan.

Jennifer Stanley reminded everyone that the City of Oakland is holding its annual Bike to Work Day event on May 15, 2008.