

Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Sept. 4, 2008

Paul Branson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.  
Members in attendance: Janet Abelson, Ken Altenburger, Eleanor Bloch, Myrtle Braxton, Richard Burnett, David Grant, Gene Halliday, Rich Hedges, Julio Lacayo, Marshall Loring, Josh Miele, Dennis Trenten, Doug Weir, Craig Yates, Shirlee Zane. Members reported as unavailable: Steve Belkin, Joe Bischofberger, Barbara Rhodes.

Audience Member Self-introductions

- Helen Loring, self
- Anh Nguyen, self

EDAC Minutes of July 3, 2008 were approved after a motion by Mr. Hedges that was seconded by Ms. Bloch.

Member Updates

--Mr. Hedges said that in recent travels to Quebec's city of Montreal he photographed bicycle lanes and vehicular lanes that were actually separated by concrete walls, and that access to transit there is "great."

--Mr. Grant said a survey of a San Francisco neighborhood where paths of pedestrians and bicyclists intersect showed that 54% of the pedestrians were 60 years of age or older; nearly 20% used walkers or wheelchairs; 10% were hit by a bicycle on the sidewalk within the last year; and 5% were hit by a bicycle in the crosswalk within the last 2 years.

--Mr. Loring reported on a useful course by Federal Highway Administration in designing roadways with pedestrians and older drivers in mind.

--Mr. Lacayo said CHP's efforts in Contra Costa County are attempting to get information about transit options to those who are refraining from driving.

### Advisory Council Report

Mr. Grant reported on a discussion about disabled riders who pay with cash (vs. TransLink®) not receiving discounts that able-bodied riders do. Mr. Hedges asked which operators would next receive TransLink® [Ursula Vogler said Caltrain, then SFMTA].

At this point, the order of the agenda was changed.

### Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Vogler said that she had asked chairs of EDAC subcommittee to submit to her their suggestions for upcoming tasks as related to the committee's 2-year work plan.

### EDAC Subcommittee Reports

*Transportation-Land Use Subcommittee* Co-chair Hedges said several presentations about accessible housing near transit were made to outside groups. Co-chair Loring encouraged EDAC members to look into their own communities for examples of accessible housing, of lack thereof.

*Pedestrian Subcommittee* Chair Grant reported on the five safest and least-safe cities for pedestrians in the Bay Area, and that UC Berkeley traffic center was doing a study of 50 intersections in Alameda Co. that would help develop a model to help predict the likelihood of pedestrian injuries that, in turn, could lead to a regional pedestrian plan. He sees the subcommittee's role as helping to frame such a plan and making suggestions.

*Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee* Chair Burnett reported on attending local events on preparedness, and seeking Ms. Vogler's assistance to be paid for work as an emergency liaison.

*Accessible Taxi Subcommittee* Chair Yates requested an item be added to EDAC's next agenda that addresses the wheelchair-accessible taxicabs as a transportation component. He said that service providers, government agencies, and customers comprise his "Three's Company" strategy to reach the goal.

*Senior Driver Issues/Alternatives Subcommittee* Chair Lacayo said that outreach to senior centers and libraries needs to go further. He wants billboards and ways to reach people in their 70s and 80s who are preparing to transition from driving to not driving. Suggested were: a) placing public service messages on electronic billboards similar to

the ‘click-it or ticket’ seatbelt message; b) inserts in customers’ utility bills; c) chauffeurs for seniors; d) providing info packets to those 60+ applying to renew their drivers licenses, etc.

### Chair’s Report

Mr. Branson said it’s been five years that he has served on EDAC now and considers its productivity to be better than ever, particularly because of work by the subcommittees. Ms. Zane echoed the same enthusiasm for EDAC’s 2-year work plan.

### New Freedom Second Cycle Proposed Program of Projects

MTC’s Christina Atienza reviewed the outcome of New Freedom project selection process in the large and the small urbanized areas. She asked Mr. Miele to comment on his accepted project (his project was ranked first overall), which will provide accessible maps at BART stations. He explained that the maps will provide tactile and high-contrast features for low-vision travelers. EDAC members requested a future demonstration.

Ms. Atienza announced her leaving MTC to work at WCCTAC (West Contra Costa Technical Advisory Committee). Her work at MTC will temporarily be completed by her supervisor, Anne Richman.

### Transportation 2035

Ashley Nguyen reviewed the outcome of the Commission’s decision on the T2035 investment plan at the July Commission meeting. EDAC members discussed Lifeline’s \$400M share of discretionary revenues vs. \$1B for bicycles, pointing out that pedestrian interests seem to have been ignored. Members recognized that the bicycle population had done its homework and sent many advocates to the July Planning Committee meeting. Ms. Nguyen pointed out that the Commission did listen to the advisors comments on the pedestrian issue (among other issues), but had many factors to weigh in making their decision. Ms. Nguyen announced the need for another joint advisors meeting to discuss the third and final phase of the plan, probably sometime in October. During the discussion, EDAC members requested that: 1) advisors are acknowledged before members of the public when providing comments at a Commission meeting; and 2) Executive

Director Steve Heminger attend an EDAC meeting at least once per year.

Chair Branson spoke about the time he and current Advisory Council Chair Bob Planthold were far outnumbered by the low-income population at Commission and other meetings and, consequently, supports being well-organized.

Ms. Vogler introduced Elizabeth Brisson as the replacement to MTC staff member Ray Kan. Ms. Nguyen was thanked for her hard work, and acknowledged as the Commission's messenger. In conclusion, Chair Branson reiterated the great job EDAC during the T2035 process.

There was no other business. The next EDAC meeting was scheduled for Oct. 2, 2008. The meeting was adjourned early, at 12:10 p.m., to give time for members to attend that day's groundbreaking ceremony for the Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley.