



**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

MTC Advisory Council
September 10, 2008

Minutes

Bob Planthold called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. In attendance were members Wendy Alfsen, John Cockle, Paul Cohen, Raphael Durr, David Grant, William Hastings, Richard Hedges, Kathryn Hughes, John Inks, Cathy Jackson, Sherman Lewis, Xiao-Yun Lu, James McGhee, Eli Naor, Margaret Okuzumi, Michael Pechner, and Don Rothblatt.

Minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Staff Report

Ms. Therese Knudsen stated that there is going to be another Joint Advisors meeting scheduled in the month of October (date/time to be determined). It will focus on strategies for meeting the ambitious target for climate protection, equity, air quality, and congestion relief, as well as developing an advocacy platform for securing funding for these programs.

Report from the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC); Report from the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC)

Mr. David Grant stated that EDAC discussed the T2035 Plan, and the new freedom grants that were given out. He also stated that the Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee of EDAC has been meeting with the Regional Pedestrian Committee to listen to their development of a Regional Pedestrian Plan. He noted that EDAC will take a look at this plan at their next meeting and encouraged the Advisory Council to take up the idea as well.

Mr. James McGhee stated that two of MCAC's subcommittee's are working on finalizing their plan, which should be completed by the end of September.

Agenda Item 6 - Update on MTC Involvement with Business Community

Ms. Jackson stated that she would like participation increase in business – getting more feedback from industry merchants, businesses that are directly affected by MTC's works, investments, etc. She noted that she previously encouraged MTC to hold focus groups that would increase the

participation, and believes that staff has done a good job in initiating that. Ms. Jackson asked staff how the Advisory Council can help to increase this participation on behalf of business.

Ms. Ellen Griffin stated that her job is to involve a range of people in the decisions that come before the Commission, and help influence that debate. She stated that over the years they found that it's very hard to get businesses to engage in the policy arena, so that's one of the primary reasons staff put two business representatives on the Advisory Council so staff can hear business perspectives in a multi-interest forum. She did note that staff needs to expand its general outreach to business organizations; they are in the process of building up their database to include more chamber of commerce.

Ms. Teri Green, Admin. and Technologies Services Director, stated that she looks forward working with the Advisory Committee to further pursue some of these ideas. She stated that staff has had the opportunity to work with the MCAC on contracting. Staff received suggestions from them and started working cooperatively to partner with them and others throughout the community to work on increasing the participation. She noted that staff is focusing on the contracts that MTC, BATA, and SAFE are letting out, and trying to go out to the various markets and talk to people about it. By partnering with Caltrans and Mr. Fremier of the Bay Area Toll Authority, staff is reaching out a lot to the contracting firms. Recently, an outreach event took place that was primarily geared towards A&E firms.

Ms. Denise Rodrigues, Contract Administrator, stated that any agency that receives federal funds is legally required to have a DBE program, and publish it's federally funded contracts for the upcoming fiscal year. She noted that MTC's current contracts are posted on MTC's website: www.mtc.ca.gov. She stated that under direction from Caltrans, MTC is currently working under race-neutral measures to achieve participation for DBE, WBE, and SBE firms. She noted that since 2007, MTC has been working with MCAC subcommittee on contracting, where they provided invaluable information and assistance in helping to jumpstart MTC's outreach efforts. Staff has updated MTC's website, which now has a link to the MTC consultant form which once completed and entered into the MTC consultant database notifies vendors, based on expertise codes of contract opportunities with MTC. For all contracts let that are over \$10K, staff notifies DBE's in the statewide database listed under the expertise code applicable to that contract. Staff, since 2007 has participated in ten outreach events, and is a member of the Business Outreach Committee (BOC), which is made up of transportation agencies throughout the Bay Area. Ms. Rodrigues also mentioned that staff is the lead on the BOC newsletter which is mailed out on a quarterly basis; the newsletter provides information on upcoming contracting opportunities. The next BOC event will be held at MTC on October 22, 2008, and will be geared toward construction firms. Information will be made available to the committee once the agenda for that event is finalized.

Committee comments include:

- Staff may want to look at hiring retired professionals who do decent professional quality work, and staff may save money on a project.
- Through a council of district merchants, staff might get more outreach in addition to the DBE, WBE approaches.
- People judge who they do business with based on the success of getting business, and based on the success of people within their industry – staff needs to work more with small businesses.

- Has staff considered bringing in some of the contract compliance and administration people from the public agency in a conversation with the businesses and MTC?
Response: Insurance requirements, bonding, etc. can be very restrictive to small businesses, so staff looks at the contract to see if it really needs that particular amount in umbrella coverage, and in most cases, staff waives that regularly.

Agenda Item 7 – California High Speed Rail

This item was deferred to a later meeting – to be determined.

Agenda Item 8 – FOCUS Update

Mr. Ted Droettboom, Joint Policy Committee, updated the committee on the Bay Area’s efforts to encourage focused growth, particularly as these relate to climate change. He presented a summary of FOCUS, which is the regional agencies’ principal focused-growth initiative. He also presented a summary of the overall progress on the Regional Agencies Climate Protection Program, as well as how one of the central FOCUS concepts, the Priority Development Area (PDA) relates to climate change. He identified the key policy and implementation challenges that need to be addressed and suggested some possible choice to guide future transportation investment policy.

Committee comments include:

- Make it more of a priority to look at some of the outlying areas and cluster employment activity.
- Need to make housing more affordable that is near transportation, and transportation needs to be brought closer to the affordable housing.
- If there are incentives to put on the table to get help projects approved, it will help local elected officials get things done.
- Pricing incentives are not there.
- The prioritization of road maintenance monies to serve PDA – also have to prioritize bus routes and existing areas already have density.
- The impact of pricing reforms to achieve regional goals – none of that has been incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan.

Agenda Item 9 – Update: Transportation Economics and Pricing Subcommittee

Mr. Sherman Lewis moved approval of this item with the condition that staff will help frame this item for presentation to the commission. Ms. Wendy Alfsen seconded. Motion passed, with one opposing.

Agenda Item 10 – Evaluation Subcommittee Report

Ms. Margaret Okuzumi stated that the focus of the evaluation subcommittee has been looking at some kind of process or mechanism by which MTC would be evaluating projects in the planning phase, and then do an evaluation of actual projects that are in progress. The committee would also be looking at the modeling to see how those projects impacted the region, and try to improve MTC’s tool set in regards to making those types of evaluations.

In conclusion, she stated that the subcommittee plans to talk to MTC staff to get a better sense of what some of the ways are that they might proceed.

Other Business/Public Comment

AGENDA ITEM 2

There was no other business. The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled for October 8, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

J:\COMMITTEE\Advisory\2008\10-08\2_minutes.doc