



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

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Napa County and Cities

Scott Haggerty, Vice Chair
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City and County of San Francisco

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MINORITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes – September 9, 2008

Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 3:34 p.m. by Chair James McGhee. Those in attendance were Chair James McGhee of San Francisco County; Vice Chair Randi Kinman and Dawn Love, Low Income Representatives; Jacquee Castain and Carlos Castellanos of Alameda County; Raphael Durr of Marin County; Gerald Rico of Napa County; Michael Lopez of Santa Clara County; William Allen and Carlos Romero of San Mateo County; and Michael D'Augelli, Native American Representative.

Michael Rubiano of Contra Costa County and Harvey Louie of San Francisco County were excused.

MTC staff in attendance included Catalina Alvarado, Pam Grove, Georgia Lambert, Denise Rodrigues and Jennifer Yeaman.

Lindsay Imai, Urban Habitat, and Phil Martien, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, were also present.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the July 8, 2008 meeting were approved.

Chair's Report

Chair McGhee reported that he was part of a group of MCAC members who attended a Lifeline site visit at Bayview/Hunters Point on August 5, along with Mr. Allen, Mr. D'Augelli, Mr. Lopez, Mr. Louie, Mr. Rico and Mr. Turner. (Also in attendance were Therese Knudsen, Georgia Lambert and Cristina Ungureanu, MTC staff.) Chair McGhee announced that he had been asked to be on a Lifeline application selection committee for the San Francisco Transportation Authority; Mr. Allen added that he is doing the same thing for San Mateo County. Mr. Romero said he has also been asked by San Mateo County but there may be a conflict of interest.

MCAC Report to the Commission and 2008-09 Work Plan

A draft of MCAC's 2008-09 Work Plan was included in the packet. It was agreed that the plan would be reviewed subcommittee by subcommittee, and would include the subcommittee's report to MCAC, if applicable.

MCAC Report to the Commission and 2008-09 Work Plan (Continued)

High School Internship Subcommittee: Ms. Castain reported that participating agencies gave students challenging, interesting jobs. She said the farewell ceremony for the summer program was well-attended by the interns themselves as well as supervisors, parents and MCAC members. The goal is to increase the number of students by having agencies sponsor a second student (MTC pays for the first one), which AC Transit did this past year. She reiterated that it was important that MTC recruited earlier in the year last year and that more agencies in all counties need to hire extra students. It was suggested that agency supervisors put their “glowing comments” about their student interns in writing. Ms. Kinman suggested official letters from MCAC be sent thanking the agencies for their participation in the program. MTC staff agreed to assist the subcommittee in getting the letter out. A copy of a list of agencies by county that are invited to participate was distributed.

Ms. Imai of Urban Habitat reminded MCAC members that MCAC had recommended that the Commission increase Lifeline funding. She stated some things are outside MCAC’s work plan subcommittee structure and recommended that broader goals be considered – i.e., funding for transit or other needed projects in communities of concern.

Chair McGhee called for a motion to accept the High School Internship Subcommittee work plan as presented in the packet. It was so moved, seconded and approved, with one change to an increase in the number of partner-funded interns (to a total of *nine* rather than *six*).

Contracting Subcommittee: To mitigate disparity, Chair McGhee stated that there needs to be increased awareness of MTC through public outreach, and MTC should convince other agencies to also reach out to minority and women contractors. He stated that the subcommittee is looking forward to hearing from Caltrans about a change in status from “race neutral” to “race-conscious,” which may result in contract goals on federal contracts. Mr. Durr requested and Ms. Rodrigues agreed to provide the federal definition of those two terms. Vice Chair Kinman recommended that all subcommittees meet at least once a quarter and suggested that a weighting/scoring system be implemented for MTC projects. It was agreed that Ms. Grove would facilitate scheduling subcommittee meetings at least once per quarter. Due to time constraints, no further action was taken.

It was determined that work plan approval would be delayed until the October meeting to give the subcommittees time to meet this month to finalize their work plans. Ms. Grove agreed to schedule a separate subcommittee meeting for both the Transportation 2035 Equity Analysis Subcommittee and the Lifeline Subcommittee to finalize their work plans to present at the next full MCAC meeting. The final work plan will be presented to the Commission in November.

Community Air Risk Evaluation (C.A.R.E.) Program

Phil Martien, Ph.D., Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), provided an overview of the CARE program initiated in 2004 by BAAQMD to evaluate and reduce health risks associated with exposure to outdoor toxic air contaminants. BAAQMD is a sister agency to MTC and is enlisting MTC’s assistance in reducing mobile pollutants from transit vehicles. He

Community Air Risk Evaluation (C.A.R.E.) Program (continued)

discussed the program's findings (i.e., highest cancer/respiratory illness risks follow diesel sources) and their mitigation action plan (i.e., focusing risk-reduction activities where they are most needed), stating that findings show that susceptibility to disease may be linked to income level (lower income population is at higher risk). The air quality measurements date back to 1980, and West Oakland is one of the areas at higher risk. Mr. Martien indicated that BAAQMD would like MCAC's help with outreach and suggestions for balancing infill development with health risks. He also commented that there will be another round of community outreach meetings in October.

Chair McGhee said that MCAC would like to coordinate with BAAQMD so that the impact of construction projects can be factored into Commission approval of funding. BAAQMD has \$87 million in projected grant funding in 2008; Chair McGhee stated that MCAC would like to take an active role in modeling and grant funding.

Staff Report

Ms. Grove went over her staff report in the packet and said that there are several advisory committee vacancies due to resignations during the year. A press release and information about the application process will be available shortly. She stated that ethics training for all advisors is required prior to year end and further information will be provided at next month's meeting. In addition, Ms. Grove mentioned another upcoming Transportation 2035 Joint Advisor Workshop sometime in October; the specific date is yet to be determined, and she will be sending out information as soon as it is finalized.

Other Business/Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m. Next meeting will be October 14, 2008.