



Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Nov. 6, 2008

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

Audience Member Self-introductions

- Naomi Armento, Alameda Co. Transp. Improvement Authority (ACTIA)
- Bob Planthold, self

Public Comment from Audience Members

In noting Ms. Zane's election to Sonoma County's Board of Supervisors, Mr. Planthold said that over the years her EDAC advocacy helped to garner attention to senior and pedestrian issues. Mr. Planthold made another comment: advisors are typically neither recognized nor acknowledged by Commissioners when at meetings together. Staff responded that advisors need to cultivate a working relationship with their appointing Commissioner and accept the situation as "a 2-way street"; staff offered help to make this happen.

EDAC Minutes

The Minutes of Oct. 2, 2008 meeting were approved after a motion by Mr. Yates and a second by Mr. Miele. There were no abstentions.

Member Updates

There were several updates from members, and a correction: Mr. Trenten amended his comment last month to say Benicia has 1 official bus stop where the #78 takes riders to Walnut Creek BART but has 4 potential places where drivers make stops.

Advisory Council Report

Mr. Grant reported on further discussion on business outreach practices and breaking the delays in contracting. Also, he reported on an update to the goods movement and land use study. Mr. Grant pointed out that the Advisory Council's meeting preceded the joint advisor workshop

EDAC Subcommittee Reports

Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee Co-chair Hedges said today's subcommittee agenda addresses potential policy changes related to accessible townhomes and condominiums. Since a lot of the background work has already been done, policy change is the next area to pursue and the subcommittee would focus on that.

Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chair Burnett said today's EDAC agenda, as part of EDAC's work plan, includes the subcommittee's policy statement on emergency preparedness.

Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee Chair Grant reported on continued emphasis on the need for a regional pedestrian plan.

Older Driver Subcommittee Chair Lacayo reported on outreach efforts for seniors and safe driving, including informational videos [available at http://www.chp.ca.gov/community/octs_v.html]. It was suggested by Mr. Planthold to make the videos available in the MTC-ABAG Library.

Chair's Report

Mr. Branson reiterated Ms. Zane's long advocacy and effectiveness on behalf of the elderly and disabled and -- now being a county supervisor -- could eventually be in the running to serve on MTC.

He reported on a meeting that advisory committee chairs had with MTC executives. He said that Executive Director Steve Heminger gave the green light for advisors to proceed on issues they feel strongly about. Chair Branson said that in response to advisors asking the preferred way to place their issues before the Commission, Mr. Heminger said to present the issues directly at standing committees of

the Commission. Chair Branson said that was not meant to bypass MTC staff, but to move issues along that advisors are passionate about. Mr. Branson reiterated the pluses of advisors keeping in contact with their MTC Commissioner. Mr. Branson said issues related to advisory committee attendance were discussed. Ms. Vogler said that a current resolution addresses the issue and that she would send the current language to EDAC for its review. By vote of a show of hands, members favored a ‘firm’ attendance requirement.

Staff Liaison Report - Ms. Vogler’s announcements:

- Ethics training certificates need to be submitted by the end of the calendar year.
- Subcommittee chairs need to submit their agendas the Tuesday before packet mail-out (usually the last Tuesday of the month.)
- The January 2009 EDAC meeting will be held on Jan. 8th because the first Thursday of the month falls on a holiday (New Year’s Day).
- A sympathy card is circulating to sign today for mailing to Barbara Rhodes’ family.
- EDAC Secretary Linda Walls announced she will retire from MTC by the end of December 2008.

In response to Mr. Miele’s query about MTC recruitment procedures, Ms. Vogler explained that for EDAC and MCAC, commissioners select the advisor from their county, and that for the Advisory Council, it is MTC’s Legislation Committee that makes the selection. Advisors can recommend to their commissioner directly or to Ms. Vogler the names of potential advisors.

Nomination of Officers

Ms. Vogler called for leadership nominations for next year, adding that at the December meeting nominees will be asked to discuss their qualifications in a short presentation.

-- For EDAC Chair, Mr. Loring nominated Mr. Branson; Mr. Branson nominated Mr. Hedges (declined); and Mr. Trenten nominated Mr. Loring (declined). Mr. Miele nominated Mr. Grant. Each nomination was seconded.

--For EDAC Vice Chair, Mr. Hedges nominated Mr. Loring, and Mr. Branson nominated Mr. Grant. Each nomination was seconded. Mr. Loring said he is unable to attend EDAC's December meeting but would submit something in writing.

Mobility Management Overview

Jennifer Yeamans of MTC staff presented an overview on mobility management and gave an update on what is happening with it in the region.

Member comment:

- There was concern expressed about changes related to federal labor protection requirements for transit workers.
- Is mobility management considered a 'sea change' and why? Ms. Yeamans said the idea is not new, but the policy comes from the national level and is characterized by a "bottom-up approach" to service planning and delivery, tailored to the travel needs of unique populations. Chair Branson said that in rural areas where neither transit nor vans existed before there is now talk about how to work together.
- Is mobility management related to new fund sources or more to a new way of doing things? Ms. Yeamans said it's related to service planning, coordination, and delivery. Given MTC's role in the region it makes sense for MTC to emphasize coordination.
- Today's presentation seems consistent with Transportation 2035.
- How would mobility management affect a new transit rider coming to this meeting today? Ms. Yeamans said it's behind-the-scenes work, but ultimately the service should be more convenient for the user.
- Will it reduce overhead? Ms. Yeamans said that is the intent.
- What about elderly drivers who fail their driver's license test in a rural area for the second time or more; will there be an inventory of services? Ms. Yeamans said it would look at individualized populations and what's needed in that population. Chair Branson said it's designed to help focus funds and services.

Legislative Report

Randy Rentschler reviewed MTC's 2009 draft legislative program seeking ideas and comment, and to get members' minds on the topics. At the state level the program includes state budget reform, self-help funding, a network of high-occupancy tolls, Lifeline, TransLink[®], etc. At the federal level, topics are the national dialogue about SAFETEA's successor, the economic stimulus package, climate change/energy policy, etc.

Member comment:

- Clean-up legislation to SB 375 will be the most difficult to implement, particularly “streamlining provisions beyond housing and mixed-use development to other infrastructure, retail and commercial development that is consistent with the sustainable communities strategy.”
- No more checks to spend down credit card debt or buy imported plastic toys! It matters what we buy, not merely that we buy.
- Partner with the building trades.

Mr. Rentschler said the draft legislative program would be sent to EDAC for comment.

Regional Pedestrian Strategy

Mr. Grant introduced a pedestrian safety strategy to fill gaps that exist in the region by addressing cost estimates, collision rates, performance measures, priorities, best practices, etc. For EDAC approval, he read and distributed resolution language to adopt recommendation to develop a pedestrian plan for the Bay Area, and to refer the resolution to the Commission.

Mr. Hedges moved the resolution language as read and later amended to cite the Regional Pedestrian Committee as the source. Mr. Yates seconded the motion. Mr. Planthold said that if adopted by MTC the resolution would help not only the region but would function statewide because of MTC's credibility in the state capitol. Chair Branson said pedestrians would be safer crossing roads once those who ought not to be driving any more have alternatives for getting around. The motion passed with no opposition.

Mr. Grant returned to the pedestrian strategies in the committee packet, making note of traffic collision statistics per square mile and that a pedestrian plan provides proactive tools on how to save lives. He said the strategies are being presented as part of EDAC's work plan.

Approval of EDAC Work Plan Update

Ms. Vogler itemized EDAC's 2008-09 work plan that members discussed in detail, changing the noun 'townhome' to 'residence,' adding mention of mobility management and a reference to the need for accessibility in emerging technologies. With a few other comments, the updated work plan was moved by Mr. Hedges, seconded by Mr. Loring, and passed unanimously. Chair Branson is who will present it to MTC's Legislation Committee in December.

The next EDAC meeting was scheduled for Dec. 4, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.