



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: Planning Committee

DATE: December 5, 2008

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Policy

W. I.

RE: Transportation 2035 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Overview

MTC has prepared a program-level Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Transportation 2035 Plan as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This Draft EIR evaluated the potential environmental effects of implementing the Draft Transportation 2035 Plan in the issue areas of transportation, air quality, climate change and greenhouse gas emissions (new), population, land use, energy, geology and seismicity, noise, and biological, water, visual, and cultural resources. Potential adverse impacts and corresponding mitigations were identified for each issue area. A range of potentially feasible alternatives to the Draft Transportation 2035 Plan was evaluated – No Project alternative, Heavy Maintenance/Climate Protection Emphasis alternative, Heavy Maintenance/Climate Protection Emphasis + Pricing alternative, and Heavy Maintenance/Climate Protection Emphasis + Land Use alternative.

Key Highlights

Implementation of the Draft Transportation 2035 Plan would have the following potential impacts in the areas of transportation, air quality and climate change compared to existing conditions:

- Improves accessibility to jobs by both auto and transit modes;
- Increases vehicle miles traveled at Level of Service F for all roadway facilities;
- Slightly increases daily vehicle miles travelled per capita;
- Lowers ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, toxic air contaminants, and carbon dioxide emissions but increases particulate matter emissions (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}).

The Heavy Maintenance/Climate Protection Emphasis + Pricing alternative is the environmentally superior alternative, primarily because it has fewer construction impacts; demonstrated superior performance in energy and climate change areas; has potential flexibility to adjust pricing controls to current needs; and pricing can be implemented in the nearer-term so that environmental benefits can be realized sooner than land use changes.

Next Steps

Staff will release the Draft EIR, along with the Draft Transportation 2035 Plan, for a 45-day public review starting on December 19, 2008 and ending on February 4, 2009. Staff will take written and oral comments on the Draft Transportation 2035 Plan and the Draft EIR during planned public hearings to be scheduled early next year. The Final EIR is slated for approval by this Committee and the Commission on March 13 and March 25, 2009, respectively.

Therese W. McMillan

TM: AN

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