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TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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*Memorandum*

TO: Planning Committee

DATE: December 5, 2008

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Policy

W. I.

RE: Transportation 2035 Equity Analysis – Preliminary Results

Since 1998, MTC has conducted an Equity Analysis (or Environmental Justice Analysis) of each of its Regional Transportation Plans. This assessment of the long-range plan is intended to satisfy federal requirements under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and federal policies and guidance on environmental justice. As a metropolitan planning organization, MTC is required to identify whether low-income and minority populations share equally in the benefits and burdens of proposed investments contained in the regional transportation plan.

There is, however, no standard national policy or guidance related to how an environmental justice assessment or equity analysis should be performed for a long-range plan, nor are there identified standards against which to measure our findings. For each RTP, staff has worked with various stakeholders to update and refine the Equity Analysis methodology, taking into account input from stakeholders including the Partnership Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC), MTC's Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC), and members of the public. In particular MCAC's Transportation 2035 Equity Analysis Subcommittee met numerous times over the past year and provided valuable input to staff on the development of the analysis.

The crux of the Equity Analysis is the comparison of distributional effects of the Transportation 2035 Plan between the region's low-income and minority communities of concern and the remainder of the region. In particular, the analysis is intended to address two key questions:

- (1) Does the Transportation 2035 Plan improve conditions for communities of concern, relative to the No Project scenario?
- (2) Do communities of concern receive similar or greater benefit compared to the remainder of the region under the Transportation 2035 Plan relative to the No Project alternative?

Staff will present and solicit input on the preliminary findings and conclusions from the Transportation 2035 Equity Analysis at your December 12 meeting (see attached PowerPoint slides).

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Therese McMillan

Attachment: PowerPoint presentation

SH: JY

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