

MTC Regional Pedestrian Committee

October 16, 2008

9:30 – 11:30 AM

Meeting Summary

1. Introductions

Present: Sean Co - MTC, Ed Alberto - City of San Francisco, Eric Anderson - City of Berkeley, Beth Thomas - Caltrans, David Grant - MTC Elderly & Disabled Advisory Committee, Heath Maddox - San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, Jason Patton - City of Oakland, Ana Validzic - San Francisco Department of Public Health, Rochelle Wheeler - Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority, Sara Woo - Solano Transportation Authority,

2. Summary of August meeting

Accepted without edits.

3. Regional Pedestrian Planning Needs Synthesis

Heath thanked Jason for his work on the Regional Pedestrian Needs memo. Jason noted that the Executive Summary and Recommendations are only 1 page each and provide a handy reference.

Jason noted that Brad Beck of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, who was not present at the meeting, had commented that the memo should highlight that pedestrian trips benefit regional traffic and air quality, particularly where they connect people to regional transit services.

Sean reported that he had met with MTC management to discuss regional pedestrian planning needs. MTC's new regional transportation plan (RTP), T2035, is nearly complete. It includes the regional bike network, but not a pedestrian element. However, T2035 more than doubles the amount of funding for the Transportation for Livable Communities program and infrastructure support for the Priority Development Areas (PDAs) from the regional blueprint called FOCUS. The programs will provide significant funding for pedestrian needs.

Sean explained that a regional pedestrian plan would not be developed at least in the next year, but pedestrian needs could get attention through a Regional Pedestrian Strategy. Sean had identified the following key pedestrian issues:

- Coordination
- Safety
- Defining the Need (Cost)

Safety

MTC has adopted the California Strategic Highway Safety Plan bicycle and pedestrian collision reduction targets. (The SHSP target is for 2010, while MTC's is for 2035.)

- Need pedestrian counts in order to assess exposure level

- In 2001, MTC hired Wilbur Smith to develop a methodology and take samples. The counts have not been updated. Sean will send a link to this report on the MTC website.
- Sean would like to revisit the locations. The Alta/ITE National Documentation project is underway. MTC or a consultant could potentially work with the local bicycle and pedestrian coalitions to train staff to take counts in coordination with the UC Traffic Safety Center.
- Heath suggested that PDAs have focus for before and after counts.
- 2007 SWTRS data just became available
 - Jason will send a summary to the group
 - Beth suggested that fatalities and severe injuries be shown separately from minor injuries (3 categories)
 - Eric said that we should be getting data for locations where we have some before and after control
 - Sean responded that MTC would like some data from all the counties

Locations were identified in 2001 and could be identified for future counts based on pedestrian activity and collision numbers – 5 or 6 per county.

The discussion continued regarding the counts. Heath stated that the SFMTA Bicycle Program has a robust bike counting program utilizing interns. The SFMTA Pedestrian Program would like to use the interns. It would be timed to have the counts done by next May. Sean reported that Alta will accept data even if it does not exactly match their methodology.

Rochelle reported that ACTIA is developing a count program for Alameda County, which should be coordinated with MTC on site selection and counts, including methodology.

The Committee agreed that a subcommittee on pedestrian counts should be formed. Sean said that he would send the Committee a link to the count database.

Eric stated that the Committee has to think about how to increase participation from cities with limited resources. Jason noted that cities need to agree on the methodology, but counts could be done by others.

Sean said that his goal is to begin doing counts by spring 2009.

Coordination and Defining the Need

Sean stated that the focus would be on community-based transportation plan (CBTP) areas, PDAs and TODs in trying to identify and prioritize capital improvement needs.

David pointed out that a high proportion of the Bay Area is in a PDA and that the focus needs to be coordinated with development proposals. Jason cautioned that a lot of PDAs are not regionally significant and CBTPs were established for socioeconomic reasons. He said that he liked the ACTIA approach of focusing on transit stations and corridors.

Implementation Issues

Sean stated that he would like to be ready to get a budget request submitted in Spring 2009 for the 1009-10 fiscal year. He also stated that he would have components moving forward in anticipation of the next RTP.

David said that EDAC could review the Regional Pedestrian Strategy at its November meeting and, if approved, recommend to the CAC that it be taken to the Commission for adoption and inclusion as a program in T2040.

4. 2009 Work Plan

Jason stated that he is interested in the Committee pursuing a project with a work product that could be completed by the end of the year.

The following are specific work plan items proposed by Committee members:

- Counts Subcommittee
 - Develop a count protocol (location, format, methodology).
 - Information sharing/database
- Regional Collision Analysis
 - Develop recommendations for approach, methodology and reporting.
- Coordination
 - Provide input on TLC program.
 - Provide review/input on Safe Routes to Schools and Safe Routes to Transit programs.
- Produce an annual update on the implementation of the Regional Pedestrian Strategy.
- Report on implementation of Routine Accommodation Policy.
 - In light of DD 64 revision
 - Check with local jurisdictions on successes and failures.
 - STP/CMAQ funding will become available for projects to which the Routine Accommodation checklist applies as soon as Spring 2009 or 2 years later.
- Disseminate Multimodal Level of Service best practice information to local agencies and CMAs.
 - NCHRP Report 616 could be a resource.
 - This item could be added to #6 from the 2008 Work Plan.
- Comment on the California Highway Design Manual revision.
- Disseminate best practice information on pedestrian crossings at uncontrolled locations from NCHRP Report 562.

5. SHSP Challenge Area 8 Conference Update (Wendy Alfsen of CA Walks reported by phone)

- Free pedestrian safety assessments are available.
- Pedestrian Safety Action Plan training will be available again next year.
- Pedestrian data – several efforts are ongoing. Caltrans may be putting more money into research.
- There is an effort to require shoulders and crosswalks.
- A couple of million dollars per year will be available in state funding.
- The just-adopted DD 64 revision will help.
- See the Pedestrian Safety and Advocacy Conference and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan websites. Wendy will send the link.

6. Chair and Vice Chair – Nominations

Sean stated that nominations are being accepted. Beth said that she is open to running for chair or vice chair; Ana stated that she is open to running for vice chair.

Nominations will be collected until the December meeting, when voting will occur.