



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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MTC Advisory Council  
December 10, 2008  
**Minutes**

Bob Planthold called the meeting to order at 12:38 p.m. In attendance were members Wendy Alfsen, Paul Cohen, Raphael Durr, Karla Goodbody, David Grant, Mary Griffin, William Hastings, Richard Hedges, Kathryn Hughes, Cathy Jackson, Julio Lacayo, Sherman Lewis, Xiao-Yun Lu, James McGhee, Eli Naor, Michael Pechner, and Don Rothblatt. Mr. Marhsall Loring also was in attendance.

**Minutes**

The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Public Comment**

No comment.

**Staff Report**

Ms. Therese Knudsen reminded the committee that certification for completion of the ethics training is due by the end of the year.

She also commented on the San Francisco Doyle Drive Update and stated that MTC committed \$80 million in bridge toll funds to the San Francisco County Transportation Agency to replace Doyle Drive, which ended months of discussion on how to finance the critical project.

Ms. Knudsen also mentioned the express lane coming to Sunol Grade, and that a groundbreaking ceremony was held on October 31, 2008 to initiate construction on the first toll lane in the Bay Area. The project will create a southbound express lane – a HOV lane that will double as a toll lane – on a 14-mile stretch of I-680 traversing the Sunol Grade.

Lastly, she stated that Chair Planthold learned of a new website available through the Office of Federal Liaison – <http://www.dot.ca.gov/fedliaison>, which lists the latest consensus information of the next surface transportation bill; the federal register notices affecting transportation in California; list of SAFETEA-LU earmarks; links to key congressional committees and California delegation members; and U.S. DOT and AASHTO websites.

**Work Plan**

Ms. Cathy Jackson discussed the format of the committee's work plan and suggested prioritizing at least five subject topics. She recommended 1) Transportation and Land Use, 2) Goods Movement, 3) Sustainable Transportation, 4) Transportation Funding and the Effect of the Fiscal Crisis, and 5) Business Outreach, Participants and Development.

Other comments included:

- prioritize climate change
- look at work plan at a high-level or as a vision and focus on details in subcommittees
- prioritize project selection and programming

The committee decided on looking at these top five subject topics as a priority: 1) Transportation and Land Use, 2) Sustainable Transportation, 3) Business Outreach, 4) Project Selection/Programming combined with Evaluation, and 5) a combination of both Transportation Funding and Transportation Pricing Reform. Mr. John McGhee moved approval, Mr. Planthold seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Report from the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC); Report from the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC)**

Mr. David Grant stated that EDAC passed a resolution calling for a Regional Pedestrian Plan (a similar resolution was passed by Advisory Council). He spoke to Commissioner Spering, Planning Committee Chair, and was agreeable to the idea of putting it on the Planning Committee agenda in January to talk about having the Commission adopt the policy.

Mr. James McGhee gave a report on MCAC's comments on the T2035 Equity Analysis. He stated that MCAC feels that the analysis does not give an accurate reflection of how proposed projects will affect the communities of concern. MCAC feels that over the past few RTP processes, MTC staff has made strong efforts to address these limitations. MCAC believes that MTC should implement different methodologies in future equity analyses and will work with staff to evaluate the possible models. He also stated that MCAC feels that the financial analysis shows a great deal more spending per low income household over the 25 years; however, the analysis does not make clear whether the investments in transit are truly being directed towards the transit services that low-income people use most. They also concluded that the housing affordability indicator assumes that the region's housing costs keeps pace with inflation over the next 25 years – MCAC believes this is false. He noted MCAC will continue to work and make recommendations to MTC.

Wendy Alfsen proposed that Advisory Council concur with MCAC's comments on the Equity Analysis. Chair Planthold suggested that the committee would need to review the Equity Analysis first, and would need to agendize the item prior to action.

Chair Planthold announced Urban Habitat's first State of the Region event on December 15.

**Regional Bicycle Plan/Routine Accommodations**

Mr. Sean Co stated that the Regional Bike Plan provides an updated inventory of the Regional Bikeway Network (RBN). The 2,140 miles of on-and off-street bicycle facilities connects to towns and cities in all nine counties, major activity centers, transit and the Bay Trail. While the RBN comprises 10 percent of the total highways and local streets and roads network when complete, 90 percent of Bay Area residents will be located about 1 mile from a portion of the

network when completed. Roughly half of the RBN projects intersect with Priority Development Areas, and provides access to regional transit.

He noted that the draft plan was released for comment at the November 14<sup>th</sup> Planning Committee, and will be accepted through January 31, 2009. The final report will be adopted along with the final Regional Transportation Plan in March 2009.

He also commented on the State Complete Streets Routine Accommodations. He stated that the checklist was completed in spring of 2007 and since that time there has not been a call for projects. The checklist is expected to be applied during MTC's next round of funding, which has been delayed due to the reauthorization of the federal transportation act Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act.

Mr. Co stated that in October, the California Complete Streets Act of 2008 was signed into law and "requires cities and counties to include complete streets policies as part of their general plans so that roadways are designed to safely accommodate all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, transit riders, children, older people, and disabled people, as well as motorists." The law complements Caltrans existing Deputy Directive 64 (DD64) which considers the needs of non-motorized travelers. It was recently updated to function as more of a complete streets policy. He noted that these laws and policies support MTC's Routine Accommodations Policy already in place.

Committee comments include:

- The safest routes for bicycles are primarily recreational that run along the bay. The bicycle routes that are striped are very narrow and unsafe. Prefer to see at least one north/south and east/west network for bicycles that are completely separate lanes for bicycles that are wide enough to be safe.

### **Attendance Policy**

Mr. Planthold stated that the three formally-appointed advisory committees have experienced situations where one or more members have been absent for four or more meetings each year of the two-year term, without communications as to why. He suggested the Commission consider revising its Resolution 3516 on attendance and proposed several suggestions as to how.

Current policy indicates that committee members must attend at least two-thirds of a committee's regularly scheduled meetings each year. Those who do not do so will be subject to dismissal from the committee at the discretion of the appointing commissioner(s).

Comments included:

- Several members like the idea of an attendance chart
- Others felt that the attendance chart did not need to be printed out to save paper
- A distinction should be made between excused and unexcused absences – excused absences are okay
- Don't penalize those for being late – otherwise, they may not come to a meeting if they are reprimanded for being late
- After 3 missed meetings, the committee member should be notified by the staff liaison
- Instructions for phone attendance should be available

- Develop language and forward it to the Commission
- Has the current policy been enforced? There doesn't seem to be a need to forward anything new to the Commission
- The Chair should call the absent member

Paul Cohen moved that after 3 unexcused absences, the Chair should call the member.

A subsequent motion was made by Chair Planthold to table the item. His motion passed.

### **TOD Choices**

Ms. Valerie Knepper, with consultant Ms. Ryan Greene Roesel, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the choice to reside in a Transit Oriented Development.

She stated that they have finished conducting the telephone survey of attitudinal factors related to the choice of where to move with the Bay Area. The results have been used to define eight market segments based on attitudinal statements. Some of the segments have a very strong preference for transit oriented development, specifically in San Francisco. Others have very little interest in living in transit oriented development, and others have strong interests that would tend to be less compatible with transit oriented development, such as a preference for good automobile access. Ms. Knepper stated that there are a few market shares that she would classify as TOD "borderline" – such as good transit access and convenience to do errands by walking/bicycling, but have some distinct concerns about TOD-style living. She noted that they are analyzing the attitudes of these groups closely, in order to determine factors that can be addressed through public policies to improve their attractiveness for these potential TOD groups.

The next steps are follow-up interviews with individuals who are in these "borderline" TOD interest groups to better understand policies that would make TOD more attractive to them.

She also stated that they are in the process of defining TOD Choices Study workshops. These will target a mix of public sector stakeholder, private sector developers, and non-governmental organizations with an interest in TOD.

In conclusion, she stated that they will develop a "Briefing Book" summarizing this information in a graphically attractive format, including photos and stories from individuals, and recommendations based on the study. Staff will be looking for the Advisory Council to provide input as to how the report can communicate most effectively.

In the interest of time, any committee comments/questions are to be directed to staff via email or telephone. This item will return to the committee on January 14, 2009 for further discussion.

### **Chair and Vice-Chair Elections**

Ms. Cathy Jackson was nominated to serve as Chair of the Advisory Council. The committee unanimously approved.

Mr. Bob Planthold was nominated to serve as Vice-Chair of the Advisory Council. The committee unanimously approved.

**Other Business/Public Comment**

There was no other business. The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled for January 14, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

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