Agenda Item 5

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: Minority Citizens Advisory Committee DATE: February 3, 2009

FR: Therese Knudsen, MTC Staff

RE: Upcoming Caltrans Grant – Transit Access to Health/Social Services

Transportation and land use enhancement is one of the strategies to improve coordination of service delivery outlined in the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan). The need for better coordination between land use development and transportation was raised in a number of public meetings during the outreach phase of the plan's development. Bay Area residents and agency staff cited examples of social service agencies, medical facilities, senior housing, and/or employment centers that are not easily accessible by public transportation. Participants noted that rather than locating key services near current transit routes, facilities sometimes build or relocate with the expectation that public transit can and will accommodate this location decision, which may or may not be feasible for the transit operator.

To examine and advance this coordination strategy further, MTC applied for and received a Caltrans planning grant to assess the transit accessibility of social service and health facilities in both urban and suburban areas within the East Bay region of the San Francisco Bay Area (Alameda and Contra Costa counties). The study will recommend ways to improve coordination between public transit operations and decisions about where these essential services are located.

MTC will hire a consultant to deliver the following products and outcomes:

- Create an illustration of transit-accessible health care and social service facilities (through GIS mapping);
- Document existing federal, state and local policies that guide locational decisions and propose new policies to incentivize decisions that place facilities at locations with transit access;
- Identify factors that influence locational decisions based on input from health care and social service decision makers, as well as local planning directors and their staff;
- Develop a regional strategy to encourage social service and health care agencies to coordinate with transit operators when making locational decisions. Incubation of this strategy will occur at a regional summit of health care professionals, planning directors, city managers, lenders, elected officials, public transit agencies and others.

A more detailed scope of work for the project is attached. I will be at your February 10 meeting to discuss the project further, and will welcome your comments.