



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 2

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Bill Dodd, Chair
Napa County and Cities

Legislation Committee
February 13, 2009
Minutes

Scott Haggerty, Vice Chair
Alameda County

Tom Azumbrado
U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Tom Bates
Cities of Alameda County

Dean J. Chu
Cities of Santa Clara County

Dave Cortese
Association of Bay Area Governments

Chris Daly
City and County of San Francisco

Dorene M. Giacomini
U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal D. Glover
Contra Costa County

Anne W. Halsted
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission

Steve Kinsey
Marin County and Cities

Sue Lempert
Cities of San Mateo County

Jake Mackenzie
Sonoma County and Cities

Jon Rubin
San Francisco Mayor's Appointee

Bijan Sartipi
State Business, Transportation
and Housing Agency

James P. Sperring
Solano County and Cities

Adrienne J. Tissier
San Mateo County

Amy Worth
Cities of Contra Costa County

Ken Yeager
Santa Clara County

Steve Heminger
Executive Director

Ann Flemer
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

Andrew B. Premier
Deputy Executive Director,
Bay Area Toll Authority

Therese W. McMillan
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Chair Rubin called the committee to order at 10:25 a.m. Committee members in attendance: Azumbrado, Chu, Dodd, Giacomini, Haggerty, Halsted, Lempert, Rubin, Sperring, Worth, Yeager. Also in attendance: Commissioners Bates, Kinsey, Mackenzie, Tissier.

Minutes of the Jan. 9, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Commissioner Lempert and a second by Commissioner Haggerty.

MTC Advisory Committees

Pam Grove of MTC staff asked the committee to consider seven appointments to MTC's advisory committees: Dolores Jaquez, Marc Roddin, and Thora Worrell to the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC), and Ramesh Dhingra, Lee Pierce, David Rosas, and Jim Simon to the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC). Ms. Grove said there continues to be vacancies; however, staff does not plan to have vacancy recruitment prior to the regularly scheduled full recruitment because the current terms expire in July 2009. The appointments were approved after a motion by Commissioner Yeager and a second by Commissioner Chu. Resolution 3516, Revised was referred to the Commission.

State Budget Update

Rebecca Long of MTC staff reported that legislators are close to reaching a deal and that a vote may occur by Feb. 14. She outlined the deal as it relates to transportation with \$15 billion in cuts, \$14 billion in new revenue and \$11 billion in borrowing dependent on the federal economic stimulus. Proposed revenue sources include a one-cent increase in state sales tax, a 12-cent per gallon increase in gasoline tax, a doubling of the vehicle license fee, and a personal income tax surcharge. She noted that most of the gasoline tax revenue would go to offset the state's General Fund obligation debt service for transportation bonds that are outstanding, but there may be some spillover. Of note, Proposition 42 will not be suspended, and the State Transit Assistance program (STA) for the region will have a loss of \$83 million from the expected \$112 million. The STA will not receive any more funds in the current year; therefore, most transit operators in the region may have to cutback service.

In response to commissioner questions, Ms. Long said there were no reports to indicate indexing of the gas tax; that no vehicle registration revenue is designated for transportation; and the STA was not being permanently eliminated, but redirected in the short term. Commissioner Bates highlighted concerns over the budget's spending cap. Randy Rentschler of MTC staff said the state is seeking to better itself, not local government. Executive Director Steve Heminger said that the user-fee principle is proving valuable because transportation funding loses to the General Fund, always. He said we need to convince voters to change to user fees rather than bonds.

Legislative History

Ms. Long distributed the Feb. 6, 2009 edition of the Legislative History and noted that the state's deadline to introduce new bills is the end of February. Bills of interest to MTC are: AB 112 (Beall), AB 144 (Ma), and AB 153 (Ma).

Legislative Visits to Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

Ms. Long provided the committee with information regarding the annual trips to Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Commissioners will receive a schedule of meetings for the Washington, D.C. trip.

Federal Legislation

Federal Transportation Authorization

Mr. Rentschler recommended that the California Consensus principles, which were introduced last month, be taken to the Commission for approval with emphasis on Principles 1, 3, and 4 in its advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C. Commissioner Mackenzie mentioned the need to place a strong emphasis on Principle 6 and recommended it be added to the list of principles to be emphasized. Commissioner Kinsey questioned how emphasis on the three principles demonstrated our region's support for alternative transportation measures. Mr. Heminger responded it would be supported through a new Metro Mobility program (Principle 4), which can cover a lot of mobility issues. Commissioner Yeager pointed out the need to focus on Principle 1 in order to focus on Principle 6 and recommended the Commission focus on all it can.

Chair Rubin recognized members of the public:

Carli Paine of TransForm noted the lack of focus on land-use policy and a lack of funding for active transportation in the principles. She urged the commission to include Principle 6, and added that if the Metro Mobility program will address these issues, then the language needs to be changed.

Diana Dorinson, a member of the public, supported the need to include land-use and pricing policy in the principles.

Laura Cohen of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy submitted to the committee proposed language to be included as a new principle, Principle 8, of the California Consensus principles.

The principles, including emphasis on Principles 1, 3, 4 and 6, were approved after a motion by Commissioner Lempert and a second by Commissioner Spring.

Tom Bulger's Report

Tom Bulger's report was presented to the committee followed by an update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 by Mr. Heminger. Mr. Heminger went over a side-by-side comparison of the House and Senate economic recovery proposals. He stated that the region ended up with lower numbers after the conference. He also pointed out that the aggressive deadlines are still in the proposal, as well as the Buy America clause. Mr. Rentschler pointed out that the state is required to put the federal money into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) or the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP).

Other Business/Public Comment/Adjourn

David Schonbrunn, of TRANSDEF, said the search engine on MTC's Web site does not fully access information within the site and is working cooperatively with Mr. Rentschler to address the issue. Mr. Rentschler responded by stating that the issue was being taken care of. The committee's next meeting was scheduled for Mar. 13, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.