Agenda Item 3

METROPOLITAN
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COMMISSION

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Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Mar. 5, 2009

Chair Paul Branson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Members in attendance: Janet Abelson, Ken Altenburger, Joe Bischofberger, Eleanor Bloch, Richard Burnett, David Grant, Rich Hedges, Dolores Jaquez, Julio Lacayo, Suzanne Levine, Marshall Loring, Joshua Miele, Dennis Trenten, Doug Weir, Thora Worrell. Excused: Myrtle Braxton, Marc Roddin, Craig Yates.

Public Comment from Audience Members

No audience members present.

Minutes

Minutes of the Feb. 5, 2009 meeting were approved after a motion by Mr. Hedges and a second by Mr. Loring. Abstaining: Ms. Jaquez, Ms. Worrell.

Member Updates

Mr. Weir announced that Commissioner Bill Dodd may be attending the May EDAC meeting. Mr. Loring announced that opposition has emerged for High Speed Rail (HSR) in San Mateo County. Mr. Hedges noted that the two cities in San Mateo County entered into a lawsuit against HSR voted in favor of it in November. He would like to do a presentation about transportation ideas from other areas.

Advisory Council Report

Mr. Grant reported on the February meeting of the Council. There was a presentation on MTC's proposal for allocation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding, one on the state budget, and members also spoke about land use issues regarding SB 375.

Subcommittee Reports

Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee Chair Grant reported that he and Mr. Loring attended the Regional Pedestrian Safety meeting. The subcommittee is working on a pedestrian safety plan to be included in the next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). To do this, he suggested doing pedestrian counts based on counts completed in 2003, while also including new sites. He suggested EDAC act as a vehicle for recruiting volunteers to do the counts.

Chair Branson noted that the current RTP does not include specific information about pedestrian safety because there is no pedestrian safety plan for the Bay Area. Mr. Loring noted that the RTP includes specificity regarding bicycles. Mr. Hedges congratulated Mr. Grant for his work and also noted that, even though they aren't necessarily directly interested in pedestrian safety issues, the bicycle community can be a key ally because they are very organized and focused. Ms. Abelson volunteered to work on counts in El Cerrito. She noted that a contact from the Alameda County Health Department is also interested in this work.

Ms. Levine asked why the intersections studied in 2003 were chosen and by whom, and she suggested including pedestrians who use mobility aides in the new counts. She noted she is a member of the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and offered to be a bridge to start the dialogue with the bicycle community. Chair Grant responded by commenting that the sites were chosen by MTC, but he did not know why the sites were chosen. Mr. Loring said that issue has to be addressed with the county's Congestion Management Agency (CMA). He suggested CMAs be contacted to verify if the same list be used for the new study. Ms. Bloch asked who times pedestrian countdowns at signals. Mr. Loring said the standards are set by local public works traffic engineers. Mr. Miele asked if there is a search function in the CHP's Statewide Accident and Injury Information Related to Vehicles database. Mr. Grant said he never found one.

Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee Co-Chair Hedges said that the committee now has the authority to present their work regarding housing accessibility in transit-oriented developments outside of MTC. The subcommittee is working on accessibility legislation, and an accessibility policy to be included in future grants given by MTC.

Technology Subcommittee Chair Miele announced that the first subcommittee meeting will be next month, tentatively after the EDAC meeting.

Mobility Management Subcommittee Co-Chair Branson announced their first meeting would follow the EDAC meeting.

Chair's Report

Chair Branson welcomed the committee's newest members: Dolores Jaquez (representing the elderly community of Sonoma County) and Thora Worrell (representing the disabled community of Santa Clara County). He announced that a third member, Marc Roddin (representing the elderly community of Santa Clara County), will attend EDAC's meeting in April.

Ms. Worrell noted that she wants to contribute to the committee because, after 54 years of driving, she is now a pedestrian. Ms. Jaquez joined the committee because she realized that there is no way to access the East Bay from Sonoma via public transit. Chair Branson invited the new members to join one of the subcommittees, which he noted is where the majority of EDAC's work is done.

Staff Liaison Report – Ms. Vogler's announcements:

- Doug Johnson was promoted to Senior Planner, replacing James Corless.
- Ms. Vogler will send out the subcommittee list one more time so members can make final selections.
- New member, Marc Roddin, will attend next month's meeting.

Legislative Report

Rebecca Long of MTC staff reported on the newly adopted state budget. The bad news is that the State Transit Assistance (STA) program, which provides operating funding for transit, was cut significantly by more than half for this year, eliminated through FY 2013. Service cut backs and fare increases are expected. The budget included revenue increases for a rainy day fund; the timing of the increases is contingent on ballot measures in a special election on May 19 (if the measures are approved by voters, the increases will last longer.) The legislature was also interested in imposing a spending cap.

The deadline to introduce bills was February 27. Ms. Long will provide a summary of applicable bills to EDAC at next month's meeting. At the federal level, MTC took action on formula-based funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Further discussions will take place at the Legislation Committee meeting on March 13 regarding

discretionary funds. There is a proposal at the state level, which MTC staff supports, to change the way the stimulus funds will flow within California to provide more flexibility. If nothing is passed, the money will go to Caltrans for the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Member comment:
Mr. Hedges asked if there was something introduced regarding the legal framework for eminent domain regarding high-speed rail (HSR). Ms. Long responded it may be one of the bills introduced. In addition, a bill was introduced to consolidate all rail into a new state department, the Department of Rail. Mr. Miele asked if there was any money explicitly for accessibility, and what is the expected cost of HSR. Ms. Long responded that a portion of the transportation funding will go to the broad category of transportation enhancements, which totals $77 million statewide (HSR is estimated to cost around $40 billion.) Mr. Trenten asked if the stimulus money will supplement STA funds cut in the state budget process. Ms. Long said that some of the money allocated to operators could be used for preventive maintenance, which would free up other monies the operators have for operations.

ARRA Update
Ross McKeown of MTC staff presented an update on the Commission's adoption of MTC staff's funding proposal for the ARRA. Mr. McKeown highlighted several projects that will receive funding from the ARRA.

Member comment:
Ms. Bloch asked if I-880 would be repaved. Mr. McKeown noted there are several projects in that corridor, but rehabilitation will most likely come once the big projects are completed. Ms. Levine asked if Caltrans is discouraging local jurisdictions from applying for funding for curb ramp improvements. Mr. McKeown noted that it is a federal requirement that projects using federal funds meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, Caltrans included; however, Caltrans is discouraging projects that "touch dirt" (which can trigger additional studies and delays) due to the time constraints included in the ARRA. Mr. Hedges noted his support of the Commission's decision on how to direct the ARRA funds, especially the Oakland Airport connector. Ms. Abelson suggested that members do their due diligence to make sure the

new projects meet ADA requirements. Mr. Lacayo asked if there was a "Plan B" for projects that do not meet the deadlines. Mr. McKeown said that if a project does not meet the Commission's 60-day deadline, Caltrans staff and the county's CMA must analyze if the project can meet the 90-day ARRA deadline. If it cannot, the funds will be redirected to the Tier 2 list of projects approved by the Commission. Mr. Trenten asked if the money can be used for operations. Mr. McKeown noted that ARRA funding is specifically for capital projects; however, as mentioned earlier, the ARRA funds can potentially free up other funds previously designated for rehabilitation. Ms. Abelson noted that there is a concern that the money will not be processed promptly due to time constraints.

Section 5310

Kristen Mazur of MTC staff presented information on the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Elderly and Disabled Specialized Transit Program (49 U.S.C. Section 5310). This is a formula program that provides grants to private nonprofit corporations and public agencies for safe, efficient, and coordinated transportation services for seniors and persons with disabilities when transportation is unavailable or insufficient.

Member comment:

Ms. Jaquez asked if anyone can apply for funding. Ms. Mazur said nonprofit organizations usually receive most of the funding, but public agencies can apply for funding as long as there are no other nonprofits that qualify for the same funding. Mr. Miele asked if the restrictions for the vehicles were specifically for special accessible vehicles. Ms. Abelson noted that funding can be used only to purchase specific vehicles from a list. Ms. Levine asked if emergency preparedness is eligible for funding. Ms. Mazur responded that new requirements were added in the scoring criteria to get organizations to join their county's emergency preparedness plan. Ms. Abelson noted that applicants must really weigh the efforts of applying versus the amount of funding received. Ms. Mazur said that MTC is very involved in the review and pre-scoring of the applications. Mr. Loring encouraged members to attend application workshops in order to prepare an effective application.

Mr. Hedges noted that there are serious cuts coming to senior transportation, so anything that can be done to make the system work is encouraged.

Other Business, Next Meeting

There was no other business. The next EDAC meeting was scheduled for Apr. 2, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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