



METROPOLITAN
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COMMISSION

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Scott Haggerty, Chair
Alameda County

MINORITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes – March 10, 2009

Adrienne J. Tissier, Vice Chair
San Mateo County

Attendance

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

The meeting was called to order at 3:17 p.m. Those in attendance were Vice Chair Darnell Turner, Luis Quinonez and Michael Rubiano of Contra Costa County; Jacquée Castain of Alameda County; Raphael Durr and Charles Rivasplata of Marin County; Robert Liems of Napa County; Dustin Daza and Harvey Louie of San Francisco; William Allen of San Mateo County; Michael Lopez of Santa Clara County; Jim Simon of Solano County; Lee Pierce and David Rosas of Sonoma County; Randi Kinman and Dawn Love, Low Income Representatives; and Michael D’Augelli, Native American Representative. Carlos Castellanos of Alameda County, Gerald Rico of Napa County, James McGhee of San Francisco, Carlos Romero and Wayne Lee of San Mateo County and Ramesh Dhingra of Santa Clara County were excused.

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

Bill Dodd
Napa County and Cities

Dorene M. Giacomini
U.S. Department of Transportation

MTC staff in attendance included Pam Grove, Valerie Knepper, Georgia Lambert, Peter Lee and Ross McKeown. Bob Planthold, MTC Advisory Council vice chair, was also in attendance.

Federal D. Glover
Contra Costa County

Anne W. Halsted
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission

Meeting Minutes

Steve Kinsey
Marin County and Cities

The February 10, 2009 meeting minutes were approved with one abstention.

Sue Lempert
Cities of San Mateo County

Chair’s Report

Jake Mackenzie
Sonoma County and Cities

Vice Chair Turner reported that Chair McGhee is in Sacramento. He introduced MCAC’s newest members in attendance: Lee Pierce, former vice mayor of Santa Rosa and former planning commissioner who has lived in Sonoma County for 31 years; Luis Quinonez, former senior aide to Congresswoman Barbara Lee and current chief of staff to Contra Costa County Supervisor Susan Bonilla; David Rosas, member of various boards in Sonoma County; and Jim Simon, a former member of MTC’s Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee, representing Solano County.

Jon Rubin
San Francisco Mayor’s Appointee

Bijan Sartipi
State Business, Transportation
and Housing Agency

James P. Spering
Solano County and Cities

Amy Worth
Cities of Contra Costa County

MCAC Member Reports

Ken Yeager
Santa Clara County

Advisory Council: Raphael Durr stated that the Advisory Council meeting covered the same material presented to MCAC at their February meeting.

Steve Heminger
Executive Director

Ann Flener
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

Lifeline Subcommittee: Subcommittee Vice Chair Michael Lopez reported that the subcommittee met at La Clinica on Monument Boulevard in Pleasant Hill on February 26 to ride the shuttle run by County Connection. The route travels through

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

Therese W. McMillan
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

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MCAC Member Reports (continued)

neighborhoods, retail and professional offices to Sun Valley Mall and back, and costs \$0.50 per person. The route will reportedly be discontinued because of lack of funding and low ridership. Bill Allen added that the tour director seemed discouraged due to lack of funds, and this case underscores the need to monitor Lifeline funding. David Rosas suggested the need for signage near the bus or at the mall, materials in Spanish or with symbols to assist Hispanic and non-literate riders, better marketing and better rapport between the driver and the passengers. Dustin Daza recommended that La Clinica be added as a regular bus stop on a route to Sun Valley if the shuttle is cancelled. It was agreed that the subcommittee would forward any suggestions they might have to Therese Trivedi, MTC planner, for follow-up with the initial supporters of the shuttle.

Equity Analysis Subcommittee: The Transportation 2035 Equity Analysis subcommittee met on February 19 to form a new subcommittee and develop its work plan. The new subcommittee would work with MTC staff to explore ways to improve the current RTP equity analysis methodology and provide a status report on its progress in July. In addition, members would assist MTC staff in the development of a “snapshot” analysis of regional mobility and track any emerging issues related to equity. A chart outlining specific steps and a timeline for the goals was included in the packet. Randi Kinman moved to accept the new work plan and the motion was seconded and approved with two abstentions. Charles Rivasplata said the subcommittee members also look forward to meeting with MTC staff to discuss the activity-based model.

High School Internship Subcommittee: Subcommittee Vice Chair Michael D’Augelli reported that the subcommittee met earlier in the day just prior to the MCAC meeting. Ann Macaulay, MTC staff, reported to the subcommittee that all counties have requested interns. A college intern to coordinate the program will be hired later this month. Applications for high school intern positions can now be found on MTC’s Web site, and the application deadline is April 22. MCAC members are requested to assist in the recruitment of students, especially in the northern counties (Sonoma, Solano, Marin and Sonoma). Mr. Allen suggested there may be funds available from the counties that could be used to fund additional interns.

Update on MTC’s Economic Recovery Proposal

Ross McKeown, MTC programming and funding manager, provided an update on the funding proposal for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act adopted by the Commission in February. In response to comments on the proposal, approximately 80% (approximately \$400 million) of the regional discretionary funds will go to rehabilitation (which is consistent with the Transportation 2035 Plan), and the remaining 20% is split between some strategic investments (for specific details, go to <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/ARRA/index.htm>). Progress reports will be required by the federal government and also will be posted on MTC’s Web site.

Bob Planthold expressed dissatisfaction with “curb-to-curb” paving in lieu of sidewalks. He said curb-to-curb paving does not comply with court-ordered path of travel requirements for complete sidewalks, repaired sidewalks or curb ramps for disability access (per Title 24). He also stated that while MTC staff has committed to comply orally, he feels they should do so in writing, and commit to monitor and require jurisdictions receiving these funds to comply.

Update on MTC's Economic Recovery Proposal (continued)

Randi Kinman expressed concern over sidewalk repair not being a local priority, even though it could be a means of employing small businesses and is important for people being able to get to and from jobs locally. She also stated that a segment of the population – immigrant and minority populations that are not necessarily plugged into the network – does not cruise the Web looking for work, and there needs to be multiple modes of outreach and not sole dependency on the Internet.

Mr. Allen inquired about quarterly tracking of minority participation in awarding contracts. It was announced that Caltrans' new DBE goal methodology, including the portion of the overall goal it proposed to meet through race-neutral and race-conscious means, has been conditionally approved, and all sub-recipients will be required to implement the new race-neutral and race-conscious program by June 2, 2009. Several members asked clarifying questions about the new race-neutral/race-conscious DBE goals and how they will affect the bidding process on these contracts. MTC staff stated that further information about the new DBE goals will be presented at the March 24 Contracting subcommittee meeting and also at the April MCAC meeting.

TransLink® for Transit-Oriented Development

Valerie Knepper, MTC planner, presented a status report on a joint pilot project with AC Transit which provided 1,400 free AC Transit passes to residents of select Transit-Oriented Developments in the East Bay for an introductory period. Details were provided in the packet. Use of the passes is being monitored and results will be analyzed to determine the effectiveness of the program. The program will be completed in June.

Seismic Retrofit Update

Peter Lee, MTC senior transportation engineer, provided an informational update on seismic retrofit projects in the Bay Area, including the replacement of the East Span of the Bay Bridge, the new Benicia-Martinez Bridge and the I-880/Highway 92 interchange reconstruction. Mr. Allen inquired about the bidding process for the Bay Bridge retrofit. Mr. Lee said the original bid differential was approximately \$400 million, with fabrication in Shanghai vs. in the U.S. The same contractor said he didn't think he would be able to find a fabricator domestically who would be able to complete the project.

Staff Report

Ms. Grove went over her staff report in the packet. At the Planning Committee on March 13, MTC staff will propose a postponement of final adoption of the Transportation 2035 Plan, the final EIR and the final Conformity Analysis. Staff also will present a revised schedule for final Plan adoption. The postponement is primarily due to two recent events – Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's recent upsizing of projected costs for the BART to San Jose project in conjunction with the downsizing of their sales tax revenue forecast, and State budget cuts, particularly in STA funding for transit operations.

Staff Report (continued)

Mr. Dhingra, representing the Asian community of Santa Clara County, was ill and could not attend today's meeting, Ms. Grove said. She said MCAC's roster is currently at its fullest in recent history, with 24 of 26 available seats filled.

Dawn Love announced that AC Transit was having a public meeting on March 11 at 5 p.m. addressing the fare hike for the elderly, disabled, youth and low income and she urged members to attend. Mr. Louie reminded the committee that a Business Outreach workshop is scheduled regarding Disadvantaged Business Enterprise certification on March 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.