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MINORITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes – May 12, 2009

Attendance

The meeting was called to order at 3:19 p.m. Those in attendance were Chair James McGhee, Dustin Daza and Harvey Louie of San Francisco; Jacquee Castain and Carlos Castellanos of Alameda County; Raphael Durr and Charles Rivasplata of Marin County; Robert Liems and Gerald Rico of Napa County; Bill Allen and Carlos Romero of San Mateo County; Michael Lopez of Santa Clara County; Jim Simon of Solano County; Lee Pierce and David Rosas of Sonoma County; Dawn Love, Low Income Representative; and Michael D'Augelli, Native American Representative. Randi Kinman, Wayne Lee and Michael Rubiano were excused.

MTC staff in attendance included Pam Grove, Doug Kimsey, Georgia Lambert, Anne Richman, Glen Tepke and Jennifer Yeamans. Marisa Cravens, ABAG staff member, was also in attendance.

Meeting Minutes

Lee Pierce stated that last month he asked a question regarding the 6.75% race-conscious earmark for the new statewide DBE goals. He wanted to know what happens to the funds if there are no DBEs in a particular jurisdiction. Could the 6.75% be retained in the jurisdiction for the purpose of outreaching to those who might fit the race-conscious category and work for the contractors who are successful in their bid? He would still like a answer from staff to his question.

The April 14, 2009 meeting minutes were approved with one abstention.

Chair's Report

Chair McGhee attended a meeting representing MCAC at the San Francisco African-American Chamber of Commerce and the San Francisco African-American Democratic Club regarding the economic stimulus recovery program. Because neither Teri Green nor Denise Rodrigues, MTC staff, could attend the event, Ms. Green assembled an executive summary on the stimulus package and he presented it (reiterating that he does not work for MTC). Mr. Pierce said he has been asked to make a similar presentation at a local business expo. Chair McGhee said it is better to have MTC staff present when possible, but MCAC members can represent MCAC. Bill Allen suggested a legal interpretation be obtained as to the presentation of public information as MCAC representatives. Chair McGhee said any committee member can disseminate information on behalf of MCAC (but not MTC).

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MCAC Member Reports

Advisory Council: Chair McGhee said he would report on both the April and May Advisory Council meetings next month.

High School Internship Subcommittee: Jacquee Castain, subcommittee chair, said the subcommittee met earlier in the day just prior to the MCAC meeting. There are now a total of 239 student applicants, with every county represented. The subcommittee is working to find additional money in order to fund more than the 25 MTC-funded interns. Chair McGhee suggested a contact for Wells Fargo Bank that the subcommittee could follow up with, and Mr. Allen said that the Work Force Investment Boards are getting stimulus funds for youth summer jobs. Ms. Castain invited MCAC members to attend the June 23 orientation for the high school interns, whose parents are also invited to attend. Invitations will be sent out with further details.

Equity Analysis Subcommittee: Carlos Romero, subcommittee vice-chair, reported that the Equity Analysis subcommittee met on April 30. He reported that the snapshot analysis will focus on five areas: access and mobility, affordability and funding, safety, environment, and quality of service. The overarching goal of the snapshot analysis has not been finalized, and at the next meeting staff will bring a list of additional data sources that could be utilized in the analysis. From there, they can determine what information is missing and what information is available to help answer some key questions. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet again on May 28.

Update on Development Without Displacement Program

Marisa Cravens, regional planner with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), gave some background on FOCUS, a joint-agency program which directs resources to Priority Development Areas (PDAs) in cities that have nominated their local neighborhoods to receive funding. PDAs are areas within existing communities that are near public transit that have plans for a significant increase in housing. Ms. Cravens stated that around the same time as the FOCUS program begain, ABAG received a Caltrans environmental justice grant for a related program which they call Development without Displacement. Many of the areas where funds will be invested are within communities of concern and could be negatively affected by gentrification and displacement if the development is not done in an equitable manner. While only 7% of all Census tracks in the Bay Area have experienced some sort of gentrification over the last 20 years, 80% of those are near public transit, and many of these are in affordable areas. The challenge is to invest in these areas and make it possible for more people to live there without disrupting the affordability balance. The Development without Displacement program was created to increase understanding of gentrification/displacement, as well as increase awareness of equitable development policies that jurisdictions can use to capture the benefits of new growth. Three cities (which are profiled in more detail in the packet) have received a grant, including Richmond, Oakland (Lake Merritt area) and San Francisco (in the eastern neighborhoods near Mission and 24 Streets). MCAC members are invited to learn more at a

Update on Development Without Displacement Program (continued)

FOCUS forum, "Development with Diversity," from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on June 25 at the Library at SPUR's Urban Center at 654 Mission Street in San Francisco. Additional information is available at www.bayareavision.org.

Mr. Allen asked how many businesses in the San Francisco area are actually owned by Latinos vs. minorities who may simply work there, and requested that percentages in the report be reflected as dollars. Mr. Pierce asked about the average funding amount, and Ms. Cravens replied that the grants ranged from $25,000 to $50,000. Ms. Castain asked if there are any associated well-paying jobs, commenting that transit villages and TODs need to focus on providing jobs in and near the transit station. Ms. Cravens said that the main concept for this project was for broader neighborhood strategies, and the next step will be to focus on jobs in surrounding areas. She commented further that there is more development to come, but the focus is on smaller businesses, and there is not yet information on how jobs and demographics have changed. Mr. Romero expressed concern that there is no requirement in the planning process for a "hardwired" inclusion of affordable housing that's related to land use.

Update on Proposed Transit Capital Priorities (TCP) Policy

Glen Tepke and Anne Richman, MTC staff, provided an update on proposed changes for the region's Transit Capital Priorities policy that governs the annual distribution of nearly $400M in FTA funds for transit capital maintenance and replacement. The FTA authorization for these funds expires this year, and the new authorization could have major changes in the program. The TCP policy also will be changing to include the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (for the region's ferries). For fiscal years 2010-2012, the biggest share of the funding is for vehicle replacements for the region's top three transit providers – BART, Caltrain and SF Muni. There are 21 transit operators that qualify for the funds; types of vehicles being replaced include buses and vans, and fixed guideway projects will also receive funds (but will have a cap). Mr. Tepke went over the major changes proposed to the TCP policy, including establishment of a reserve, assistance for operators in addressing shortfalls, and revision (decrease) of fixed guideway caps (but with more flexibility).

MCAC members inquired about the cost-effective and utilization of buses vs. fixed guideway projects (especially in the communities of concern), and wondered if the amount for preventive maintenance should be increased. Chair McGhee referred the discussion to the Lifeline subcommittee, asking them to return next month with a recommendation.

A draft of the TCP policy goes before the Programming and Allocations Committee in May and will be presented in final form to the Commission in June.

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Discussion of Use of High-Occupancy-Toll (HOT) Lane Revenues

Doug Kimsey, director of MTC's planning section, explained proposed policies that would direct HOT/Express lane revenues. About $6 billion of net revenue is anticipated over the next 25 years but he noted that the HOT lanes have not yet been approved by the legislative authority. It is intended that 95 percent of generated revenues go back to the area where generated. There are two priorities for the funds: transit use and reduction of vehicle emissions. Congestion management agencies, CHP, BATA and Caltrans would decide at the local level how to use generated funds. MCAC members queried how lanes would be distinguished from current HOV lanes and what deterrents would be in place. Mr. Kimsey said that the CHP would be patrolling and there is technology on the horizon that would assist with enforcement. When asked whether HOT lanes would meet the needs of people of color, Mr. Kimsey indicated that the net revenue would be used to fund other forms of transit, thus lowering emissions, which would be good for everyone. Carpools will still travel free, he said. Mr. Romero expressed concern about the "last-mile conundrum" and questioned whether HOT lanes are equitable. Revenue projections are for 24-hour use vs. only during carpool hours. SR-91 in Orange County, I-15 in San Diego and routes in Houston, Minneapolis and Miami are currently using HOT lanes, Mr. Kimsey said.

Staff Report

Ms. Grove announced that the ABAG report given today would be posted in color on MTC's Web site. A revised staff report was distributed, including some contracting/DBE updates. Upcoming FOCUS forums are detailed in the staff report, along with an announcement regarding the annual MCAC dinner on June 9 which will follow the regularly scheduled MCAC meeting. An Equity Analysis subcommittee meeting is scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m. on May 28 in MTC's Claremont Conference Room (check in on third floor).

Other Business/Public Comment

Ms. Love distributed flyers with details about AC Transit community workshops being held in the Bay Area and urged all to attend. She said she had been interviewed by CBS. Ms. Grove announced that Ms. Love will be receiving her AA degree on May 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.