



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: June 2, 2009

FR: Pam Grove, Public Information Officer

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Report – June 2009

Notice of Bay Bridge Closure

The Bay Bridge will be closed in both directions over the 2009 Labor Day weekend, allowing crews to perform an operation critical to the construction of the bridge's new East Span. The maneuver will shift all bridge traffic to a detour viaduct currently under construction south of the existing bridge on Yerba Buena Island. After the holiday weekend, workers will then begin demolishing that section of the original bridge and begin building a new, permanent connector from the tunnel east to the landmark self-anchored suspension (SAS) section of the new East Span. When the bridge reopens on the morning of Tuesday, September 8, 2009, traffic will job slightly onto the detour bridge, which will then link the current East Span to the Yerba Buena Island Tunnel. (See attached flyer for more details.)

MTC is working with Caltrans and other transportation agencies to ensure mobility options for transbay travelers. BART will run all-night service to select stations over Labor Day weekend, and extra vessels will be deployed to expand ferry service on select routes. (There will be no bus service across the Bay Bridge.) Travelers who must drive between San Francisco and the East Bay are advised to use the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge, the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, or the Golden Gate Bridge. Caltrans is deploying extra toll takers for those bridges for the weekend. As always, check www.511.org for updates.

MTC Releases Annual Congestion Monitoring Report

Traffic congestion on Bay Area freeways fell last year for the first time since 2003, according to the latest congestion-monitoring data released by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Caltrans District 4 last week. The daily number of vehicle hours of delay due to congestion in the nine-county region dropped 12 percent in 2008. Among the "Top 10" list of congestion hot spots for 2008, the morning commute along westbound Interstate 80 to the Bay Bridge toll plaza retained its longtime hold on the top spot with an average 7,800 daily vehicle hours of delay.

To read the press release and see video of the May 27, 2009 press conference on the topic, visit MTC's Web site at <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/congestion>.

Puget Sound Toll Report

“Hot” on the heels of last month’s discussion of express lanes, I thought I would include some information on a recent study by the Washington State Department of Transportation on the impact of tolling on low-income individuals in their region. Attached is a copy of the Executive Summary, Introduction and Background sections of the report, titled “The Impacts of Tolling on Low-income Persons in the Puget Sound Region.”

To view a copy of the full report, please visit the MCAC packet area of MTC’s Web site, or go to the WSDOT Web site at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/research/reports/fullreports/721.1.pdf>.

Follow-up Information on Contracting/DBE-Related Issues

The Contracting Subcommittee will meet just prior to next Tuesday’s regular MCAC meeting (see Meeting Reminders, below); however, I wanted to include some new information here on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the DBE program.

The actual DOT language reads as follows:

“A person who is "disabled" may apply to the DBE program by demonstrating social and economic disadvantage on a case-by-case basis. The DBE regulations provide the following guidance regarding individual determinations of disadvantage:

- At least one objective distinguishing feature that has contributed to social disadvantage, such as race, ethnic origin, gender, disability, long-term residence in an environment isolated from the mainstream of American society, or other similar causes not common to individuals who are not socially disadvantaged;
- Personal experiences of substantial and chronic social disadvantage in American society, not in other countries; and
- Negative impact on entry into or advancement in the business world because of the disadvantage....[R]ecipients will consider education, employment and business history, where applicable, to see if the totality of circumstances shows disadvantage in entering into or advancing in the business world.”

In addition, DOT states, "the Department notes that people with disabilities have disproportionately low incomes and high rates of unemployment. Many physical and attitudinal barriers remain to their full participation in education, employment, and business opportunities available to the general public. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed in recognition of the discrimination faced by people with disabilities. It is plausible that many individuals with disabilities – especially persons with severe disabilities (e.g., significant mobility, vision, or hearing impairments) – may be socially and economically disadvantaged."

Any questions you might have regarding the above qualifications, as well as other topics, will be addressed at the Contracting Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, June 9.

Attached also is a flyer for the Northern California Minority Supplier Development Council's 2009 Minority Business Opportunity Expo. The event is Thursday, August 6, so this announcement should give MCAC members plenty of time to spread the word to interested parties.

There are also several other flyers included in the Contracting Subcommittee packet.

Reminder: Upcoming Focus Forums

MCAC was given information last month about some upcoming FOCUS Forums in the next few months. I wanted to remind you of the next two workshops in June and July:

- On June 25 the "Development with Diversity" discussion continues at a FOCUS forum to be held at The Urban Center in San Francisco. Community based organizations and their local jurisdiction partners will discuss their strategic successes in retaining existing residents and businesses during community improvements.
- And on July 9, guest speaker Dr. Richard Jackson will explore the existing state of ill health in urban areas. The FOCUS forum will be held at the Port of San Francisco, Pier 1, in San Francisco.

For information on the forums, see the attachment, or visit the ABAG Web site at:

<http://www.bayareavision.org/initiatives/speakerseries.html>

High School Internship Orientation

A reminder that this summer's MTC high school internship program will hold its orientation on Tuesday, June 23rd, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., in the MetroCenter Auditorium. All MCAC members are invited, and if you are interested in attending, please contact Kordnie Lee, the High School Intern Coordinator, at 510-817-5807.

Meeting Reminders

- **Contracting Subcommittee**
Tuesday, June 9, 2009, 2:15 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Conference Room 171 (First Floor)
- **Equity Analysis Subcommittee**
Thursday, June 18, 2009, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Third Floor "Fishbowl" Conference Room
- **High School Internship Orientation**
Tuesday, June 23rd, 2009, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
MTC Auditorium