



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Planning Committee

DATE: April 27, 2009

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1125

RE: Evaluation of Routine Accommodations Checklist

Background

In 2006, MTC passed Resolution 3765, a policy which called for accommodation of bicyclist and pedestrians in regional transportation projects. A checklist was created that requires project sponsors to document how the needs of bicyclist and pedestrians are considered in the planning and/or design of projects where regional funds are being requested.

The first opportunity to apply the checklist since it was developed was for the recent American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Local Streets and Roads System Preservation Projects. These projects have the opportunity to demonstrate how cyclists or pedestrian facilities were accommodated in roadway projects.

Overall, 104 project checklists were completed representing every county with the exception of Solano and Napa. Project sponsors worked within the very short timeframe and quickly completed checklists and made them available to their Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees (BPACs) to meet MTC Resolution 3765 requirements. Staff will continue to work with project sponsors and staff to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees to ensure that future checklist processes provide useful information and project information is easily disseminated.

Evaluation

Since the ARRA projects was the first time MTC applied the Routine Accommodations Checklist requirement, there were some difficulties in how the checklist was applied to these projects:

- 1) Under ARRA, projects were required to be “shovel ready” which placed restrictions on types of improvements that could be made. Right of way acquisition or environmental studies were not eligible under the act.
- 2) Projects were submitted to MTC as programmatic projects, where one project could contain multiple improvements throughout a city or county. In addition, each project sponsor was required to complete one checklist per each jurisdiction-wide pavement improvement program and the responses in the checklist could apply to more than one project.
- 3) It is a requirement of the policy that checklists be made available to BPACs that enables advisory committee members to contact project sponsors about any questions or concerns of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. Due to the quick turn-around in ARRA

projects, the majority of the checklists were sent out by e-mail just a few days prior to commission approval which did not give BPAC members sufficient time to contact the project sponsor.

The results of the evaluation are depicted in the attached powerpoint presentation.

Routine Accommodations Study Recommendations

MTC Resolution 3765 called for several recommendations from the 2006 Routine Accommodations study to be implemented. While several of the recommendations have been implemented, there are some still in progress (see Attachment A).

Next Steps

In preparation of future funding calls, staff will work with project sponsors to evaluate how the use of the checklist worked within MTC's programming process. Staff will solicit input on the ease of use, value to agencies when developing projects and process of completing the checklists. BPAC members will also be surveyed to determine if the information was useful in understanding the projects, how the information was conveyed and how effective the checklist review process functioned.

Staff will present the results of the checklist and the progress of the Routine Accommodations study recommendations at the May 8 Planning Committee meeting.

Steve Heminger

Attachment A Routine Accommodations of Pedestrians and Bicyclists in the Bay Area: Study Recommendations.

Attachment B Routine Accommodations Checklist

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