



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 11

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Memorandum

TO: Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee

DATE: June 26, 2009

FR: Randy Rentschler, MTC Staff

W. I.

RE: MTC Advisory Committee Review

Background

The Transportation 2035 (T2035) Plan public involvement program, which concluded with the adoption of the plan in April, spanned more than two years, and included unprecedented outreach and involvement with a diverse mix of residents from every county in the region. At the conclusion of the process, MTC — along with its outreach consultant, PMC — conducted an evaluation of the public participation program. The evaluation results, which are matched up against a set of pre-established performance objectives, were based on surveys taken of participants at the end of public meetings, as well as from a telephone survey of members of MTC's three advisory committees. MTC and PMC staff presented the evaluation results to MTC's Legislation Committee on June 12, 2009.

Success of Joint Advisor Workshops

MTC pulled together members of all three advisory committees for 12 separate joint advisor workshops over the course of the T2035 Plan development. To gauge the value of these meetings, 31 advisors who had participated in at least four of these sessions were asked for their views. Of these, 22 were able to complete a telephone survey conducted by PMC. Two key findings emerged:

- The vast majority of advisors surveyed felt that the joint forums were a useful tool to learn about and discuss long-range transportation issues. Most concurred that the forums allowed members to hear different perspectives about mobility and were interested in having MTC hold the joint forums more frequently.

- Many advisors felt a disconnect between the advice they gave the Commission and its actions. They would like to see a stronger relationship between MTC's Commissioners and advisors.

Based on these findings showing overwhelming support for the joint advisor sessions, the Legislation Committee endorsed the idea of conducting a comprehensive review of MTC's current advisory committee structure with an eye toward potential consolidation of the committees and a strengthening of the communication between advisors and the Commission.

Next Steps

MTC and PMC staff will be at the July 2, 2009 EDAC meeting. We welcome your ideas for strengthening the relationship between MTC and its advisory committees. MTC staff will then return to the September 11, 2009 Legislation Committee with a recommendation for consideration.