



Agenda Item 2

METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Members, MTC Advisory Committees

DATE: August 5, 2009

FR: Randy Rentschler, Director, Legislation & Public Affairs

W.I. 1114

RE: MTC Advisory Committee Review

Background

In July, MTC staff and its public participation consultant, PMC, attended all three advisory committee meetings to discuss results from a recent assessment of MTC's public participation program for the Transportation 2035 Plan. Part of that review focused on the series of successful Joint Advisor Workshops conducted over the course of developing the 2035 Plan (see the attached memo and Power Point, presented to the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee — similar memos were presented to the Advisory Council and to the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee).

PMC staff members Kendall Flint and Nora DeCuir led discussions with all three advisory committees about the potential for expanding the joint advisor meetings, strengthening the ties and communication between the Commission and its advisors, and the question of consolidating MTC's three existing committees.

Because not all of the committees were able to complete their discussions in July, we are holding a special Joint Advisor Workshop on August 12 to provide an additional opportunity to comment. If you are unable to attend the meeting, or are more comfortable expressing your views in writing, you may email PMC's Kendall Flint directly — kflint@PMCWorld.com — by August 14.

Next Steps

We welcome your ideas for strengthening the relationship between MTC and its advisory committees. PMC is expected to complete its review of advisory committees at other organizations similar to MTC, consider comments from advisors and commissioners, and offer recommendations to MTC. PMC will present its report to the Legislation Committee on September 11, 2009. We will seek further guidance from the Legislation Committee on next steps and keep you informed throughout this process.

Attachments

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COPY---Agenda Item 5

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Memorandum

TO: Minority Citizens Advisory Committee

DATE: July 7, 2009

FR: Randy Rentschler

W.I. 1114

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 your July 14, 2009 MCAC 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 meeting with a recommendation for consideration.



Public Outreach Evaluation: Advisors to the Commission

2035 Outreach Process Evaluation

- Of the 66 total advisors, 31 participated in at least 4 joint sessions and were contacted
- 22 advisors completed the telephone survey



Key Findings of Committee Survey

- 95% of those surveyed felt that the joint forums were a useful tool and were interested in more frequent joint forums
- However, many advisors felt a disconnect between the advice they gave and the Commission's actions



Key Findings of Committee Survey (Continued)

- Cross-fertilization of ideas and perspectives was quite helpful
- Several advisors emphasized that joint forums would be more effective at the subcommittee level working closely with MTC staff



Key Findings of Committee Survey (Continued)

- Over half of the advisors thought that their comments were being adequately conveyed to the Commission
- About a third indicated their uncertainty as to whether their comments reached the Commission since nothing was reflected back to them
- They asked for and want more direct access to the Commissioners



Key Findings of Commissioner Survey

- Most commissioners found that a joint response from the advisory committees was more useful
- Commissioners would like to see policies and action items vetted by the committees in a collaborative manner
- Joint advisory committee workshops are a good means to achieving consensus

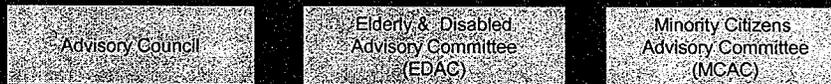


Recommendations of Legislation Committee

- Legislation Committee supported a comprehensive review of current advisory committee structure
- Desire to strengthen communication between advisors and the commission
- Potential consolidation of the committees



Subcommittees of MTC's Advisory Committees



Topic Area 1: How important is the involvement of Commissioners and Executive Staff?

- How should Commissioners and Executive Staff be engaged?
- What are your ideas?



Topic Area 2: If the Advisory Committee structure were to be changed, what should that look like?

- How large should the group be?
- What are your ideas for selection of representatives?
- What opportunities would this offer?
- What are your ideas?



Topic Area 3: What areas of concern do you have if the groups change?

- What about forming small focused groups to study particular topics?
- Access to an educational or research budget to enhance your ability to be effective advisors?
- What are your major concerns?
- How would you address them?



Additional Comments?

- Contact Kendall Flint at

- Submit all comments by August 14

