



METROPOLITAN
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Scott Haggerty, Chair
Alameda County

MINORITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes – July 14, 2009

Adrienne J. Tissier, Vice Chair
San Mateo County

Tom Azumbrado
U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Attendance

Tom Bates
Cities of Alameda County

Dean J. Chu
Cities of Santa Clara County

Dave Cortese
Association of Bay Area Governments

Chris Daly
City and County of San Francisco

Bill Dodd
Napa County and Cities

Dorene M. Giacomini
U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal D. Glover
Contra Costa County

Anne W. Halsted
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission

Steve Kinsey
Marin County and Cities

Sue Lempert
Cities of San Mateo County

Jake Mackenzie
Sonoma County and Cities

Jan Rubin
San Francisco Mayor's Appointee

Bijan Sartipi
State Business, Transportation
and Housing Agency

James P. Spering
Solano County and Cities

Amy Rein Worth
Cities of Contra Costa County

Ken Yeager
Santa Clara County

Steve Heminger
Executive Director

Ann Flenner
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Andrew B. Fremier
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

The meeting was called to order at 3:23 p.m. Those in attendance were Chair James McGhee and Dustin Daza of San Francisco; Jacquee Castain and Carlos Castellanos of Alameda County; Michael Rubiano and Darnell Turner of Contra Costa County; Raphael Durr and Charles Rivasplata of Marin County; Gerald Rico and Robert Liems of Napa County; Bill Allen and Carlos Romero of San Mateo County; Michael Lopez of Santa Clara County; Lee Pierce and David Rosas of Sonoma County; and Randi Kinman, Low Income Representative. Michael D'Augelli, Wayne Lee, Harvey Louie, Dawn Love and Jim Simon were excused.

MTC staff in attendance included Catalina Alvarado, Ellen Griffin, Pam Grove, Georgia Lambert, Ross McKeown, Glen Tepke and Jennifer Yeaman. Also in attendance were Michael Pechner, media representative on the MTC Advisory Council, Mrs. Robert Liems, and Norah DeCuir and Rick Williams from PMC.

Meeting Minutes

Once a quorum was reached, the June 9, 2009 meeting minutes were approved with one abstention.

Chair's Report

Chair McGhee announced that the Advisory Council meeting on July 8 had the same two agenda items that were on MCAC's agenda for today. He said some Advisory Council members expressed concern regarding the possible reorganization of the three advisory committees. He also announced that he needed to leave immediately because he had just received word that a family member passed away. Vice Chair Carlos Castellanos assumed the chair duties for the remainder of the meeting.

MCAC Member Reports

Equity Analysis Subcommittee: Randi Kinman reported that the subcommittee is meeting later this month. An update on the snapshot analysis was included in this month's packet.

Lifeline Subcommittee: Pam Grove reported that CMAQ/STP funds MCAC discussed last month and wanted to make a recommendation on have already been submitted for allocation in budgets by the individual transit operators.

MCAC Member Reports (Continued)

Darnell Turner stated that as a result, the subcommittee didn't have any further recommendations at this point. Ms. Kinman suggested that this item be put on the agenda for the Lifeline Subcommittee for next year so that MCAC's input could be considered prior to the adoption of the transit operator budgets.

Advisory Council: Raphael Durr reported that an MTC Commissioner attended an Advisory Council meeting one or two months ago, but did not attend an MCAC meeting. (*Note: Five commissioners attended MCAC's dinner on June 10.*) Mr. Durr expressed concern that the Commission may view the Advisory Council as more important than MCAC.

MTC Advisory Committee Review

Ellen Griffin, MTC staff, introduced an evaluation of MTC's Transportation 2035 public outreach program, the results of which led the Commission to ask for a review of the current advisory committee structure. She noted that MTC is serious about improving the advisory process, and the complexity of today's issues have changed the way MTC works since the advisory committees were established. The goal is to strengthen the connection between the advisors and the Commission. Ms. Griffin announced that the review will be conducted by a consultant, who is attending all three advisory committee meetings in July to get feedback. In addition, there will be a Joint Advisors Workshop with opportunity for further advisor input on August 12. She then introduced MTC's consultant, Norah DeCuir of PMC, who led the discussion on key findings from the evaluation. Ms. DeCuir noted that PMC's survey results found that advisors felt joint meetings were useful, especially for cross-fertilization of ideas; however, they felt that communication with the Commission was not as effective. PMC also spoke with commissioners, who found that joint committee advice was helpful. It was suggested that a potential consolidation of the three advisory committees would strengthen communication. The outreach evaluation was outlined in a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. DeCuir began a facilitated comment session, asking MCAC members first how important they felt it is to have involvement with Commissioners and Executive staff. Bill Allen stated that, at MCAC meetings, issues are discussed and then sometimes just fade away. He felt it would be much better to have goals and report quarterly on accomplishments. He said he realized that commissioners wouldn't have time to attend committee meetings, but a quarterly review of accomplishments by the Chair to the Commission would be recommended. David Rosas expressed concern that he hasn't been able to meet with the commissioner from his county. He feels there are insufficient avenues of communication with commissioners; an immediate cause for concern is the upcoming loss of pocket parks in Santa Rosa. Ms. Kinman said she's unsure exactly what it is that commissioners want. She felt that study sessions where advisory committee members sit down with key people would be beneficial, providing feedback and more coordination on committee work plans. Lee Pierce said that, once an item or issue appears in the minutes, there is an assumption that an action will be taken – but that isn't necessarily so. He sees the need for a forum to determine an “executive transmission” agenda. The MCAC Chair or designated liaison would take the actionable item to MTC. He said the advisory committee members could then expect a formal response, with a vetting of “nuggets” to be determined by the committee. Mr. Durr said that MTC seems to value congestion management agencies' and transit operators' input more than the advisory committees' input.

MTC Advisory Committee Review (Continued)

The advisory committees bring the needs of the community to the table. Jacquee Castain reminded everyone that MCAC does have structure through its work plans. However, late communication of issues has been a problem – more lead time is needed for advisors to provide input. Mr. Castellanos said it would be helpful to learn what additional information the Commission would like from advisory committee members. He would like to have a point person on MTC to approach, possibly having each commissioner assigned to a particular topic. He also said it is important for executive staff to attend advisory committee meetings. Carlos Romero pointed out that MTC executive staff did attend the Joint Advisors Workshops. He noted that advisor interaction with executive staff is perhaps more important because they have a concentration of knowledge. Mr. Allen reiterated the need for work plans and reporting at quarterly meetings. Mr. Turner said that MTC executive staff should meet with advisors at least on a quarterly basis, and there should be reporting on outcomes by staff from advisor recommendations. He speaks to his commissioner or key staff regularly and said it's important to communicate only topical information.

Ms. DeCuir then asked if the advisory committees were to be restructured, what should the revised structure look like. Mr. Rubiano stated that any consolidated advisory body should be smaller, and that there is a need to consolidate bearing in mind socioeconomic and racial diversity. He also said it would be helpful to have more alignment between advisory group terms and commission terms, and that terms should be staggered. Mr. Romero suggested there be one large body with direct access to executive staff and about ten members from each of the three advisory committees. Staff and Commissioners would have only one meeting to attend, as opposed to three, and members would have more face time with executive staff. Mr. Pierce expressed a need for more communication with other committee members, and suggested the Commission set three to five priorities for MCAC to consider. Ms. Kinman said the agenda overlap on the three advisory committees is divisive and wasteful; it would be far more productive to reorganize so the committees can work together. She found the Joint Advisors Workshops quite informative. Mr. Castellanos said it is important to have subcommittees tackle the more difficult topics and report back to the larger body. Mr. Allen felt there may be a turf war in downsizing to a single advisory group, but the number of members could be reduced. MTC Advisory Council member Mike Pechner requested to speak and said that all three committees are “in this together.” He said one or two commissioners should attend every meeting so that advisors are heard and their advice is forwarded. Ms. Kinman said there needs to be a structure for people with specialized interests to be heard.

Ms. DeCuir asked the advisors what concerns they have if the current structure of the three advisory groups is changed. Charles Rivasplata expressed concern to keep the committee to a size that is manageable – say, 15 – and to preserve the mission statements of each group, because each has a unique set of concerns and issues. Mr. Rosas said advisors need more education on the issues, perhaps through a workshop on transportation and land use. Mr. Allen said members get distracted at times and the committee needs to be clear on its objectives. Michael Lopez asked if combining into small groups surrounding topics of interest to all three advisory groups had ever been done before. Mike Rubiano replied that the subcommittees were formed within MCAC as an “efficiency tool” and the model was then used by EDAC and the MTC Advisory

MTC Advisory Committee Review (Continued)

Council. That perhaps helped to create the overlap of topics; a single advisory body would fix this problem. He also commented that a dedicated research person to assist the committee with things such as database and number crunching would be useful. Mr. Romero said it's important to forge across borders, work on allied relationships and get the most out of an amalgamated group. Ultimately the advisors would get better access to the Commission and would be more effective because there's only one advisory group for the Commissioners to focus on. Ms. Kinman said a combined group would give advisors a chance to have more information to take back to their communities. Gerald Rico said, if we reform anything, advisors need to attend meetings and arrive timely so a quorum is achieved regularly.

Ms. DeCuir said additional comments from advisors would be accepted through August 14 and thanked advisors for their feedback and wealth of good ideas.

New Federal Transportation Act: CMAQ/STP Programming Update

Ross McKeown, MTC Senior Programming staff, provided an update on the development of CMAQ/STP priorities for the next six years of federal discretionary funding. Detailed information and first and second cycle funding was included in the packet. He said the Freeway Performance Initiative funding is being accelerated in the first cycle, principally ramp metering (funding for infrastructure for monitoring and stowage of vehicles queuing up). The final proposal has been delayed and will most likely go to the Commission in October. The main comment from MCAC member Carlos Romero was that MCAC continues to be concerned with finding ways to increase operating funding for the transit agencies.

Staff Report

Ms. Grove said that a Rand report on congestion pricing issues was included in the packet. She said the High School Intern orientation was a success, and Ms. Castain added that it was a wonderful event with many students attending. All hired students will be paid by MTC with the exception of AC Transit, which is paying for one extra student. All nine counties have interns working as part of the program. The Equity Analysis Subcommittee will meet July 30 and possibly again in August, and the Lifeline Subcommittee will also meet in August.

Other Business

Mr. Allen said he attended the second phase of a Lifeline funding meeting in San Mateo County and played a critical role in advocating for funding for projects. He strongly encouraged all MCAC members to participate in the project selection for their respective counties.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.