



METROPOLITAN
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COMMISSION

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Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2009

Chair Paul Branson called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Members in attendance: Janet Abelson, Ken Altenburger, Joe Bischofberger, Eleanor Bloch, Myrtle Braxton, Richard Burnett, David Grant, Rich Hedges, Dolores Jaquez, Julio Lacayo, Suzanne Levine, Marshall Loring, Dennis Trenten, Doug Weir, Thora Worrell, and Craig Yates. Excused: Marc Roddin.

Audience Member Self-introductions

Bob Planthold
Clarence Fisher

Public Comment from Audience Members

Mr. Planthold expressed concern because an MTC staff member rode up the MetroCenter's main entrance ramp on their bicycle.

Mr. Fischer returned to express his concerns over the capability of TransLink[®] to accommodate attendants of people with disabilities by allowing them to have discounted fares on TransLink[®]. He first raised concern at the June 4 EDAC meeting and hadn't yet been contacted by TransLink[®] staff. Ms. Vogler said she would make sure a TransLink[®] staff member would contact him.

Minutes

The minutes were approved after a motion by Mr. Hedges and a second by Mr. Loring. Mr. Trenten abstained.

Member Updates

Ms. Levine announced she has a new job in the San Francisco Public Works Department, which will allow her increased access to additional resources and

will aid in her emergency preparedness work. She also asked members' help to distribute a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) form in order to identify all organizations in the area that are working on emergency preparedness as it relates to people with disabilities.

Mr. Hedges announced that SamTrans is making tremendous cuts, and will follow only minimum ADA rules.

Mr. Burnett announced he attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Vallejo Transfer Center, and that the Solano County Transportation Authority is working on consolidating Vallejo Transit and Benicia Breeze services.

Advisory Council Report

Mr. Grant noted that the Advisory Council's Land Use Subcommittee adopted a series of policy recommendations for the Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) program. The recommendations were created because there is no close project evaluation on how the grant money is spent. Advisory Council members will present the recommendations at the Planning Committee meeting on September 11.

Chair's Report

Chair Branson encouraged all members to attend the September 11 Legislation Committee meeting, where the Advisory Committee Restructure report will be presented, and the Planning Committee meeting, where Mr. Loring will present EDAC's transit oriented development (TOD) policy recommendations.

Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Vogler announced that the opening of the Benicia-Martinez Bridge bike/pedestrian path, held August 29, was a success; she reminded members that the Bay Bridge would be closed Labor Day weekend; and she announced that the Advisory Committee Restructure report would be emailed to all advisory committee members on Friday, September 4. A Joint Advisors meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 23 to discuss the report's recommendations.

Subcommittee Reports

Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee Co-chair Loring announced that TLU's proposed policy recommendation will be presented to MTC's Planning Committee at the September 11 meeting. The proposed policy was adopted by EDAC at the July 2nd meeting, and it addresses accessible and inhabitable transit oriented developments (TODs). Mr. Loring noted that accessibility to transit stations in TODs is limited. This prompted their work to create the policy. He noted that after more than two years of preparation, they are finally bringing this to the Commission and asking for policy changes. Mr. Hedges asked EDAC members to attend the Planning Committee meeting to support the recommendation.

Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chair Burnett said subcommittee members are continuing their work in the Section 5310 application process. He noted that this is the first year the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is including emergency preparedness in the process. Ms. Jaquez noted that the City of Sonoma is working on an emergency preparedness plan. Ms. Levine asked if the information about Section 5310 can be shared with other applicants. Kirsten Mazur of MTC staff said sharing the information should not be a problem.

Legislative Report

Rebecca Long of MTC staff reported that the state legislature is at the end of the first year of a two-year session. Of note, AB 744 (Torricco), the Bay Area Express Lane network bill, is now a two-year bill. She said that the bill encountered opposition from environmental groups, particularly the Sierra Club; and it ran into difficulties with a Caltrans union, which resulted in increased local agency concern over Caltrans control of future projects. Regarding AB 1175 (Torlakson), the Antioch Dumbarton Bridge seismic retrofit bill, she noted that the bill is on the Senate floor, and does not anticipate any problems since the bill was previously amended. She announced that AB 672 (Bass) is on the Governor's desk, and hopefully he will sign it. The bill would provide a local agency that uses its own funds to advance a Proposition 1B project, or a project funded from Proposition 1A, eligibility for repayment at a future date. Ms. Long also noted that if SB 406 (DeSaulnier) is signed into law, the bill would help with the planning process

for SB 375 implementation. She mentioned that AB 144 (Ma) is also on the Governor's desk, and if signed the bill will create more tools for local agencies to enforce disabled placard abuse.

Member comment:

Mr. Trenten asked if the Governor can divert the money raised if AB 1175 is signed into law. Ms. Long said he cannot legally touch that money. Ms. Bloch asked if AB 144 would allow placard use by an able-bodied person if they drive someone who is disabled. Mr. Lacayo noted that a non-disabled person can use the placard as long as they are a reasonable distance from the disabled person that they are transporting.

Subcommittee Reports (cont'd)

Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee Chair Grant noted that his subcommittee's previous work includes a map and a spreadsheet indicating the ten most dangerous intersections in the region for pedestrians, which served to identify communities that needed to work on pedestrian safety. He said that the subcommittee is currently working on two projects; one is the pedestrian counts project, and the other is the Regional Pedestrian Summit. The counts are intended to create data in order to get pedestrian issues into the next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) in the form of a regional pedestrian plan. The summit is planned for later this year and will bring together local government officials and activists around regional pedestrian issues. The focus of the summit will be on the importance of a pedestrian plan in the next RTP. Regarding the pedestrian counts, Mr. Hedges asked if SWITRS data was being withheld from the public. Mr. Grant noted that there was no way to get the data in a form that is usable. Ms. Levine mentioned that they are trying to control who can download the data by limiting access, and she said she was able to get the data for San Francisco. Mr. Lacayo offered to get the data and forward it to members.

Mobility Management Subcommittee Co-chairs Branson and Bischofberger presented their subcommittees work and goals in a PowerPoint presentation.

Other Business, Next Meeting

There was no other business. The next EDAC meeting is scheduled for October 1, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.