



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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MTC Advisory Council  
October 14, 2009  
**Minutes**

Cathy Jackson called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. In attendance were members David Grant, William Hastings, Richard Hedges, Sherman Lewis, Xiao-Yun Lu, Eli Naor, Margaret Okuzumi, Michael Pechner, Bob Planthold, and Don Rothblatt. Commissioner Giacomini was also in attendance.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Staff Report**

Ms. Jennifer Yeamans reminded the committee that a Joint Advisor Workshop will be held on October 28, 2009 at 1 p.m. in the MetroCenter Auditorium.

Ms. Yeamans also reported that Mr. John Cockle has resigned from the Advisory Council. That seat representing freight will remain vacant until the next recruitment.

**Minutes of September 9, 2009**

Due to the lack of quorum, the minutes were deferred to the next meeting for approval.

**Report from the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC); Report from the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC)**

There was no report from MCAC.

Mr. Grant reported that EDAC discussed legislative developments in Sacramento and received an update on the New Freedom program.

He also stated that MTC has announced that a Pedestrian Safety Summit will be held on January 29, 2010 in the MetroCenter Auditorium.

**Legislative Update**

Ms. Rebecca Long stated that AB1175, which brings the Antioch and Dumbarton bridges into the toll bridge seismic retrofit program, was signed.

The governor vetoed AB338, which would have allowed tax increment financing for transit oriented development. He also vetoed SB406 that would have allowed a vehicle registration fee to address SB375.

He did sign SB83, which authorizes CMAs to put on the ballot a vehicle registration fee increase of up to \$10. This is significant because transit improvements could be eligible.

MTC also sponsored a letter of no prejudice authorization for Proposition 1B funded projects where the locals have their own money available to fund the bond projects, when the state cannot, and will be reimbursed at a later date.

The Governor also signed a bill on parking cash out, which allows local agencies to enforce the state's parking cash out law.

Ms. Long also reported on the California Transit Association (CTA) lawsuit against the State of California for diverting State Transit Assistance funds. The California Supreme Court denied the State's appeal of the CTA's lawsuit. The Court of Appeals said that it could not take public transportation account money and the Supreme Court agreed.

On the federal side, she stated SAFETEA expired on September 30, 2009, and Congress extended it by one month.

Committee comment:

- AB144 passed, which allows a fine up to \$1000 if a blue disabled placard is mis-used. It also relates to parking congestion and turnover of on-street metered parking.

### **TOD Choice Study**

Ms. Valerie Knepper presented findings of a recently conducted market study of the Bay Area residents on the choice to live in transit-oriented developments.

Committee comment:

- Would like to see a slide showing what percent of the market each of the segments is of the total.
- Would it make sense to ask people that have already moved into a TOD why they moved there? Response: Staff wanted to figure out how to capture a larger amount of the market, including those that did not choose to live in TOD.
- The categories are challenging without additional socioeconomics information. How are they distinguished from each other? How can this information be extended to developers? Will they understand your market segments as you've defined them? Response: Look at the specific metrics for each selection criterion – more about interests/attitudes than attributes.
- The report is somewhat backward-looking, to suburban attitudes that are not compatible with decreasing the carbon footprint. Should be more forward-looking and visionary about great places and how to provide for them for the future.
- Connect the mission to the overall results.
- The socioeconomic information is essential for understanding what type of housing/development is provided. Response: There will be a lot more socioeconomic and demographic data available in the briefing book and technical reports.

### **Jurisdictional Case Study**

Ms. Cathy Jackson commented on the Land Use Subcommittee TLC recommendations to the MTC Planning Committee and discussed the topic of exploring the process as a case study for delivering future Advisory Council recommendations to the Commission.

Ms. Jackson handed out the MTC's committee structure and responsibilities as well as Access to MTC's Decision-makers from the MTC Advisors' Handbooks.

Mr. Eli Naor stated that the Planning Committee advised him to take this item to the Programming and Allocations Committee (PAC). Since then the Land Use Subcommittee met to revise the recommendations to PAC. He noted that Mr. Doug Johnson updated the subcommittee that funding available will be substantially less, or \$78 million total instead of \$180 million desired. Mr. Naor stated that he will write a letter to PAC to amend their request for a 3-year allocation of \$100 million.

Committee comments:

- Request the members get the MTC committee agendas well in advance so they are aware of upcoming items. Ms. Yeaman noted that staff may not be able to accommodate them with an advanced agenda as they can change right up until finalized a week prior to meetings.
- There is a lack of internal communication efficiency on what should go where.
- Committee members should co-sponsor other committees' recommendations.
- Hard to compete with advocacy groups such as the Partnership Board – how do we get a presentation on the agenda regarding Pricing and Economics? Member response: Need to be more active on getting the Commissioners' attention – go to the Commission meetings to converse with a particular commissioner.

### **October 9 Legislation Committee Meeting**

Mr. Bob Planthold reported on the feedback from Commissioners related to the Advisory Committee review item on the October 9 Legislation Committee agenda.

He stated that he was the only one from the Advisory Council, three people came from MCAC, and four or five EDAC members were present. The discussion and comments from the Commissioners were along the lines of consolidation of the three advisory committees. As for the comments from the various advisors, the EDAC members who spoke were opposed to any consolidation, the three MCAC members all spoke in favor of consolidation. He noted that he spoke of administrative challenges with the consultant's recommendation. Consolidation would mean going from three committee's of 22 each to one larger group of 40+, and asked staff how they would manage. He also stated that regards to EDAC, where the consultants said one senior or one disabled person from each county, realistically how can a 22-year-old single parent who suddenly becomes disabled understand the needs, interests, and views of a 75-year-old who is still driving. An MCAC responded by saying that is part of the idea of representative government. He noted that there will obviously be differences of opinion expressed at the Joint Advisor meeting on October 28.

Committee comments:

- The Advisory Council should oppose a consolidation because it takes while to learn the ropes on how to get something done. Mr. Planthold's response: Commissioner Lempert stated that they should institute term limits on advisors.

- What is the initial driving force for the proposal to come forward for the reorganization? Mr. Planthold's response: some advisors heard from unnamed staff that there were concerns about the costs for the different advisory committees – that the committees are collectively over budget. He stated that as to the advisory committees' efficiency and responsiveness, it has not been a part of the report or the discussion amongst the commissioners or the questions or comments made at the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ms. Yeaman's response: Ms. Ann Flemer stated back in August that the driving force was not a resource issue but rather an effectiveness issue.
- In the event that there is a consolidation, there will still be outstanding issues from each committee that need to be dealt with.
- Suggest keeping all of the advisory committees and to also have a Joint Advisory Committee meeting of all representatives of the three committees in the same month. Mr. Planthold's response: This was suggested to the Commission.
- Streamline the administrative process to enhance effectiveness before consolidation is considered.

**Other Business/Public Comment/Announcements**

There was no other business. The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled for November 10, 2009. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.