



## AGENDA ITEM 5

METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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### *Memorandum*

TO: Advisory Council

DATE: November 3, 2009

FR: Jennifer Yeamans

RE: Staff Liaison Report

#### Update on Joint Advisor Workshop and New Advisory Committee Proposal

A Joint Advisor meeting was held on October 28 at MTC to discuss the new advisory committee proposal. A total of 34 advisors were in attendance, and MTC staff presented considerations regarding committee composition, along with two options for the committee's structure. Nora DeCuir of PMC facilitated the feedback discussion with advisors. Ann Flemer, MTC's Deputy Executive Director of Policy, summarized key comments heard at the meeting, which included:

- While group size is an issue, the advisors feel a larger group could function well.
- Of the two options presented (proportional representation and a hybrid option that includes some of the existing categories), if a proportional option is considered, the basis for proportion needs to be thought through more carefully than a strict population approach
- A concern was expressed about the interest categories at-large seats in the hybrid option; we might want to be less specific about types of sectors to include, but rather focus on what type of advice we're looking for (i.e., modal, seniors, disabled, etc.)
- The advisors did not want term limits, but preferred leaving responsibility with the Commissioners as to reappointments
- A few advisors commented on staff skills and technical expertise; perhaps the role of the advisors should be for policy advice, as opposed to technical expertise, which should come from staff

A revised proposal will be presented to the Legislation Committee at its November 13 meeting (in the form of a proposed new resolution), and will be available for review November 6. If you have any questions in the meantime, please let me know.

#### Bridge Toll Increase Proposed for Earthquake Safety – Notice of Upcoming Public Hearings

The Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) is considering a toll increase on the seven state-owned Bay Area toll bridges: the Antioch, Benicia-Martinez, Carquinez, Dumbarton, Richmond–San Rafael, San Mateo–Hayward, and San Francisco–Oakland Bay bridges. (The toll proposal does not affect the Golden Gate Bridge, which is owned and operated by an independent authority.)

This proposed toll increase comes in response to the need to raise an additional \$160 million in annual revenues. The chief reason the additional revenue is needed is to finance the estimated \$750 million cost of necessary seismic retrofit projects on the Antioch and Dumbarton bridges. Other factors include a slow but steady decline in toll-paying traffic on the state-owned bridges

during each of the past five years, increasing operational expenses and rising debt, due in part to the upheaval in the municipal bond markets over the past two years.

Three options were presented at the October BATA Oversight Committee meeting ([http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/info/toll\\_increase.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/info/toll_increase.htm)). BATA will hold three public hearings to take public comment on these options:

**Wednesday, November 4, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.**

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter - Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium  
(across from the Lake Merritt BART Station)  
101 Eighth Street, Oakland, California

**Tuesday, November 17, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.\***

San Mateo City Hall - City Council Chambers  
330 West 20th Avenue, San Mateo, California

**Thursday, December 3, 2009, at 6:30 p.m.\***

Concord Senior Center - Wisteria Room  
(located in John F. Baldwin Park)  
2727 Parkside Circle, Concord, California

\*Note: This hearing will feature a short open house (from 6:30 to 7 p.m.) and a staff presentation (beginning at 7 p.m.) prior to taking public testimony.

Written comments will be accepted until 4 p.m., December 21, 2009; written comments should be submitted to the BATA Public Information Office at 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, California, 94607-4700; or faxed to BATA at 510.817.5848; or sent via e-mail to [tolls@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:tolls@mtc.ca.gov).

BATA Commissioners will weigh all public comment in their decision on the toll increase, scheduled for January 2010. For more information on the hearings or the proposal, visit the MTC Web site at [www.mtc.ca.gov](http://www.mtc.ca.gov) or phone the BATA Public Information Office at 510.817.5757.

Sign-language interpreters or readers will be provided if requested at least three business days in advance; every effort will be made to provide interpreters for non-English speakers if requested at least five business days in advance. To make a request, please call 510-817-5757.

Packet Attachments

The packet includes the following materials:

- Agenda Item 4 – Information – PowerPoint presentation
- Agenda Item 7 – Information/Discussion – No handout
- Agenda Item 8 – Discussion/Possible action – No handout
- Agenda Item 9 – Information/Discussion – Staff memo and attachments
- Agenda Item 10 – Information/Discussion – Programming and Allocations Committee memo and attachments