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Memorandum

TO: Operations Committee

DATE: December 4, 2009

FR: Executive Director

W. I. 1223

RE: Update of Transit Coordination Implementation Plan (MTC Resolution 3866)

Staff is initiating an update of MTC's Transit Coordination Implementation Plan. The revised plan (Res. 3866) will replace the existing plan (Res. 3055). The deadline for receiving comments is Wednesday, December 23, 2010. Staff will incorporate feedback as appropriate into the final draft for Commission approval in February.

Background

The following state statutes and Commission actions establish MTC's authority related to the coordination of the region's transit services:

- SB 602 – Directs MTC to adopt rules and regulations to promote fare and schedule coordination for all public transit systems within its jurisdiction, including joint fare revenue sharing agreements between connecting systems.
- SB 1474 – Authorizes MTC to consolidate functions to improve efficiency of regional transit service, and improve service coordination and effectiveness in corridors of regional significance through reduction of duplicative service and institution of coordinated service across transit boundaries. Authorizes MTC to withhold State Transit Assistance (STA) funds for non-compliance.
- Transportation Development Act (TDA) – Authorizes MTC to adopt rules and regulations for submission of TDA claims and encourages operators to establish maximum coordination of public transportation services, fares, transfer privileges and all other related matters.
- Regional Measure 2 (SB 916) – Requires MTC to develop a regional transit connectivity plan and requires compliance with the plan as a condition of receiving RM2 funds.
- MTC Programming and Allocation Authority – Enables MTC to determine whether or not to program or allocate funds consistent with Commission policy, including but not limited to STA, TDA, RM2, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Transit Capital Priorities funds.

In 1998, MTC adopted its first Transit Coordination Implementation Plan (Res. 3055), including specific expectations for transit operator compliance. The Commission last amended the plan in April 2006 to incorporate the Transit Connectivity Plan by reference.

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Transit Coordination Implementation Plan Provisions

The revised Transit Coordination Implementation Plan (Res. 3866) would replace Res. 3055, with the following changes:

- Significant overhaul of organizing structure to allow for targeted updates of project-specific implementation requirements in the future;
- Supports implementation of the Transit Connectivity Plan;
- Clarifies key implementation requirements for the region's transit agencies;
- Updates the list of transit operators to include all transit agencies that receive funds subject to Commission programming or allocation actions;
- Reiterates requirement of reciprocal agreements between every connecting operator for fare revenue sharing and schedule coordination per SB 602;
- Creates policy that transit operators allow the display of regional transit information on their property;
- Updates MTC policy to apply transit coordination requirements to all funds subject to Commission programming and allocation action.

Res. 3866 describes transit operator responsibilities for the following regional projects:

1. 511 Transit Information Requirements – Specifies requirements to support the 511 Transit information service, including data sharing and storage policies for real-time transit information. This policy was developed in consultation with the 511 Transit Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Real-Time Transit Information TAC.
2. Regional Transit Hub Signage Program Requirements – Specifies standards for wayfinding signs, transit information displays and real-time transit information displays developed with the Transit Connectivity TAC. Clarifies operations and maintenance, replacement and ownership responsibilities for signs documented in Res. 3771.
3. TransLink[®] Implementation Requirements – Specifies roles and responsibilities to implement and pay for TransLink[®], establishes transition schedules from existing fare media to TransLink[®] and marketing/distribution programs. Staff has analyzed the effectiveness of proposed transition schedules at achieving higher transaction volumes and lower operating costs as detailed in attached PowerPoint. (Note: PowerPoint still under development.)
4. Maintenance of Existing Coordination Services – Requires transit agencies maintain existing coordination services not affected by adoption of the Transit Connectivity Plan.

The proposed policy would authorize the Operations Committee to amend, add, or delete projects in the future, subject to consultation with affected transit agencies.

Schedule

Staff worked with various technical advisory committees to create draft requirements. The Partnership Transit Coordination Committee (PTCC) meeting on November 23 served as MTC's official notification to transit agencies. Staff intends to request Committee approval of Res. 3866 in February 2010. The schedule leading to approval includes the following milestones:

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| November 23 | PTCC Meeting – Release draft Res. 3866 for comment |
| December 2, 3, 7 | Transit Finance Working Group, EDAC, Partnership TAC |
| December 9 | MTC Advisory Council |

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December 11	Information/discussion item for MTC Operations Committee
December 23	Deadline for receiving comments on draft Res. 3866
February 12	Approval and Referral item for MTC Operations Committee
February 24	Commission approval and adoption of Res. 3866

This draft plan is submitted for information only at this time. Staff will return in February with the final draft for this Committee's referral to the full Commission.

Steve Heminger

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