



Agenda Item 3

METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes December 3, 2009

Chair Paul Branson called the meeting to order at 10:36 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, Joshua Miele, Marshall Loring, Marc Roddin, and Craig Yates. Excused: Dennis Trenten and Thora Worrell.

Audience Member Self-introductions

Naomi Armenta, ACTIA

Bob Planthold, Advisory Council Vice Chair

Wendy Alfsen, California Walks

Public Comment from Audience Members

Ms. Armenta announced the release of her agency's newsletter, she thanked Chair Branson for his involvement in the agency's summit on Mobility Management, and she announced that ACTIA was hosting their annual open house and holiday party on December 3.

Minutes

Mr. Miele asked that the November meeting minutes be corrected to reflect his absence as excused. The minutes as corrected were approved after a motion by Mr. Hedges and a second by Mr. Bischofberger.

Member Updates

Mr. Hedges announced that the Oakland Airport Connector was approved by the Port Authority. Mr. Loring added that a former EDAC member was very involved in getting the OAC approved.

Ms. Bloch announced that the Governor supports the use of accessible vehicles for emergency preparedness.

Ms. Abelson thanked Mr. Hedges and Mr. Loring for their information on TODs (transit-oriented developments), which she used at the Rail~Volution Conference in Boston, MA.

Mr. Miele announced that the Department of Transportation funded a demonstration project over the last couple of years in Seattle involving accessible signage. The report was recently released and the findings are extremely positive. He will forward the report's Web link to Ms. Vogler.

Mr. Lacayo announced that the November 16 Senior Summit in Lafayette was very successful.

Ms. Jaquez would like to make sure that the new Advisory Council remains involved with senior, disabled, low-income and people of color issues.

Mr. Branson mentioned that a Senior Mobility Action Plan is being developed in Marin County and noted that the outcome looks positive.

Advisory Council Report

The minutes of the November 10 Advisory Council meeting were received by the committee.

Subcommittee Reports

Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee Chair Grant noted that the subcommittee voted on the theme for of the January 29, 2010 pedestrian summit and registration will be available on the MTC Web site starting the week of December 14. He announced that MTC Planning Director Doug Kimsey will do the wrap-up presentation at the summit. Mr. Grant noted that everyone must register, including EDAC members.

Ms. Levine will be writing a column in the SF Bicycle Coalition's newsletter to raise awareness of pedestrian and disability issues. Mr. Lacayo asked committee members if they had been able to access SWITRS data. Ms. Alfsen

noted that members must contact UC Berkeley's Safe Transportation Research and Education Center to access the information.

Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chair Burnett said that Nancy Okasaki of MTC staff made a presentation to the subcommittee on the regional tabletop emergency preparedness exercise. The subcommittee is also working on a draft letter asking the Commission and staff for money to address disability issues in emergency preparedness for the region.

Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee Co-Chair Hedges said the subcommittee is working on Transit Oriented Development (TOD) legislative efforts and post-EDAC activities related to Transportation and Land Use.

Mobility Management Subcommittee Co-Chair Branson said that the subcommittee's action item would be tabled to address information regarding community shuttles and emergency management.

Chair's Report

Chair Branson noted his disappointment in the loss of EDAC due to the restructuring, but said members need to focus on the future and their involvement in the new Advisory Council. He announced that the January meeting will focus on identifying EDAC work priorities for the new committee.

Mr. Hedges mentioned his disappointment by the Legislation Committee meeting because the restructuring item was rushed. Mr. Yates also noted his disappointment and said that Commissioners have too much on their plates.

Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Vogler encouraged all members to apply to the new Policy Advisory Council. Pam Grove of MTC staff noted that applications will be available soon and she encouraged members to listen to the November Legislation Committee meeting online. She also announced that staff is creating a past-advisors contact list to keep members informed and involved. Ms. Vogler noted that two public hearings regarding the proposed toll increase were scheduled for December 3 and 7.

Member comment:

Mr. Hedges noted his support for the new Council and hoped that it would unify the region. Chair Branson also noted his support and said that the new Council would have a stronger voice.

Legislative Report

Rebecca Long of MTC staff said she is working with Mr. Hedges and Mr. Loring on legislation regarding TODs. At the state level, she announced that the Assembly Transportation Committee is holding two informational hearings on transit operations and what the state should be doing to support public transit. The first meeting is in Los Angeles, and the second meeting is scheduled for December 8 in Sacramento. At the federal level, Ms. Long announced that Steve Heminger was attending the jobs summit at the White House, and there is talk in Washington about a second stimulus bill. She noted that there has been no action on a SAFETEA-LU extension.

Member comment:

Ms. Jaquez noted that TOD legislation should include low-income housing. Mr. Hedges noted that the Section 8 cycle had expired. Ms. Bloch asked for advice on what to ask state legislators as she visited them in Sacramento. Ms. Long said to ask that STA funding is restored as soon as possible. Ms. Abelson suggested that a possible solution for creating accessible TOD housing is to build a second accessible entrance in the back of the building.

TOD Choice Study

Valerie Knepper of MTC staff presented the recently completed Understanding the Choice to Reside in a Transit Oriented Development study.

Member comment:

Ms. Jaquez asked how TOD was defined. Ms. Knepper noted that TOD was not defined because the purpose was to find out where people want to live. Mr. Roddin asked what fraction of the area's population was included. Ms. Knepper noted the study focused only on people who were planning to move soon or who had recently moved. Mr. Yates asked if preference was given to people who do not own a car. Ms. Knepper said the data includes auto ownership rates. Mr. Loring commented that some of the categories seem contradictory. Ms. Abelson noted that the study is immediately useful for her

work and can be used as documentation for creating parking policy. She also noted that the study can help convince policy makers that the market exists for TODs.

Ms. Levine asked how many people in the study had disabilities and if accessibility was part of the research. Ms. Knepper noted that disability issues could be addressed in a future study, especially surrounding the aging population. Ms. Levine asked to address the issue as mobility rather than disability. Mr. Hedges also cautioned that the senior population is very resistant to thinking of themselves as disabled. Ms. Jaquez asked what percentage of the population was of low-income/communities of color. Ms. Knepper noted that was not part of the study but staff has the data. Mr. Lacayo noted that the study leaves out people who have no choice about where they can move.

Mr. Roddin asked if the data can be compared between counties. Ms. Knepper noted that the sample size was not large enough to be able to compare. Mr. Hedges commented that policy makers do not plan for the 25 percent of the population who are economically disadvantaged. Ms. Knepper said that some of the market segment was low-income, and they are important because they can boost transit ridership. Chair Branson thanked members for their thoughtful comments and questions.

Draft TCIP

Pierce Gould of MTC staff presented a draft of the Transit Coordination Implementation Plan to the committee. Of note, Mr. Gould said that once adopted, the resolution is enforceable and if transit agencies are not compliant, MTC can withhold, reprogram or restrict funds. Mr. Gould also outlined the new requirement to transition paper fare media to the TransLink[®] card.

Member comment:

Mr. Hedges recommended that staff look at the experience of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority's smart card. Mr. Miele noted that the idea to eliminate paper senior and disabled passes was problematic. Mr. Roddin noted that the resolution could be enhanced by adding language to withhold all funding this fiscal year and then start deprogramming the following fiscal year. Ms. Abelson asked if MTC could

coordinate trip planning with transit agencies outside the region (e.g., Capitol Corridor). She also noted that requiring that passes be housed on TransLink[®] will make it very difficult for the disabled to obtain tickets since many may use cash. Mr. Gould noted that the goal is not to get rid of the option to pay cash. Mr. Grant noted that the process should include an evaluation component. Ms. Levine expressed concern about signage requirements and how disability requirements should be integrated into a signage policy. She also asked staff to incorporate more time for transit agencies to comply. Mr. Planthold expressed concern about the varying deadlines and asked MTC to intervene in the placement of the card readers on Muni buses (so that disabled patrons could access them more easily). Chair Branson said the regional fare payment method must be emphasized and a timetable should be in place to implement a regional fare system.

Given the volume of questions about the new TransLink[®] requirements, Mr. Gould said that he would request that a TransLink[®] staff person attend the January EDAC meeting to field any unanswered questions.

Other Business, Next Meeting

There was no other business. The next EDAC meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.