



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 5

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-4700  
TEL 510.817.5700  
TTY/TDD 510.817.5769  
FAX 510.817.5848  
E-MAIL [info@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:info@mtc.ca.gov)  
WEB [www.mtc.ca.gov](http://www.mtc.ca.gov)

MTC Advisory Council  
December 9, 2009  
**Minutes**

Cathy Jackson called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. In attendance were members Paul Cohen, Rita Foti, David Grant, Mary Griffin, William Hastings, Richard Hedges, Kathryn Hughes, Sherman Lewis, Xiao-Yun Lu, James McGhee, Eli Naor, Margaret Okuzumi, Michael Pechner, Bob Planthold, and Don Rothblatt. Mr. Marshall Loring and Commissioner Giacobini also attended.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Staff Report**

Ms. Jennifer Yeamans stated that at its November 18 meeting, MTC approved a new 27-member Policy Advisory Council to be appointed in March 2010 and begin its work in April 2010. Recruitment is scheduled to begin in December, and all current advisors are encouraged to apply.

She also mentioned that the Bay Area Toll Authority is considering a toll increase on the Bay Area's seven state-owned toll bridges. Public hearings are scheduled to hear public comment on three options that were presented at the October BATA Oversight Committee meetings. Written comments will be accepted until 4 p.m., December 21, 2009.

Committee Comment:

- Confirm address for people to send letter of support for advisory applications
- Would like to have access to the data and technical reports for the TOD Study presented in October.

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

Mr. David Grant reported on the EDAC topics, which included the legislation report, a final report on the TOD Choice Study, and a report on the Transit Coordination Implementation Plan.

Mr. James McGhee stated that MCAC is working on prioritizing their work plan and creating an Executive Summary to present to the Commission.

**Transit Coordination Implementation Plan Update (MTC Resolution  
No. 3866)**

Mr. Pierce Gould stated that MTC convened a meeting of the Partnership Transit Coordination Committee on November 23, 2009 to notify transit operators of its intent to update the Transit Coordination Implementation Plan and solicit preliminary feedback.

Mr. Gould provided the Council with an overview of the coordination requirements in the Plan, and noted that staff intends to request Commission approval in February 2010.

Committee comment:

- Why does the Partnership get input and Advisory Council just reviews? Response: It was not intended to read as such.
- What if operators don't meet the TransLink<sup>®</sup> goals? People, especially those eligible for fare discounts, may not trust that they are being properly charged. Mr. David Weir responded that they realize the goal is ambitious, but the system is designed to emulate whatever the fare policy is now. The goal is to have a tracking system where users can pull up their own payment history online or by phone.
- How many agencies have real-time information available for mobile devices? Mr. Gould stated that most of the large operators have it available.
- Why can't TransLink<sup>®</sup> mail a paper statement for users to match against their own records? Mr. Weir stated that they will consider it in response to customer demand.

- Maybe as an interim step toward consolidation transit operators could all have the same look and feel, or branding, in the region. Mr. Gould stated that these efforts are starting in some ways with projects like TransLink<sup>®</sup>. Also, it's possible this idea would be considered as part of the Transit Sustainability Project.
- Are there plans to add additional TransLink<sup>®</sup> terminals to accommodate increased demand? Mr. Weir stated that people can use TransLink<sup>®</sup> on all BART fare gates.
- Make all information consistent so people know where TransLink<sup>®</sup> will work on the system. Monitoring of the TransLink<sup>®</sup> system should be carried out independently and separate from MTC.
- TransLink<sup>®</sup> does not work very well on MUNI. Mr. Weir stated that the rules say what agencies' responsibilities are, including "front-line maintenance." However, understanding that many agencies are cutting back on maintenance due to the economic downturn, users can always report repairs needed to the phone number on the back of the TransLink<sup>®</sup> card.
- In-station readers could show TransLink<sup>®</sup> balance and money used. Mr. Weir stated that retail outlets can confirm balances.
- Don't forget to earmark money for maintenance of signs. Integrate TransLink<sup>®</sup> with commuter checks.
- Focus on the funding and political capital first for any transit operator consolidation – the rest will follow. Hub signage is a good start.
- Spend that political capital on aligning fare discounts as a first step.
- Focus on agency efficiencies – BART is inefficient for many users, even though it is the trunk line of the region's transit system.
- What is the timeframe for system-wide implementation of TransLink? Mr. Weir stated that when SamTrans and VTA come on in 2010, 90% of the region's ridership will be covered. After that is Phase 3 and all the rest of the small operators. It is difficult to say when they will be complete.
- Can there be scanners giving your TransLink<sup>®</sup> balance? Mr. Weir stated that it is not under development, but could respond to customer demand.

## **Minutes of November 10, 2009**

Mr. Rich Hedges moved approval, Mr. Bob Planthold seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Legislative Update**

Ms. Rebecca Long commented on the jobs stimulus proposal and stated that the House proposal includes \$22 billion for transportation. The House may act by the end of next week. The Senate is not expected to move by end of the year. She commented on continuing appropriations for the fiscal year, which included DOT discretionary program for multi-modal transportation, a livability initiative combining efforts between DOT, HUD, and EPA, which will include \$280 million for urban circulators. The region will probably apply for these funds in early February.

Committee comment:

- Is the \$280 million for planning or for ready-to-go projects? MTC should try to be the grantee. Ms. Long said that it's a good idea but may be hard with short turnaround.
- Does infrastructure in the stimulus discussions mean just roads? Ms. Long stated that it also means transit.

### **Work Plan Update from Transportation & Land Use Subcommittee**

Mr. Eli Naor stated that the subcommittee has been focusing on regional GHG reductions, how TLC and land use affects matters like SCS and other regional agencies' work.

He stated that he wants:

- the whole measure of GHG reduction to be part of TLC and other regional programs
- to develop very specific methods for applicants to determine GHG reductions associated with their projects
- to have an MTC staff person assigned to develop the proposal and assign necessary resources
- to present a budget and scope for this work to Advisory Council and MTC
- and then do the work

Committee comment:

- Research if other agencies have done similar work
- Also include ABAG

### **Work Plan Update from Transportation Economics & Pricing Subcommittee**

Mr. Sherman Lewis suggested the committee look at the trip table for allocating GHG emissions. Pricing ideas remain at the periphery of policy – not central.

He also mentioned that to this point he feels he has failed in getting the Pricing and Economics Subcommittee's recommendations to the Commission, and is asking why they should be doing more work if they can't get on any of the Committee agendas.

### **Discussion of Possible Priority Work Plan Elements for new MTC Policy Advisory Council**

Committee discussion:

- MCAC had a discussion December 8 regarding which of their work plan elements they might wish to prioritize for the new Policy Advisory Council. MCAC decided to provide an executive summary of work done to underscore priorities and why they are important.
- Transportation Land Use and Sustainability work could go forward together with Economics as a priority, as they are all interrelated.
- The current Chair and Vice-Chair of each current committee could be available at the new Policy Advisory Council's work plan setting workshop to promote continuity.
- Consider having one month of meeting overlap between old and new advisors. Any work plan discussion should have concrete foundation.
- Should follow Commission's agenda and timeline.
- Meeting provides useful feedback to staff, but advocating to Commission is a lot harder.
- The new Council should speak for itself not through staff.

- Many Commissioners don't have time to think about other issues not already on their agenda.
- Overlap is necessary to educate new members.
- Review and comment on Commission's agenda beforehand.

In closing, Ms. Cathy Jackson requested all committee members to email their ideas to her and Jennifer Yeamans by Friday, December 18, 2009.

### **Other Business/Public Comment/Announcements**

There was no other business. The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled for January 13, 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.