



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 2a

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**PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2009  
MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Commissioner Spering called the Planning Committee meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Other members in attendance were Commissioners Azumbrado, Chu, Giacopini, Halsted, Haggerty, Lempert, Rein-Worth, Rubin, Tissier, and Yeager. Commissioners Cortese, and Daly also attended.

**CONSENT CALENDAR: Minutes of November 13, 2009**

Commissioner Chu moved approval, Commissioner Lempert seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Joint Policy Committee (JPC) Policies for the Bay Area's Implementation of SB375, MTC Resolution 3936**

Mr. Doug Kimsey stated that SB 375 is landmark legislation that integrates regional land use, transportation, housing and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction planning efforts into a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). The legislation requires the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to set greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for passenger vehicles and light trucks for 2020 and 2035 in each of the 18 Metropolitan Planning Organization regions in California.

He noted that SB 375 explicitly assigns responsibilities to ABAG and to MTC to prepare an RTP/SCS for the Bay Area. As such, the two agencies, along with the other two Joint Policy Committee agencies, BCDC and the Air District, have been developing an SB 375 work plan and proposed policies to guide this work.

Mr. Kimsey summarized three main work elements occurring over the next 3 years, leading to adoption of the next RTP in Spring 2013: 1) Foundation phase (through September 2010), during which the emissions targets are developed and partnerships are established; 2) Construction phase (October 2010 through January 2012), during which staff develops and evaluates alternative scenarios of land use patterns and of transportation networks, measures and policies; and 3) Integration phase (February 2012 through March 2013), during which staff refines the SCS leading to RTP adoption in April 2013.

Mr. Kinsey also commented on the SB 375 policies adopted by the JPC in September 2009 that are proposed to guide the process through which the Bay Area's regional agencies will implement SB 375. The policies cover the following subjects: 1) setting targets, 2) modeling the relationship between transportation and land use,

3) preparing a sustainable communities strategy and, if necessary, an alternative planning strategy, 4) achieving consistency with adjacent regions, 5) synchronizing and conforming the SCS and the RTP with the Regional Housing Needs Assessment 6) providing CEQA assistance, and 7) aligning regional policies.

In conclusion, Mr. Kimsey recommended that the Committee refer the JPC Policies for the Bay Area's Implementation of SB 375, MTC Resolution No. 3936, to the Commission for approval.

Committee Comments:

- Commissioner Lempert asked if there were incentives available for achieving GHG targets, or penalties imposed for not achieving targets. She also asked if the SCS was considering the health benefits of reducing emissions. Mr. Kimsey responded that while there are no specific penalties imposed on regional and local agencies for not meeting targets, monetary incentives and education will be key to help promote smart growth and alternatives to driving that will help achieve targets; it will also be important to assess the co-benefits of these improvements for their potential to reduce other harmful emissions and reduce congestion.
- Commissioner Yeager expressed his concern with the impression that SB 375 is not that controversial. He stated that there are many differing opinions about the actions that some of the JPC member agencies are taking. The Air District is using SB 375 and AB 32 to come up with new CEQA guidelines for development. He expressed concern that staff be as precise as possible with what it is that the Commission is being asked to do, what the controversies might be, and what the implications might be of some of the actions, so when votes are taken the Commission has full understanding of local impacts. Mr. Steve Heminger stated that there is the "out" in the law, called the alternative planning scenario, if the SCS does not achieve the CARB targets. He mentioned that some regions around the state may be anxious to take that "out", but doesn't expect that to happen in this region because the Commission is already engaged in activities that some of the other regions in the state haven't started yet.
- Commissioner Spring stated that the CMAs are an integral partner in the SCS development. He noted that if staff expects local communities to adopt some of these policies and strategies to make their communities better then staff needs to clarify the "why" – why are we doing this, and what are the benefits?
- Commissioner Rein-Worth would like to see some candid discussion on the economic impacts of SB375. She also emphasized the importance of bringing this to the local jurisdictions at a very early stage in order to understand the impacts and the benefits. She commented that staff needs to look at the RTP "committed" funding policy with CMA's and the cities since many of the projects have multiple funding sources, and are important to local areas. Lastly, she stated that if staff is making assumptions about pricing, then it is important that it include assumptions about travel alternatives.
- Commissioner Daly requested information about how the Commission can effectively achieve an 8% reduction in CO2 emissions per person.
- Commissioner Cortese commented on effectiveness of the JPC to conduct outreach and engage local jurisdictions. He stated that if the Joint Policy Committee is intended to do this then there should be an effort to re-evaluate whether or not that is happening. Mr. Heminger stated that staff will follow-up.

- Commissioner Rubin asked what progress is being made to update CEQA so it is consistent with SB 375? Mr. Heminger stated that staff is still working on what SB 375 does mean for CEQA. The intention is that projects that come from a target-compliant SCS would require much less vigorous project-level CEQA analyses. Commissioner Rubin also asked if there is any ongoing process where parties are talking about the modifications to CEQA that are required in SB 375? Mr. Kimsey stated that the State Office of Planning & Research is looking at policies that relate to CEQA, and Mr. Heminger stated that Doug Johnson, MTC staff, would be available to help respond to problems with this issue.
- Commissioner Yeager noted that the Air District's vote on its CEQA Guidelines Update is set for January 6, 2009 and has been controversial with local agencies that think the guidelines would discourage focused growth. He commented that the Air District's outreach process may have been insufficient
- Commissioner Daly stated that in terms of the rub between greenhouse gas emissions infill development and toxic pollution, it makes sense to have some study. He also stated that the Commission will need to consider race and class issues vis a vis the environment, the housing opportunities, and transportation opportunities.

Commissioner Lempert moved approval of MTC Resolution No. 3936, Commissioner Yeager seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 8, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, CA.