



METROPOLITAN
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COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Minority Citizens Advisory Committee

DATE: February 8, 2010

FR: Pam Grove, Public Information Officer

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Report – February 2010

Update on New Policy Advisory Committee

The application period for MTC's new Policy Advisory Council closed Monday, February 1st. The Commission will review applications in February and will recommend appointments for approval at the March Legislation Committee and final approval at the March Commission meeting. If you have questions about the next phase in the recruitment process, please contact me at pgrove@mtc.ca.gov or 510.817.5706.

Oakland Airport Connector Project

At its January meeting, MTC reaffirmed its support for programming \$70 million in ARRA Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds to BART's Oakland Airport Connector (OAC) Project, subject to FTA approving a BART Title VI action plan by February 16, 2010. Should FTA fail to approve an action plan by February 16 as confirmed by MTC's Executive Director, MTC will move the funds from the OAC Project to the Tier 2 system preservation project list. MTC will convene a special Commission meeting scheduled to take place February 17, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. at the MetroCenter to review the action plan. Watch MTC's Web site for the posted meeting materials or listen in live to the meeting at: <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/meetings/schedule/index.htm>.

High Speed Rail Funding for U.S. and California

President Obama and Vice President Biden announced January 28 that the U.S. Department of Transportation is awarding \$8 billion to states across the country to develop America's first nationwide program of high-speed intercity passenger rail service. Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), these dollars are intended to help create jobs and transform travel in America. More than a quarter of the funding is going to California, which is slated to receive \$2.35 billion — more than any other state — for its planned project to connect Los Angeles to San Francisco and points in between with trains running up to 220 miles per hour. The Transbay Transit Center in San Francisco is in line for \$400 million of that money. The facility will replace the outdated Transbay Terminal and serve as the San Francisco hub for the high-speed rail line.

More information is on MTC's Web site at: http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/info/hsr_calif.htm.

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Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Breaks Ground

MTC Chair Scott Haggerty and other officials thrust ceremonial shovels into the dirt January 22, breaking ground on the Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Project, a four-year, \$420 million project that will reduce congestion on Route 24 by building a fourth tunnel bore at the Caldecott Tunnel linking Oakland to Orinda and the rest of central Contra Costa County. The Fourth Bore Project is funded with \$197.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, better known as federal stimulus funds, money allocated for boosting the economy while providing critical infrastructure. The Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Project is the largest Recovery Act allocation to date in the nation.

The full story (including a video of the event) can be found on MTC's Web site at:

<http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/info/caldecott.htm>

Update on Toll Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program

On January 27, the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) took a major step toward ensuring seismic safety on all state-owned toll bridges in the Bay Area by adopting a package of toll increases. The toll increases will go into effect July 1, 2010, on all seven of the region's state-owned toll bridges: the Antioch, Benicia-Martinez, Carquinez, Dumbarton, Richmond-San Rafael, San Mateo-Hayward, and San Francisco-Oakland Bay bridges.

The new toll schedule is designed to generate an additional \$165 million a year, much of which will go toward the estimated \$750 million seismic retrofitting of the 27-year-old Dumbarton Bridge and the 31-year-old Antioch Bridge, the last two state spans in the region to undergo strengthening to bring them up to modern earthquake safety standards.

A complete update on the public process surrounding the toll increase, including the new toll schedule, BATA meeting materials and public hearing transcripts can be found on MTC's Web site at: http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/info/toll_increase.htm

New Bay Bridge East Span Gets the First Section of its Self- Anchored Suspension Span

The first permanent deck section of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge's Self-Anchored Suspension Span (SAS) – the crowning piece of the new East Span – was hoisted onto the bridge's eastbound temporary supports on February 3rd. This historic lift marks the moment when the action on the iconic SAS begins to shift from fabrication to erection on the Bay. When construction is completed, the SAS will be the largest of its kind, at 2,047 feet long with a single, 525-foot-tall tower.

For the full story on this one-of-a-kind project, go to MTC's Web site at:

http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/info/sfobb_2-10.htm

MTC's Web site also has time lapsed video and 3D viewing of the project at:

http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/info/sfobb_2-10b.htm

– more –

Governor Releases FY 2010-11 Budget Proposal

In his January report to the Commission, MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger characterized Governor Schwarzenegger's latest budget proposal: "It seems like the State of California has confronted a \$20 billion budget deficit for each of the past several years, and the FY 2010-11 budget submission from Governor Schwarzenegger is no exception. What is different this time is a complicated and troubling proposal from the governor to repeal the sales tax on gasoline and diesel fuels and increase the excise (per gallon) tax on the same fuels, which will have the net effect of eliminating \$1.5 billion in state funding for public transit.."

For more on the state budget proposal, visit MTC's Web site at:

http://www.mtc.ca.gov/legislation/state_budget_1-10.htm

Update on MTC High School Internship Program

The 2010 MTC High School Internship program is now in full swing and applications are being accepted for approximately 30 positions around the region. Information on the program (including descriptions of the positions and the required forms) can now be found on MTC's Web site at: http://www.mtc.ca.gov/jobs/high_school/. For more information on the program, contact the High School Internship Coordinator at highschool@mtc.ca.gov or 510.817.5807.

Please spread the word to individuals, schools and organizations about the program. **Note: applications must be RECEIVED by MTC no later than March 26, 2010.**

Meeting Reminders

- **Equity Analysis Subcommittee**
Tuesday, February 16, 2010, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Third Floor "Fishbowl" Conference Room
- **Final MCAC Meeting**
Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 3:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.
MetroCenter Auditorium