



AGENDA ITEM 2

METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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MTC Advisory Council
January 13, 2010
Minutes

Cathy Jackson called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. In attendance were members Paul Cohen, Rita Foti, David Grant, Mary Griffin, William Hastings, Richard Hedges (via phone), Kathryn Hughes, Sherman Lewis, James McGhee, Eli Naor, Margaret Okuzumi, Michael Pechner, Bob Planthold, and Don Rothblatt. Commissioner Giacomini also attended.

Public Comment

No public comment.

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 a discussion on priorities for the new Policy Committee. EDAC addressed four issues: 1) Mobility Management, 2) Transportation and Land Use, 3) Pedestrian Safety, and 4) to shape the T-2040 Plan to more accurately reflect the larger transit user community in the Bay Area.

He also noted that EDAC had a presentation on TransLink®.

There was no MCAC report.

Minutes of December 9, 2009 meeting

Mr. Paul Cohen moved approval. Ms. Kathryn Hughes seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Report

Ms. Pam Grove updated the committee on the recruitment process for the new Policy Advisory Council. She stated that staff received approximately 120 applications to date. Staff will be doing some targeted recruitment in the next couple of weeks to try to fill in some of the places where they are lacking applicants. She encouraged the members to submit their application no later than February 1, 2010.

Ms. Jennifer Yeamans stated that there will be a FOCUS Forum on January 14, 2010 at the David Brower Center in Berkeley. The forums are a series of monthly meetings with focused discussions and guest speakers that provide opportunities to learn more about specific issues concerning the creation of complete communities near transit in urbanized areas.

Lastly, she noted that MTC is sponsoring a Regional Pedestrian Summit January 29 to be held at MTC. Registration is currently full, but a waitlist is being formulated.

Legislative Update

Ms. Rebecca Long presented an update on the state budget. She stated that Governor Schwarzenegger proposed a change to the transit funding by replacing sales tax on fuel with an excise tax, which would eliminate transit's only dedicated state revenue stream.

Report from the January 12 Joint Advisor Meeting

Mr. Bob Planthold summarized staff's presentation on the Transit Sustainability Project at the Joint Advisor Meeting. He also touched upon the key points that were presented at the October Commission Workshop on the subject that could be relevant for people to understand what was presented at the Joint Advisor Meeting.

Mr. Planthold also noted that staff asked advisors what their work plan priorities would be for the new Policy Advisory Council.

Committee comment:

- Concerned with the protocol involved with developing the work plan priorities – what is the protocol with interacting with the Commission?
- Discuss how to set up a feedback loop with whatever the work plan is.

Report from Transportation Economics & Pricing Subcommittee

Mr. Sherman Lewis reported on his ideas for land-based revenue sources for more sustainable transportation such as rapid shuttles, Eco Pass, etc. He commented on promoting alternatives to parking, charging for parking, and shared parking.

Although he has been unable to get on the Commission agenda to date, he requested feedback from the committee on his three proposals: 1) an RFP for rapid shuttle systems; 2) a study of parking opportunity costs, and 3) charging for parking.

Committee comment:

- Consider writing a newspaper op-ed
- Not sure the shuttle RFP proposal fits with the transit sustainability context of consolidation and streamlining – need to incorporate labor standards into any proposal.
- Many shuttles on Peninsula have not been successful.
- Proposal could be clearer to the reader in terms of top-line recommendations – especially a decision-maker like a Commissioner.
- Focus should also be on the land use side, that is, bringing land use to transit, not just transportation alternatives to existing land use; concerned that shuttles would encourage continuation of dispersed land use patterns.
- There is need for a true regional transit system – work openly with labor so they know how they are included in proposals for alternatives.

Continued Discussion of Possible Priority Work Plan Elements for New MTC Policy Advisory Council

Committee discussion:

- There will be new people who don't have the history of past advisory committees. It's still beneficial and our responsibility to forward issues that have been worked on to the

new group so they can possibly be interfaced with the new group's work plan. MCAC is putting together an Executive Summary describing its accomplishments during the past two years, as well as suggested priorities to forward to the Commission and the new committee.

- If there's a bidirectionality of the relationship with the Commission – working on tasks thought of by the Commission in relationship with the Commission – that's better. Ideally there would be active engagement in the task force groups by the Commission. It's important to have a strong relationship with the Commission in the new group.
- Question 2 is really the key. Need to strongly recommend: 1) assign the responsibility of an MTC standing committee to be in charge of the Advisory Council; 2) leadership of Advisory Council needs to be assigned to speak to that committee at least on a quarterly basis.
- Rather than a standing committee, the chair and vice chair of the Commission should be in charge of the Policy Advisory Council.
- Ideas of how to reach the Commission: volunteer to help them with what's on their mind, for example SB 375; also, some Commissioners are more responsive - get to those Commissioners individually.
- Fundamental issue remains that this is an advisory body; they need to give us policies on what they want advice on, they need to give the advisors homework. As an alternative to the Policy Advisory Council being assigned to an MTC standing committee a liaison from the Commission to attend meetings. This could be a rotating responsibility.
- Thinks new Policy Advisory Council meeting should be in proximity to Commission meetings. Consider allowing Policy Advisory Council to review the Commission agenda and comment on the items.
- The Federal Railroad Administration passes things funneled on to them to an established working group to possibly take on the matter (they might elect not to study something); they study, then it goes back up to main group to act on it.
- Regarding timing of the annual workshop, there should be two separate meetings: a general orientation to MTC in early April, then the work plan workshop afterwards in late April.
- For #5, regarding attendance, staff could include a rolling attendance chart in each packet to encourage attendance and help ensure a quorum on an ongoing basis.

In closing, Ms. Cathy Jackson requested all committee members to email their additional ideas to her and Jennifer Yeamans by Tuesday, January 18.

Other Business/Public Comment/Announcements

There was no other business. The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled for February 10, 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.