

Background and Purpose of Response

Following MTC adoption of MTC Resolution No. 3931 in November 2009 which forms a new multi-interest Policy Advisory Council, the existing MTC Advisory Council has identified a need to address key issues and priorities for the consideration of both the Commission and the new Policy Advisory Council in developing the work plan for the new advisory group.

Role of MTC Advisory Council

Historically, MTC’s Advisory Council has included representatives from a range of interests, including business, environment, labor, community, academic, transportation system users, as well as representatives from MTC’s Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC) and Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee (EDAC). For the past two years, the Advisory Council has been carrying out its work in part via subcommittees: Land Use, Transportation Economics and Pricing, Sustainability, and Evaluation (see **Attachment A**) all of which consider outreach activities to seniors, low income, minority and business segments in the region.

Two Advisory Council subcommittees (Land Use and Economics) have standing recommendations in front of the Commission which should be incorporated into the new Policy Advisory Council’s work plan at the beginning of the new advisors’ term.

Resolution 3931 indicates the mission of the Policy Advisory Council is to advise the Commission on transportation policies in the Bay Area, incorporating diverse perspectives relating to the environment, economy and equity. The MTC Advisory Council recommends that the new Policy Advisory Council continue the practice of providing recommendations via the Commission’s standing committees.

Key Issues and Needs

In reviewing its work plan and accomplishments over the current advisors’ terms, the MTC Advisory Council identified the following key needs for the new Policy Advisory Council:

- 1) Recommendations to the Policy Advisory Council from existing advisors on work plan priorities and working groups for 2010–2013.
- 2) Direction on what the Policy Advisory Council should recommend to Commission to consider for the Commission’s annual work plan
- 3) Input on timing of annual workshop held by the Commission.
- 4) Revisions to MTC’s Committee and Function Organizational Chart to include descriptions of Advisory Working Groups.
- 5) Process for reviewing advisor attendance at meetings.
- 6) Identification of key transportation-related studies that may inform the Policy Advisory Council’s work.

Summary of General Recommendations

- 1) Ensure the Policy Advisory Council’s 2010–2013 term addresses the following needs:
 1. Elderly and Disabled
 2. Minority Citizens/Environmental Justice
 3. Land Use
 4. Sustainability

5. Economics
6. Evaluation

- 2) To provide effective direction to the Policy Advisory Council, MTC should:
 - a. Assign specific tasks/deliverables to the Council to be completed over the course of the work plan,
 - b. Assign one Commissioner to attend Policy Advisory Council meetings either on a standing or rotating basis,
 - c. Assign the Policy Advisory Council to an MTC standing committee or a Chair or Vice Chair appointed Representative and request the chair or appointed Representative of the Council provide quarterly updates to the committee
 - d. Provide agendas or agenda item to the Policy Advisory Council to review in advance of Commission meetings.
- 3) The initial Policy Advisory Council meeting should take place over two separate meetings: An Advisor orientation to MTC in early April followed by the Commission workshop to set the work plan at the end of April.
- 4) Make revisions to MTC's Committee and Function Organizational Chart to include descriptions of Advisory Working Groups for advisors' and staff use. Reviewing these charts at advisors' orientation will provide insight into MTC's decision-making processes and how the Policy Advisory Council's structure interfaces with MTC's.
- 5) Include a rolling advisor attendance chart for the past three meetings with Policy Advisory Council meeting materials.
- 6) Conduct the following transportation-related studies to inform the Policy Advisory Council's work:
 1. Equity Analysis
 2. University comparisons (*Q: parking, education related ?*)
 3. Climate
 4. Project evaluation from 1994 RTP to present

Summary of MTC Advisory Council Subcommittee Recommendations

Evaluation Subcommittee

For each major project in the 1994 RTP (greater than \$100 million for transit and highway projects), evaluate how our current quality of life has actually been affected by these investments. Such project measurement criteria should include: years to completion, volume, goods movement and cost. Consider that research consultants be contracted to provide whatever data and analysis regional agencies do not currently have available.

Transportation Economics and Pricing Subcommittee

Develop a capacity for better economic analysis to establish quantitatively the costs of current subsidies for cars and the benefits of pricing reforms. Ideas, such as TLC policies favoring alternative access over parking structures have been adopted by the Advisory Council and a Sustainable Communities Strategy with details on parking markets and rapid shuttles have been presented.

Sustainability Subcommittee

Begin to address the following recommendations:

- 1) Adopt a formal definition of “sustainable transportation.”
- 2) Adopt a set of “Principles of Sustainable Transportation.”
- 3) Carry out a fuel use characterization study in the nine-county region.
- 4) Direct staff to review, comment on, and offer recommendations for MTC response/s to the Hirsch Report (a report on fossil fuel supply).
- 5) Direct staff to address the issue of “teleworking” (telecommuting, teleconferencing); provide policy recommendations to Commission.
- 6) Direct staff to review and comment on the report: “Investigating the Possibility of Using BART for Air Freight Movement – Whether MTC should support and/or participate in a shared passenger/freight pilot project.
- 7) Produce a report that highlights the MTC’s role in advancing sustainable transportation systems.

Land Use Subcommittee

In addition to implementing increased funding for phase 1 TLC grants, begin to address the following recommendations:

- 1) Develop carbon reduction criteria to be applied to future (phase 2) TLC grant application criteria and
- 2) Develop land use and transportation linkage criteria to be applied to SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategies evaluations.

ATTACHMENT A

Highlights and Key Accomplishments from MTC Advisory Council Subcommittees, 2008–2010

Land Use Subcommittee

The Land Use Subcommittee had the following major activities and accomplishments:

- Recommended increased funding for Cycle 1 Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) grants, which MTC subsequently increased from \$78 million to \$85 million.
- Supported development of TLC grant evaluation criteria.
- Currently working with MTC staff to develop carbon reduction criteria to be applied to future (phase 2) TLC grant application criteria.
- Currently working the MTC and ABAG staff to develop land use and transportation linkage criteria to be applied to SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategies evaluations.

Transportation Economics and Pricing Subcommittee

The Subcommittee on Economics and Pricing produced a proposal for MTC to develop a capacity for better economic analysis which would support pricing reforms. The idea is to establish quantitatively the costs of current subsidies for cars and the benefits of pricing reforms so as to improve the political viability of such reforms. The research capability would also look for ways that interests would benefit from reform to persuade them to support reform, for about a dozen specific reform ideas.

The Subcommittee in September 2009 presented ideas to the MTC Planning Committee that led to adoption of TLC policies favoring alternative access over parking structures, a policy that was further strengthened by the Planning Committee in January 2010.

Also in January the Subcommittee presented to the Advisory Council ideas for a Sustainable Communities Strategy with details on parking markets and rapid shuttles, but also including discussion of elimination of zoning requirements for parking, unbundling, parking management, shared parking, Eco-pass, density and mixed use, design for walking, bicycles and transit, and car sharing.

Sustainability Subcommittee

The key milestones/activities of the Sustainability Subcommittee were as follows:

- March 2008: The subcommittee held its first meeting;
- June 2008: Draft recommendations and principles of sustainable transportation were presented to the full Advisory Council;
- July 2008: Revised recommendations and principles approved by the full Advisory Council with one dissenting vote; recommendations submitted to MTC staff per advisement from staff liaison for review and comment prior to presentation to MTC committee;
- October 2008: First subcommittee joint meeting with staff;
- December 2008: Received written response from staff; held second meeting with staff; subcommittee advised by staff that in their (staff's) view, there was nothing in the subcommittee's recommendations worth presenting to the Commission. Part of the

problem, they stated, was that they did not want to use the word “sustainability” due to the fact that there was no agreement on the definition of sustainability. The subcommittee’s recommendations included a proposed definition of sustainability for adoption by the MTC for its purposes in clarifying what it means when it refers to sustainability.

- January 2009: Opportunity to present subcommittee recommendations to Planning Committee in May 2009 offered. This never happened;
- February 2009: Received transportation sustainability-related legislation from staff; presented subcommittee status report and delivered written staff response to full Advisory Council;
- April 2009: MTC staff announces initiation of Transit Sustainability Project.

Evaluation Subcommittee

The subcommittee developed a recommendation in January 2010 and submitted it to the full Advisory Council for their review in February.