



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

**Agenda Item 2
Attachment 1**

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
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

**POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL
2010-2011 POTENTIAL WORK PLAN ITEMS**

Below are some potential topics/issue areas that could be included in the Policy Advisory Council work plan. These topics include some of the ideas from MTC's three former advisory committees, plus items selected from staff's review of the agency's Overall Work Plan.

Note that while staff is offering these topics as a suggested starting point, the form and nature of the Policy Advisory Council work plan should be developed by the Council and the Commission at the meeting.

Potential Work Plan Items

- **Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy**

In response to state climate change legislation (SB 375, Steinberg), regional agencies, including MTC, will develop a Sustainable Communities Strategy to be included in the next long-range Regional Transportation Plan by spring 2013. In this effort, the Commission will address strategies for reducing greenhouse gases from cars and light trucks, including the relationship between transportation investment and land use, housing, more livable communities located near transit, equity, safety, public health, and environmental protection. As a key comprehensive program for the Commission, this Sustainable Communities Strategy will touch upon a number of issues included in the priorities submitted by the former MTC advisory committees.

- **Social Equity**

Policy advisors could provide input to the Commission to ensure that traditionally underserved communities share equally in the benefits of the transportation system without bearing an undue burden with respect to negative impacts. This is an essential element of MTC's planning and fund programming work. Advisors would assist by providing input to the Commission and its staff in conducting an Equity Analysis for the above-mentioned One Bay Area Regional Transportation Plan. One of the first activities would be assisting in the development of a social equity goal by the end of the year. Advisors would be expected to become familiar with data, terminology and regional issues related to equity and environmental justice.

Based on the suggestion of former MTC advisors engaged in this subject, this is an area that could be well served by the formation of an ongoing equity working group of the Policy Advisory Council. The group's focus would be primarily on the Equity Analysis, but could also provide input on "snapshot" analyses of equity and transportation, as well as offer guidance on MTC's Lifeline Transportation Program evaluation, disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) contracting issues, or any other relevant equity or environmental justice issues as they arise.

- **Transit Sustainability Project**

MTC has launched a comprehensive initiative to review the state of public transit in the region in light of significant funding shortfalls, and to look for opportunities to make our transit network more sustainable for the customer and responsive to the need for a more robust system to support the Sustainable Communities Strategy. The Council would participate in discussions about the financial and service factors affecting the current system, and provide input on specific proposals related to improving cost-effectiveness, attracting ridership, and achieving a more reliable financial plan for transit.

- **Public Participation Plan**

MTC is required under state and federal law to adopt and periodically update a Public Participation Plan. Staff is now working on such an update, with the goal of having a draft this summer. Beyond the statutory requirements for a formal plan, however, the Council could offer ideas and serve as a sounding board on ways to get more people involved in key transportation policy and funding decisions facing the Commission. Advisors could also help spread the word in your own communities about opportunities to get involved.

- **Pricing**

Advisors could provide advice on pricing policies for the region's transportation facilities, including fee structures related to a proposed new Bay Area Express Lane Network, as well as congestion pricing on toll bridges and other pricing initiatives. An area of special concern is ensuring that low-income residents are not burdened unduly by any pricing system. This is another area flagged by former MTC advisors as a potential priority area for the Council.

Other Discussion Topics

In addition to the above longer term priorities, the Council could offer advice on a variety of topics that require only short-term discussion (for example, specific funding programs, federal and state legislation or regional ballot measures, Joint Policy Committee initiatives).