



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 2

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MTC PLANNING COMMITTEE/ MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2010 MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commissioner Mackenzie called the MTC Planning Committee meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. Planning Committee members and other Commissioners in attendance: Azumbrado, Bates, Chu, Giacomini, Haggerty, Halsted, Kinsey, Lempert, Rein-Worth, and Rubin.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Minutes of May 14, 2010

Commissioner Worth moved approval, Commissioner Halsted seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

SB 375 RTP/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY (SCS) PLAN: a: Overview and Building Local Partnerships; b) County/Corridor Partnership Process for the SCS

Mr. Henry Gardner, ABAG Executive Director, and Steve Heminger, presented an overview of the SCS development.

Mr. Gardner emphasized the basic foundation for the SCS, including the Bay Area's: 1) resilient economy, 2) diverse population, 3) high quality of life, 4) strong sense of place, and 5) high environmental quality. Mr. Gardner also noted key regional policies, such as Resolution 3434 TOD Policy that focuses on investments near existing transit and planned transit; the T2035 Plan; Projections 2009, Infill/Transit-Oriented Regional Housing Need Allocation, and FOCUS Priority Development Areas, with greater focus on infill development near transit and more walkable communities. He added that the SCS also needs to consider the Bay Plan and CEQA Guidance/Indirect Source Review Rule.

In closing, he stated that the SCS will also address the issue of health with the intention of increasing the number of walkable communities in the Bay Area.

Mr. Steve Heminger commented on the RTP's Fix-It First commitment, and the need to match this commitment with the infill strategy. Unfortunately, with limited resources, only 20% of the funds in the RTP are available for expansion, which is almost entirely focused on the transit network, which will support the kinds of strategies that will be developed in the SCS. He stated that the region's challenge is to adequately maintain the transportation network and squeeze more efficiency out of what has already been built.

He also commented on the role of pricing, such as congestion pricing on the Bay Bridge, and the concept of the Regional Express Lane Network. He noted that San Francisco has a Mobility, Access and Pricing Study underway. The most promising SCS strategy may be parking pricing where local government already has authority to implement.

Mr. Heminger stated that the SCS will have two sets of targets. CARB will release the draft GHG target on June 30. The Joint Policy Committee will review on July 9, with a CARB adoption date of September 30. The Housing target is planned for the Fall 2010, and local allocations by 2011.

Mr. Gardner stated that it will not be possible to plan for and support the development of affordable housing within this region without a lot more resources. He stated that these types of projects are challenged by the State's take-away of redevelopment agency funds, which is one of the most important funding sources for affordable housing. The SCS vision will be accomplished if there is political will at the local level to make the regional strategies work. He mentioned that this all has to be rolled up into an integrated regional strategy – it will not work to have county-by-county strategies without integrating those and making them regional strategies. The regional agencies will need to support this integration effort.

Mr. Ezra Rapport, ABAG Deputy Executive Director, summarized a proposal to engage local government officials and their staff. The two goals in working with local leadership are 1) to tailor county/corridor outreach to local interests and regional, and 2) work effectively with CMAs, transit agencies and local agencies. He described the proposed leadership roundtables to be held in each county to discuss developing an SCS, RHNA relationship, defining inter-county corridor relationships, and defining inter-regional relationships. Participants would be elected officials from the regional agencies, the CMA Chair and Vice-Chair, planning directors from PDAs, the CMAs, and the regional agency staff. The JPC will solicit roundtable membership, determine county meeting dates within the June/August 2010 timeframe, and develop county/corridor specific roundtable agendas.

Committee members offered the following questions/comments:

- Commissioner Lempert commented on parking policies that are designed to cut down the time it takes to look for parking spaces by making off-site parking very cheap, and use street meters for congestion pricing.
- Commissioner Rein-Worth stated that staff should focus on some strategies and tools for communication in the community dialogue that describes to people the amenities and benefits of certain kinds of density growth that contribute to a community.
- Commissioner Halsted noted that walkability and health are fundamental concerns that need to be addressed in the SCS.
- Commissioner Bates stated that changes in work travel (eg., working at home) raise questions about what “normal” transportation patterns are and we need to account for these changes in the planning process.

- Commissioner Giacomini encouraged infrastructure that would allow people to use electric scooters.
- Commissioner Kinsey stated that the level of understanding of the land use implications is critical, and it will be very difficult over the next few months to get the attention of the consensus that usually has to happen around land use. He recommended that staff acknowledge that they missed the chance for pre-summer, and encouraged to think about a Fall launch and use the summer to develop an effective process. He also stated that the key message should be that how the Bay Area grows impacts climate change.
- Commissioner Mackenzie also stated that walkability and health are key issues.

Public comment.

- Ms. Carli Paine, TransForm, encouraged staff to make sure the local roundtable meetings are publicly noticed. She also commented on how to frame and present the information. It's important to be transparent about the assumptions included and used in the information that is being developed and presented. It's very helpful to frame this as an opportunity to help local officials achieve the goals that they have in their communities and that their constituents have.

TRANSPORTATION 2035 EQUITY ANALYSIS: Snapshot Analysis Follow-Up

Ms. Jennifer Yeaman presented the results of the Snapshot Analysis, and next steps. She reported that based on the work done to date and the metrics agreed upon by both MTC staff and MCAC members, staff intends to use the measures developed to: 1) update demographic socioeconomic data for communities of concern in early 2011 and review current definitions of communities of concern; 2) update current set of Snapshot metrics in early 2011 to complement and inform RTP/SCS development and analysis, and distribute to all partner agencies, and 3) advance issues identified in developing Snapshot metrics for consideration in the upcoming California Household Travel Survey as well as MTC's future regional data collection efforts.

Committee members offered the following questions/comments:

- Commissioner Haggerty pointed out that Valley Care Hospital in the Tri-Valley area has an extremely high admit of asthma rates, and has been reluctant to release that data so it's very possible that their data are not on the Air District's map showing hospital admissions.
- Commissioner Rubin commented on Map #7, "Walkable Destinations", and stated that this map seems to illustrate that the vast majority of the Bay Area, is well below average. He noted that staff might want to think about how to deal with the other elements that have made the region the way it is – more specifically things like private sector providers who, by their nature, require a great deal of parking. Mr. Heminger referred to Slide #5, "Low-Income Travelers", and stated that the walk and bike share is very high. He noted that one thing that staff's analysis revealed is how limiting just a transportation perspective is in this subject area.
- Commissioner Rein-Worth stated that another area that would be helpful to understand is the issue of availability of jobs near transportation corridors. She suggested that staff

provide an analysis that shows the availability of jobs near the corridors for all segments of the population.

- Commissioner Bates questioned the life of shopping centers in suburbia. He noted that small regional shopping centers offer a potential opportunity to develop more dense housing in those settings, and convert to places where there can be walkability.
- Commissioner Rubin asked how do we help developers, who are left with property that is not yielding any rents to do the right thing? He suggested staff provide some methodology for them to come together. Commissioner Bates stated that we need to provide financing for people to make those conversions – get low interest loans.
- Commissioner Chu commented on Map #7, “Walkable Destinations”, and stated that the number of businesses seems to be understated and need to be better reflected.
- Commissioner Azumbrado asked how it is that someone who is earning \$35k is able to access affordable neighborhoods in San Francisco as the Housing + Transportation Affordability map shows. Ms. Yeamans stated that there are policy differences within the region that affect whether a person who already lives in a community can afford to continue live there, compared to whether somebody making that same income can afford to move there from somewhere else. The map reflects data from the Census in which people self-report what they pay by neighborhood, rather than fair market value for people seeking housing.

Public Comment:

- Ms. Randi Kinman, former MCAC & current Policy Advisory Council member, stated that as a former MCAC member, she can take some of this information on to the new Policy Advisory Council because the new committee is discussing equity to some degree, but concentrating more on the sustainability factor with the assumption that equity is going to be rolled into it. She urged the committee to assist them in getting the maps online.
- Mr. Carlos Castellanos, former MCAC & current Policy Advisory Council member, stated that the committee also anticipates that over time there will be other data sources that will come along. He encouraged the committee to continue working on keeping equity in the mix.
- Ms. Carli Paine, TransForm, stated that she is pleased that staff has worked with the MCAC and other allies on a new approach, which represents an exciting step forward. She stated that it is important to get this information online and in an interactive way, and that it’s updated regularly. She also requested that this information be made available to the CMAs.
- Ms. Lindsay Imai, Urban Habitat, stated that she sees the Snapshot as being critical for helping the committee do better planning and evaluation of projects and programs. She recommended: 1) put the information online so it’s accessible to everyone, 2) update the Snapshot annually, and 3) include a regional average against some of the metrics to show how each community lines up against a regional average.
- Ms. Anna Lee, Communities for a Better Environment, Ditching Dirty Diesel Collaborative, encouraged the inclusion of maps and indicators of overall air quality in the Bay Area. She also suggested slight changes to the indicators and pointed out a gap in data on freight transportation. She suggested using an absolute amount of particulate

matter 2.5 from all sources to give a better picture of background on air quality. It's also important to know the traffic volume of heavy trucks since it is an underlying piece of data that informs air quality estimates that the Air District uses in their analysis. She requested that MTC do a truck volume monitoring in the impacted areas.

Lastly, Commissioner Rein-Worth stated that it would be helpful that some of the maps, as well as the low-income traveler's regional trends, be provided on a county basis so the local CMAs and the transportation organizations can have the data.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 9, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, CA.