



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: July 7, 2010

FR: Catalina Alvarado, Public Information Officer

W.I. 1114

RE: MTC's Draft Public Participation Plan

Background

The federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA) requires metropolitan planning organizations such as MTC to adopt public participation plans to provide the public with opportunities to be involved in the transportation planning process. MTC's Public Participation Plan was adopted in 2007. A revised plan is attached; staff requests that it be released for a 45-day public comment period.

The 2010 revisions reflect a restructuring of MTC's advisory committee into a single, broad based Policy Advisory Council; the addition of a Public Participation Plan for the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), as required by California Senate Bill 375; clarification of the principles that guide MTC's public involvement efforts; and minor changes to the steps involved in updating and revising the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program.

In drafting the 2007 Public Participation Plan, MTC staff consulted with a wide range of interested parties as required by the SAFETEA legislation. The comments and guidance resulting from that 2007 effort remain relevant and continue to inform the principles and procedures contained in this revised 2010 Plan. During the public review period, staff will consult with MTC's Policy Advisory Council, as well as an advisory group to the development of the SCS. Focus groups held with limited English proficient persons also will serve to inform procedures contained in this plan. In the attached Draft Plan, major additions to the plan are shown as underlined text and deletions are shown in strikethrough fashion.

Public Participation for Sustainable Communities Strategy & Regional Transportation Plan

Appendix A to the Draft Plan is the "Public Participation Plan for the Bay Area Sustainable Communities Strategy and Regional Transportation Plan." An extensive outreach effort is anticipated with local government officials and the public as part of the process of developing the Bay Area's SCS. In addition to a partnership among local governments (cities, counties, congestion management agencies, and transit agencies), a number of public stakeholders will be consulted, as called out in SB 375 and in federal legislation that governs regional transportation planning. As part of the advisory structure for the SCS, staff will utilize existing advisory groups, including MTC's Policy Advisory Council, ABAG's Regional Planning Committee, as well as the recently created Regional Advisory Working Group.

To the extent that funding allows, public engagement efforts for the SCS and the RTP will include:

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- Public workshops in all nine Bay Area counties (over the course of development of the SCS, ABAG and MTC expect to hold more than the required minimum of three workshops in each county with a population larger than 500,000; and one meeting in smaller counties);
- Grants to community non-profit organizations in communities of concern for assistance in engaging their residents;
- Use of computer simulation at public workshops to depict alternatives under consideration;
- Specialized focus groups;
- A statistically relevant public opinion poll (also available in languages other than English);
- A single Web site for current updates on the SCS (also accessible from the Web sites of the regional agencies);
- Interactive Web polls, kiosks, surveys, etc.;
- Maintenance of a database to keep participants notified (via e-mail or U.S. mail) of activities throughout the multi-year process; and
- At least three public hearings on the Draft SCS Plan, held in different parts of the region.

Draft Public Participation Plan Schedule

Key dates leading up to adoption of the MTC Public Participation Plan are shown below.

Friday, July 9, 2010	Release of Draft Public Participation Plan, opening of 45-day public comment period
Monday, Aug. 23, 2010	4 p.m., close of public comment period for Draft Public Participation Plan
Friday, Sept. 10, 2010	Staff response to public comments on plan; final review of Public Participation Plan by Legislation Committee and referral to Commission
Wed., Sept. 22, 2010	Commission action on final MTC Public Participation Plan

Note that written comments on the draft Public Participation Plan are due by 4 p.m. on Monday, August 23, 2010. Questions from advisors on the subject can be directed to Catalina Alvarado at calvarado@mtc.ca.gov or via phone at 510-817-5783.