



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 7

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: April 6, 2011

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – April 2011

Policy Advisory Council Work Plan Workshop on May 25

Resolution 3931 – the resolution that defines the role and responsibilities of MTC’s Policy Advisory Council – calls for the Commission to hold an annual workshop with the Council to set its work plan for the following year. The goal of this workshop is for the Commission to identify its priority areas for feedback from the Council and establish goals and performance measures for the Council as appropriate. I have attached a copy of your current work plan (Attachment A) for your information.

Staff is proposing this workshop take place on Wednesday, May 25th, as a lunch meeting following the morning Commission meeting. This meeting would occur instead of the originally scheduled May 10th Policy Advisory Council meeting. Please mark your calendars for that date and let Pam Grove (pgrove@mtc.ca.gov) know if you are available to attend. More information and details will follow.

Policy Advisory Council Chair and Vice Chair Elections in June

Also prescribed in Resolution 3931 is the annual election of chair and vice chair of the Policy Advisory Council. Nominations will open at the May 25th meeting, and the election will be held at your June 8th meeting.

If you are interested in serving as chair or vice chair, or if you wish to nominate someone to serve in either capacity, please provide the name(s) to Pam Grove.

Plan Bay Area Workshops Scheduled for April and May

Following the release of the Initial Vision Scenario, MTC and ABAG are hosting a series of public workshops in April and May to begin the tradeoffs and choices discussion. Attached is a flyer listing the workshops in each county (Attachment B). These workshops promise to be interesting and engaging through the use of Envision Bay Area’s *You Choose Bay Area* online tool and other interactive public involvement strategies.

You may recall the e-mail you received stating staff has taken the liberty of registering you – as a member of the Policy Advisory Council – for the workshop in your county. As a reminder, please let Pam Grove know if you are unable to attend so that we may free up the space for someone else. We appreciate you continuing to spread the word about these important outreach efforts in the development of the region’s SCS/RTP. Please encourage others to register for a workshop.

To learn more about the Plan Bay Area process and your county’s workshop, go to the One Bay Area web site at http://www.onebayarea.org/plan_bay_area/about.htm.

MTC Contribution Keys New Affordable Housing Fund

On March 23, 2011, MTC approved a \$10 million commitment through its Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) program to establish a new \$50 million revolving loan fund for affordable housing developers to finance land acquisition in select locations near rail and bus lines throughout the Bay Area. Other investors in the new Bay Area Transit Oriented Affordable Housing Fund include Morgan Stanley, Citi Community Capital, The Ford Foundation and Living Cities, the San Francisco Foundation, and six community development financial institutions (Low Income Investment Fund, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, Enterprise Community Loan Fund, Local Initiatives Support Corp., the Northern California Community Loan Fund and Opportunity Fund). In addition, the Silicon Valley Community Foundation provided a grant to support the fund.

The goal of the fund is to help developers finance the acquisition of at least 20 to 30 acres of land around the region which will support development of 1,100 to 3,800 units of affordable housing, depending on the density of construction. All loans made through the Bay Area Affordable Transit Oriented Housing Fund will be for projects located in neighborhoods designated as Priority Development Areas. The fund, which will operate for at least 10 years, is modeled on similar funds established in recent years in Denver, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New Orleans and New York, which in aggregate total more than \$350 million and have been used to leverage hundreds of millions of additional dollars from commercial lenders, investment funds, foundations and public agencies to support affordable housing development.

For more information on the Bay Area Affordable transit Oriented Housing Fund, go to MTC’s web site at http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/press_releases/rel523.htm.

Bike to Work Day is May 12

The San Francisco Bay Area’s 17th Annual Bike to Work Day will be held on May 12, 2011. A focal point of National Bike Month, this day-long event encourages Bay Area residents to use two-wheeled transportation to work – even if it’s just for the day.

There are other festivities surrounding the bike ride. Energizer stations are set up along popular Bay Area bike routes, providing cyclists with giveaways and refreshments. Participants who

register for Bike to Work Day online will be automatically entered in a raffle for a new bike and various bicycle gear.

For more information on Bike to Work Day, including photos of past events and information on the Team Bike Challenge, go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/3-11/btwd.htm.

From the Executive Director's Report

The following items of interest were in the March 2011 Executive Director's Report to the Commission:

- ***Gas Tax Swap Approved (Again) — Sacramento, March 16***
By surprisingly broad bi-partisan margins in both the Assembly and Senate, the Legislature reenacted the complicated sales tax/gas tax swap with the two-thirds supermajority vote required by the passage of Proposition 26 last November. Although this action doesn't provide any new state funding, it does halt the pattern of diverting transportation funds to help bail out the state's beleaguered General Fund budget.
- ***MTC Receives Affordable Housing Award***
We have been notified that MTC will receive the Distinguished Public Agency Award from the Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California at an event in May in San Francisco. The source and nature of this award is a telling indication that – as the old saying goes – MTC is not your grandfather's regional transportation agency any more.

To read the entire Executive Director's report to the Commission, go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed_report.htm.

2010-2011 POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Overview

The MTC Policy Advisory Council (Council), as an advisory body to the MTC, has been requested by the Commission to consider a number of initiatives in constructing a work plan. These include: a Sustainable Communities Strategy for inclusion in the next Regional Transportation Plan; a Social Equity analysis for inclusion in the Regional Transportation Plan; the Transit Sustainability Project; an updated Public Participation Plan; and input into the Pricing of transportation in the Bay Area. In discussing these initiatives, the Council sees them as linked, and therefore has developed the following work plan which seeks to integrate these components into work products that will be of value to the Commission and the Bay Area Community as a whole.

Key Elements

- **Discussion of “Key Drivers”**

As the Bay Area's transportation system faces serious scrutiny, the Policy Advisory Council believes that a critical part of the analysis is that of understanding the underlying values and forces that have contributed to the system's current status. Likewise, in developing policies for the future, it is vitally important to consider the values and forces or "key drivers" necessary to plan for and create desired outcomes. The Council will analyze and develop recommendations regarding these "key drivers" for the Commission's consideration in planning the Bay Area's transportation future.

- **Sustainable Communities Strategy**

The Council views the Sustainable Communities Strategy as the overriding and comprehensive policy area that includes as components the other initiatives suggested to the Council by the Commission. Therefore, the Council will develop recommendations to the MTC for the next Regional Transportation Plan on a Sustainable Communities Strategy that responds to state climate change legislation (SB 375) for reducing transportation sources of greenhouse gases, and considers the impacts of transportation investment and land use, equity, safety, public health, environmental protection, pricing, and the role of transit.

- **Social Equity**

The Council believes that social equity should be considered in every aspect of the Commission's work. In this regard, the Council will provide policy recommendations to the Commission to ensure that traditionally underserved communities share equally in the transportation system without bearing an undue burden with respect to negative impacts. In addition, the Council will provide recommendations to MTC regarding the need to adjust transportation planning and funding priorities in response to the changing demographics and travel needs of the Bay Area's populations. The Council also will work to develop social equity goals for the next Regional Transportation Plan.

- **Transit Sustainability Project**

The Council recognizes that a financially-sound, cost-effective public transit system that is responsive to rider needs is a key component of a Sustainable Communities Strategy. In this regard, the Council will work to provide policy advice to MTC regarding the Transit Sustainability Project.

- **Public Participation**

As advisors to MTC, the Council recognizes the critical importance of public involvement in transportation policy decisions. Therefore, the Council will work to provide suggestions for increasing public involvement in MTC's decisions and will work with MTC staff to review the agency's Public Participation Plan.

- **Pricing Policies**

The members of the Council understand that one of the key factors individuals consider when evaluating their transportation choices is the pricing of the alternatives, and that pricing is also an equity issue. The Council will work to evaluate MTC's pricing policies in the upcoming initiatives and new strategies.

Subcommittees/Working Groups

The Council will have one standing subcommittee on the subject of Equity and Access. This subcommittee will take a closer look at details related to the development of social equity goals for the Regional Transportation Plan and transportation access, the impact of various policies on the region's underserved and low-income communities, and access and mobility issues related to senior and disabled populations.

In addition, as topics require a more in-depth discussion, the Council will form ad hoc working groups or short-term subcommittees. These groups should be very specifically defined with specific objectives to be achieved within a specified timeframe.



Help build the Bay Area's blueprint for sustainable communities and a prosperous future

You are invited to participate, to comment, to help innovate, as our region begins a public discussion on how to accommodate future growth. Plan Bay Area is a joint effort to create a prosperous, sustainable future by producing an integrated land-use/transportation plan looking forward to 2040.

Attend a Bay Area workshop in your county.

Participants will use a fun, interactive web-based simulation tool to outline priorities, consider different growth options and see future consequences. Space is limited. Early registration is encouraged. **Refreshments will be provided.**

Thursday, April 21, 2011
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Santa Clara County*
Microsoft Corporation
1065 La Avenida Street
Mountain View

Thursday, April 28, 2011
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Napa County
Elks Lodge
2840 Soscol Avenue
Napa

Wednesday, May 11, 2011
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Marin County
Embassy Suites Hotel
101 McInnis Parkway
San Rafael

Monday, April 25, 2011
5:30-8:30 p.m.

San Francisco County
Milton Marks Conference
Center
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco

Wednesday, May 4, 2011
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Solano County
Solano County Events Center
601 Texas Street,
Conference Room A, Fairfield
(Entrance on Union Ave.)

Wednesday, May 18, 2011
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Sonoma County*
The Glaser Center
547 Mendocino Avenue
Santa Rosa

Wednesday, April 27, 2011
5:30-8:30 p.m.

San Mateo County*
San Mateo Public Library
55 West 3rd St., San Mateo

Saturday, May 7, 2011
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Contra Costa County*
Concord Senior Center
2727 Parkside Circle,
Concord

Thursday, May 19, 2011
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Alameda County*
David Brower Center
2150 Allston Way
Berkeley

* Also a YouChoose Bay Area Workshop

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Let's plan together for future growth that enhances the economy, environment and social equity, and our communities' livability.

Plan Bay Area—one of our region's most comprehensive planning efforts to date—is led by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in partnership with the Bay Area's other two regional government agencies, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

The regional agencies are partnering with Envision Bay Area, a strategic initiative led by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation and a group of nonprofits working to promote public participation in the development of Plan Bay Area. An online tool—YouChoose Bay Area—helps residents to understand some of the challenges and trade-offs associated with the housing and transportation needs of our growing region. Visit the online tool at: www.youchoosebayarea.org.

RSVP at www.onebayarea.org/workshops or 510.817.5831 (or TTY/TDD: 510.817.5769). Please leave your name, address, phone number and email, and let us know which workshop you plan to attend.

If you need a sign language interpreter, if English is your second language and you need translation services, or if you require any other type of assistance please contact us by calling 510.817.5757 or 510.817.5769 for TDD/TTY. We require at least three days' notice to provide reasonable accommodations.

For transit directions: www.511.org



**Association of
Bay Area Governments**



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