

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.