



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

Agenda Item 7

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: June 3, 2011

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

WI: 1114

RE: Policy Advisory Council 2011-2012 Work Plan

Resolution 3931 of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission creates a Policy Advisory Council to advise the Commission on transportation policies in the San Francisco Bay Area. The resolution states that the Commission shall hold a separately agendized annual workshop in order to set the Policy Advisory Council's work plan for the coming year.

At the May 25 joint work plan meeting with the Commission, the Policy Advisory Council was encouraged to discuss not only the work plan but the current progress on Plan Bay Area. The Commission was receptive to hearing from the advisors about concerns or issues of importance to the Council. Due to the broader discussion, the Council's work plan was not adopted at the meeting.

While Commissioners did mention Plan Bay Area as the key topic on their agenda for the coming year and did not suggest major revisions to the current work plan, one new suggestion was made. Commissioner Spering noted that there may be legislative actions needed to accomplish some of the Commission's objectives. He suggested the Policy Advisory Council consider possible legislative changes that would be needed in order to implement Plan Bay Area.

Enclosed is a proposed work plan that includes Commissioner Spering's additional item (see underlined text for proposed edits). Please review the draft so that we can approve the Commission-proposed work plan (with any minor edits you may have) at Wednesday's meeting.

Attachment

J:\COMMITTEE\Policy Advisory Council\Meeting Packets\2011\06_June 2011\7a_Work Plan.doc

DRAFT 2011-2012 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; input into the Pricing of transportation in the Bay Area; and potential Legislation that could assist with the Commission's work. 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.

- **Legislative Initiatives**

The Council has been asked by the Commission to consider what possible legislative changes might be needed in order to implement Plan Bay Area. The Council will agendize this topic and possibly enlist staff or other experts to give briefings, background information or opinions.

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.