



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 8

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council
FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison
RE: Staff Liaison Report – June 2011

DATE: June 3, 2011

W.I. 1114

Equity and Access Subcommittee Changes Meeting Time

In order to have a full half hour of dedicated subcommittee business time, the Equity and Access Subcommittee is changing its meeting time beginning next month. Starting with the July 13th meeting, the subcommittee will meet at 10:30 am on the second Wednesday of the month, followed by the subcommittee's participation in the Equity Working Group at 11:15 a.m.

Plan Bay Area Workshop Results

The results of the extensive public outreach for Plan Bay Area's Initial Vision Scenario, along with a preliminary alternative scenario presentation will be featured at the June 10 joint meeting of MTC's Planning Committee and ABAG's Administrative Committee beginning at 10 am. While the alternative scenario item on that agenda is the same as the Policy Advisory Council's June 8 main item, Council members may wish to view the entire packet or listen in on the meeting.

To review the meeting packet, go to: <http://apps.mtc.ca.gov/events/agendaView.akt?p=1680>

To listen in to the meeting, visit MTC's meeting schedule page (<http://www.mtc.ca.gov/meetings/schedule/index.htm>) the morning of the meeting and click the Live Audio link. (Note: If there is no audio, the meeting has likely not started yet; try again a few minutes later.)

New Freedom Call for Projects

MTC is currently soliciting projects in the San Francisco Bay Area's large urbanized areas for the Federal Transit Administration's New Freedom grant program (49 USC Section 5317). The New Freedom program provides grants for new capital and operating projects aimed at reducing, beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, transportation barriers faced by individuals with disabilities. The available funding is \$3.7 million for the Bay Area's large urbanized areas. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, local government

authorities, and public transportation operators. **Applications are due no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, August 5, 2011.**

A workshop for prospective applicants will be held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Tuesday, June 28, 2011, in the Claremont Conference Room on the 2nd floor of MTC's office at 101 Eighth Street in Oakland. Attendance is not required but encouraged.

Additional information, including MTC's Program Guidelines and the application form, is available at http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/new_freedom.htm. For questions and more information, contact the program manager, Kristen Mazur, at 510-817-5789.

Trucks' Toll Hike Waiver Ends

The July 2010 toll increase on Bay Area toll bridges included a one-year waiver for vehicles with more than two axles. This includes vehicle combinations such as pickup/boat trailer and RV/auto as well as big-rig trucks.

The toll hike exemption for trucks will end on July 1, when the first step in a two-phase toll increase takes effect. To view the new toll schedule for trucks, go to <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/tolls/multi-axle.htm>

Spare the Air Season Has Begun

The 2011 Spare the Air Season began on May 2 and will continue through September. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Spare the Air Program, a program developed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to reduce smog during the summer month when air quality is typically forecast to be at unhealthy levels. Residents can help Spare the Air by carpooling, taking transit, biking or walking instead of driving alone.

To view MTC's press release on this season's Spare the Air program, go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/5-11/sta.htm. Visit www.sparetheair.org, call 1-800-HELPAIR (435-7247) or sign up for email AirAlerts at www.sparetheair.org to check the daily air quality forecast.

Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley Now Open

Some of you may be aware that the Ed Roberts campus held its official grand opening in April of this year. But in case some of you have not heard of it, the campus – a center for the disability rights and independent living movements – is named after Ed Roberts (1939-1995), an international leader and pioneering champion for persons with disabilities. The new Ed Roberts facility has already become a Berkeley architectural icon, and a symbol to the world of disability rights made manifest.

To read more about the Ed Roberts campus, go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/4-11/ed_roberts.htm. Better yet, if you get the opportunity, stop by – it's just a short BART ride to the underground level of the campus at the Berkeley Ashby BART station.

From the Executive Director's Report

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

- ***Commission Workshop — Half Moon Bay, April 27-28***
I just wanted to thank Chair Tissier and all the commissioners and staff who participated in this two-day session. I thought we had a very productive discussion about the two major planning projects underway at MTC: [Plan Bay Area](#) and the [Transit Sustainability Project](#). Several commissioners mentioned to me that the co-dependency of these two projects became much clearer as the workshop proceeded – which was one of the intended purposes for the event. (*Staff Note: To view the packet for the April Commission workshop, go to <http://apps.mtc.ca.gov/events/agendaView.akt?p=1656>.*)

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