



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 8

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: November 2, 2011

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – November 2011 – REVISED

Update on MTC's Express Lane Application to the California Transportation Commission

At its October 27th meeting in Sacramento, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) by a vote of 6 to 1 determined that MTC's plan to add 290 miles to the Bay Area's system of high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes – known as Express lanes – meets the eligibility requirements for the implementation and operation of HOT lanes established by state statute. In the coming months, MTC will work with its regional Express Lane partners (including Caltrans and county-level congestion management agencies) to devise and implement a public outreach process in the Bay Area, identify and sequence Express Lane projects in the authorized highway corridors, and perform engineering and operations analyses. We will consult the Policy Advisory Council as part of this process. For its part, the CTC will hold the second of two public hearings on high-occupancy toll lanes at its December meeting in Riverside. MTC staff will be at your November meeting and can respond to any questions regarding the CTC's decision. For more information on the decision, go to: http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/9-11/express_lanes.htm

FTA Information Session

MTC staff presented information to the Policy Advisory Council last month regarding the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) proposed new Title VI and Environmental Justice Circular that are now out for comment. In its efforts to reach out to transit agencies, community-based organizations, and stakeholders, the FTA is holding an information session in the San Francisco Bay Area to provide information about the two proposed circulars and answer clarifying questions.

As a reminder, the information session will be held on:

Monday, November 14, 2011

6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Ed Roberts Campus

3075 Adeline Street

Berkeley, California

To register (for free), visit www.FTAInformationSession.com. The event flyer is attached.

Clipper Title VI Report Reminder: Public Comments Being Accepted

At your meeting last month, MTC staff gave an overview of the Clipper Title VI report. The draft report outlines steps that MTC and transit agency staff have taken to ensure that individuals protected by Title VI and low-income persons have equitable access to Clipper program benefits and services. These steps include waiving the \$5 card acquisition fee since June 2010, holding more than 800 outreach events around the region to date, improving the multilingual capabilities at the Clipper Customer Service Center, running media campaigns in Chinese and Spanish languages, and widely distributing Clipper cards in communities of predominantly low-income, limited English, and minority residents.

As a reminder, the public is encouraged to provide feedback on MTC's efforts to mitigate these potential adverse impacts for Title VI-protected communities. MTC is particularly interested in public input regarding the proposal described on pages 15-18 of the draft report (available via MTC's web site at http://www.mtc.ca.gov/get_involved/rights/clipper.htm and distributed to you at your last meeting) to reduce the card acquisition fee to \$3, accompanied by a \$2 minimum balance. Comments are due by **4 p.m. on Thursday, December 22, 2011**. Policy Advisory Council members can e-mail written comments to info@mtc.ca.gov; mail them to MTC Public Information, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607-4700; or fax them to 510.817.5848.

After receiving and addressing public feedback on the draft report, MTC's Operations Committee, which sets the policies of the Clipper program, will adopt any resulting changes to the Clipper Operating Rules.

New Freedom Cycle 4 Grant Program Update

At the last Equity and Access Subcommittee meeting, MTC staff gave a presentation on the Cycle 4 Proposed Program of Projects for the New Freedom Program. At that time, the full list of projects was not available, but staff agreed to notify the Equity and Access Subcommittee once the list was finalized. Staff decided to notify the full Council as well, and the list is now available at: http://apps.mtc.ca.gov/meeting_packet_documents/agenda_1765/4b_tmp-4041.pdf

The proposed program of projects was presented to the Programming and Allocations Committee for consideration at their November 9th meeting. For questions or comments, please contact Kristen Mazur of MTC staff at kmazur@mtc.ca.gov or 510-817-5789.

MTC Policy Advisory Council Review

In 2010, when MTC consolidated its three advisory panels into a single Policy Advisory Council, it also decided a review of the effectiveness of this new body would be beneficial. Consequently, MTC staff has begun the process of conducting an evaluation of the Policy Advisory Council, which is expected to include surveys of Commissioners as well as current and former advisors. The survey will begin in the next few weeks, and will inform the next recruitment of advisory council representatives. As current members of the Council, you should expect to receive an invitation to participate in a survey – or possibly a phone call – from Kendall Flint of Flint Strategies. Results of the evaluation are expected to be presented to the Legislation Committee at its December meeting.

From the Executive Director's Report

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

- ***CMA Directors Meeting — Napa, September 30***
At my regular quarterly get-together with the directors of the congestion management agencies, we spent most of our time talking about the [One Bay Area grant proposal](#). We hope to circulate for public comment a revised draft of the proposal within the next few months.
- ***Regional Headquarters Purchase — San Francisco, October 14***
The \$93 million transaction to purchase 390 Main Street in San Francisco as a regional agency headquarters formally closed on this date. The building is now owned by the Bay Area Headquarters Authority (BAHA). Staff will be bringing a series of budgetary and contractual actions to BAHA in the coming months as we begin the challenging task of renovating the facility and readying it for occupancy in 2013.
- ***Upcoming Events***
November 10 – Senate Transportation Committee hearing on regionalism, San Francisco

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