



# Policy Advisory Council Evaluation

Presentation February 2012  
Kendall Flint, Flint Strategies





# Purpose of the Evaluation

The Evaluation was designed to determine how well the new structure accomplished the goals:

- Greater influence on policy decisions by the MTC Board;
- Better communication between Council members and Commission; and
- Better access to executive and senior-level MTC staff.



## Research

- Interviews with current Commissioners, including the Chair and Vice Chair;
- Interviews with current Council members including the Chair and Vice Chair;
- Interviews with former advisors;
- Interviews with MTC executives and key staff;



## Research

- Review of all Council and Commission agendas and minutes from 2009 through 2011;
- An electronic survey sent to former advisors;
- An electronic survey sent to current Council members; and
- A review of 2009 research and recommendations that led to the formation of the Policy Advisory Council.



## Key Findings

- Commissioners appreciate receiving more focused policy advise.
- Council members cite increased access to decision makers and MTC staff.
- Some concern, especially from former advisors, that new Council structure is not inclusive enough; however no specific issues or instances could be cited where the Council was unable to provide direction due to lack of representation.



## Key Findings

- 78% of Council members agree or strongly agree that their membership includes diverse perspectives relating to the environment, the economy and social equity.
- 95% of the Council members describe MTC staff as attentive and responsive.
- Slightly more than half of the current advisors feel that the Council is effective in advising the Commission. Roughly a third are neutral.
- 38% feel that there is not enough communication between Advisors and Commissioners; just 18% feel that communication is adequate.



## Key Findings

- 88% of advisors believe the Council's monthly reports enhance communication with the Commission; just 25% believe the board actually considers its advice.
- Almost all members have a clear understanding of the Council's mission and goals; but despite the annual work plan meetings with Commissioners, just 43% feel the board gives them clear direction.
- 55% of former advisors do not believe that the newly reconstituted Policy Advisory Council has had greater influence and/or added more value to MTC.



# Recommendations

- 1: More Collaborative Annual Work Plan Conference
- 2: Enhanced Training for Council Members
- 3: Clearer Delineation of Education and Policy Items
- 4: Quarterly Meetings Between Commission and Council Chairs/Vice-Chairs
- 5: Ongoing status updates on Council recommendations via Staff Liaison Report



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