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Policy Advisory Council
March 14, 2012
Draft Minutes

Chair Dolly Sandoval called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Other members in attendance were Cathleen Baker, Richard Burnett, Carlos Castellanos, Bena Chang, Wilbert Din, Sandi Galvez, Richard Hedges, Dolores Jaquez, Randi Kinman, Marshall Loring, Yokia Mason, Tanya Narath, Tina King Neuhausel, Lori Reese-Brown, Gerald Rico, Frank Robertson and Egon Terplan. Excused: Naomi Armenta, JoAnn Busenbark, Linda Jeffery Sailors, Federico Lopez and Kendal Oku.

Approval of February Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 8, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Mr. Loring and a second by Ms. Jaquez.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Subcommittee Reports

Equity and Access Subcommittee

Vice-chair Kinman reported that the Equity and Access Subcommittee met earlier in the day and discussed a new JARC round of funding centered on mobility management coordination. The subcommittee was also given a briefing on the future update of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, which will be coming back before the subcommittee for review in the next few months.

Transit Sustainability Project Update

Kenneth Folan of MTC staff presented an update on the Transit Sustainability (TSP) project, including the financial, service and institutional elements of the project. He also provided information requested by the Council in February.

Comments from the Council were as follows:

- Suggest that funds not allocated to transit agencies who are not meeting their goals be redirected for development of bus shelters to help increase ridership, and that MTC exert more authority over how transit agencies spend allocated funds.
- Consider potential regressive impacts of the incentive structure on programs such as Lifeline.

- Support consolidation of county tax authority and congestion management agency.
- Suggest implementing a regional fare policy to further strengthen coordination among small operators; also would like to discuss this at a future Council meeting.
- Would like to see a distinction made between gas-operated transit lines versus electric lines – or mixed – when comparing financial impacts.
- Would like to see an emphasis on consolidation of transit service to enhance cost savings and improve service delivery.

Vice Chair Terplan moved the Council support the staff recommendation, with the caveat that it is important to ensure an appropriate enforcement policy and provide incentives for the operators to grow ridership and continue important Lifeline service. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kinman, and was unanimously passed with no objections or abstentions.

Plan Bay Area Preferred Draft Land Use Scenario

Kenneth Kirkey of ABAG staff presented the draft Plan Bay Area land use scenario, which includes job and housing growth forecasts through 2040 for the region's cities, counties and priority development areas.

The Council's comments and questions related to the land use scenario were as follows:

- Need to advocate for any future available redevelopment funds to be used solely for low-income housing.
- The scenario and housing allocation should take into account the current housing market, foreclosures and empty houses and lots.
- Economic development strategies should be closely aligned with jobs/housing needs, and policies should be developed to ensure goals are met by cities and counties.
- The question was asked as to whether this scenario – particularly the creation of PDAs that cause local costs to rise – serves low-income, minority and senior populations.
- The Plan should look at existing job patterns in order to: 1) figure out the locations for new employment, and 2) implement policies or incentives to attract companies to move to PDAs.
- Parking needs to be a consideration for future higher density jobs.
- Concern was expressed about an aging senior population that will not be able to afford to live in an assisted living facility; MTC should consider legislation in California that would allow Medicaid funds to be used for assisted living, as it is in other states.
- Need to implement job training programs so that residents already living in PDAs are eligible for future local jobs.
- Affordable housing needs to be a priority; the region needs to advocate for a funding source dedicated to affordable housing if it's not funded through redevelopment funds.
- Need to include a senior housing strategy, such as group housing or other low-income housing.
- Maps of PDAs by county should have transit on them, so it's apparent where the transit corridors are.
- Embedded in this scenario is a new definition of PDAs that focuses on employment centers and rural/town centers; it makes it confusing to know how focused the growth is since there is a heavy reliance on PDA percentages.

- Funding from MTC for RTP projects should adhere closely to the SCS land-use scenario.
- Land use alone is insufficient to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals; we need strong accompanying policies.
- MTC should lead the way in the region to bring manufacturing back to America, which would assist in job creation.
- Concern was expressed about some counties adopting what they refer to as a PDA that can't really be defined as a PDA, i.e., the area is not really served by transit.
- There needs to be a sustained strategy for meeting the needs of low-income workers who require affordable housing.

Vice Chair Terplan moved that the Council generally support the direction of the proposed land-use scenario in that it focuses the Bay Area's growth in a more concentrated manner. He also suggested the Council make the following two recommendations: 1) that MTC develop specific policies to help achieve a more concentrated and focused growth pattern, and 2) as MTC funds projects in the RTP, the allocations should be done in accordance with the land use vision and goals of the adopted scenario. The motion was seconded by Ms. Neuhausel. A friendly amendment to the first recommendation was added by Ms. Galvez to strongly recommend that the policies address the issue of affordability. The motion maker and seconder both agreed, and the motion was unanimously passed with no objections or abstentions.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Title VI Update

MTC Contract Compliance Manager Denise Rodrigues gave a brief update on the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program and MTC's ongoing Title VI activities.

The Council asked for clarification on how to access the DBE database, and commented on the importance of ensuring contractors' DBE goals are met.

Staff Liaison Report

The Council received the report given by staff liaison Pam Grove.

Council Member Reports

Ms. Chang announced the signing of the grant agreement for \$900 million to fund the BART to Silicon Valley project. She invited the Council to a groundbreaking ceremony on April 12th, noting that Senator Feinstein will be in attendance, and asking MTC staff to forward a formal copy of the invitation to the Council.

Ms. Kinman announced that she attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and inaugural train ride for the new VTA Diridon and Santa Clara stations, the first completed ARRA funded projects in the state. She also thanked Vice Chair Terplan for the wonderful reception SPUR held in San Jose.

Ms. Reese-Brown invited the Council to visit the city of Richmond website for information on their new Easy Go program, which provides electric and hybrid vehicles and vans for low-income residents.

New Business

Mr. Robertson commented on the annual report to Congress and suggested in next year's report, the Council Chair and Vice Chair names and the work of the Council be mentioned.

Ms. Mason asked if there have been any studies on land use in homeless populations. Chair Sandoval asked that staff follow-up on this inquiry, and Ms. Grove agreed to accompany Ms. Mason to the MTC-ABAG Library to research the subject.

Chair Sandoval recapped issues that need follow-up:

- Possible legislation to allow the state to use Medicaid for assisted living
- Future redevelopment fund programs being reconstituted to be utilized for the original purpose, which is low-income housing
- Future discussion of policy ideas for development of a regional fare, including a low-income, means-tested discounted fare

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m. There will be a special meeting of the Policy Advisory Council on April 3, 2012 in Conference Room 171, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, California. The next regular meeting of the Policy Advisory Council will be held on April 11, 2012, at the Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Auditorium, Oakland, California.