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Policy Advisory Council
July 11, 2012
Draft Minutes

Chair Dolly Sandoval called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. Other members in attendance were Naomi Armenta, Richard Burnett, Carlos Castellanos, Wilbert Din, Richard Hedges, Dolores Jaquez, Linda Jeffery Sailors, Randi Kinman, Federico Lopez, Marshall Loring, Tanya Narath, Tina King Neuhausel, Kendal Oku, Lori Reese-Brown and Frank Robertson. **Excused:** JoAnn Busenbark, Bena Chang, Sandi Galvez and Egon Terplan. **Absent:** Cathleen Baker, Yokia Mason and Gerald Rico.

There was not a quorum at the beginning of the meeting, so agenda items were presented out of order.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Subcommittee Reports

Naomi Armenta reported that there was no Equity & Access Subcommittee meeting. However, the Regional Equity Working Group met earlier in the day and discussed Plan Bay Area implementation policies in breakout groups on developing affordable housing, reducing the risk of displacement, improving access to jobs and community services, building more healthy communities, and reducing non-commute times to promote equitable mobility. The group also reviewed and discussed the Plan Bay Area EIR alternatives. Ms. Armenta commented that a flyer distributed by Breakthrough Communities announcing their July 12 workshop on Healthy and Just Communities is available at the handout table if Council members want information on the event.

2012-2013 Elections

There were no additional nominations from the floor for chair or vice chair.

Upon vote by show of hands, Dolly Sandoval was unanimously elected chair.

Upon vote by show of hands, Egon Terplan was elected vice chair; the vote was 8 to 6.

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Chair's Remarks

The chair remarked on how future agenda items for the Council are decided, reminding the Council that Commission agendas and decisions are posted to the MTC web site. Items that Council members wish to see presented to the Policy Advisory Council should be forwarded to either the chair or the staff liaison.

At Mr. Lopez's request, the Council discussed the student free bus pass decision going before the Commission and whether the item should be agendaized for a future Council meeting. The Council decided against trying to hold a special meeting within the next week, but agreed to contact individual Commissioners on the subject. In addition, the Council would like to see a future discussion either by the Council or by the Equity and Access Subcommittee, including a full staff presentation on funding sources, administrative responsibilities and details of the proposed programs. The chair agreed that the request could be made through the Policy Advisory Council report to the Commission at its July meeting.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 13, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Mr. Hedges and a second by Mr. Loring.

TIP Investment Analysis: Focus on Low-Income and Minority Populations

Sri Srinivasan gave a brief overview of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and its projects, going over the two analytical methodologies used for the investment analysis, and providing results of that analysis.

The Council asked clarifying questions and confirmed that the Equity and Access Subcommittee was in agreement with the methodology. There were no further comments from the Council.

Ms. Srinivasan reminded the Council that staff will receive comments through August 2nd and plans to present the TIP to the Commission for approval in September. *(Note: Since this meeting, the adoption schedule has been adjusted, and the Draft TIP will be presented for final approval after adoption of Plan Bay Area. For more information, see the September Staff Liaison Report.)*

Regional Express Lane Network: Update and Environmental Justice Analysis Approach

Lisa Klein gave an update on the Express Lane Network schedule – including a written response to previous questions from the Council – and presented an overview of the proposed approach for the environmental justice analysis. She was joined for the presentation by Phyllis Potter of Parsons Brinckerhoff, the consultant team leading a portion of the environmental justice analysis. Ms. Klein and Ms. Potter asked for the Council's feedback as to whether the proposed approach adequately addresses the main environmental justice questions, and whether the Council has suggestions regarding the proposed survey of minority and low-income communities.

Regional Express Lane Network (continued)

The Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- On the survey, there should be information on the cost of the express lanes, re: what fee low-income users would be willing to pay (i.e., what could they reasonably afford).
- Ensure questions on the survey make sense to participants and convey information as well
- Add phone surveys to the list of ways to survey.
- Minority communities may not have access to computers, so ensure various ways of administering the survey (i.e., canvassing a specific area or staging at retail stores, community health centers/clinics, job training work sites, churches, street fairs, back-to-school night, etc.).
- Need to ascertain what mode of transportation survey participants currently use (are they carpool users already and will they be displaced by new carpool rules).
- Questions should be phrased to ask at what point drivers would find the express lanes to be cost prohibitive.
- Provide incentives for people to participate in the survey.
- Toll tag replenishment for those without bank accounts could be a barrier; look at data and information from other organizations who work with such residents on a daily basis.
- The value of express lanes is questionable and could have a negative impact on commuters and minority and low-income communities.
- Connect with other ticket operations (like BART or AC Transit) to coordinate toll tag replenishment facilities.
- If Santa Clara County is surveyed, Vietnamese language should be used.
- The concept of using toll revenue for transit has disappeared and should be reconsidered as part of an environmental justice strategy.
- Low-income residents already use a higher percentage of their income on transportation; this should be taken into account, and a more affordable rate should be given to those low-income residents who must access the lanes to keep their jobs.
- Analyze information from other systems like Clipper and FasTrak to figure out what works and what doesn't work.
- Offer tags designated at a discount rate for carpools (to encourage carpooling).
- Adding express lane access takes away from the idea of spreading out commute traffic.

Council members agreed to pass along information to the staff liaison on local community organizations that might be able to assist with outreach on this project.

Staff Liaison Report

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

Council Member Reports

Mr. Lopez complimented the staff on their work in getting electronic materials to the Council in a timely fashion, maintaining an unbiased and professional demeanor, and ensuring a diversity of views on the Council.

Mr. Hedges mentioned the SFMTA 76 bus to the Marin Headlands as a great resource.

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Council Member Reports (continued)

Ms. Reese-Brown mentioned the newly adopted transportation bill that includes language on the Richmond-based CyberTran ultra light rail project. The language in the bill would allow for funding to test individual 20-passenger vehicles on a demonstration and test track facility at UC Berkeley. While the project, if implemented, would start in Richmond, it would ultimately reach up through Solano County.

New Business

Ms. Jeffery Sailors asked when Clipper cards will be available for use on all Bay Area transit agencies.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m. The next Policy Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2012 in the Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, California.