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Policy Advisory Council
September 12, 2012
Draft Minutes

Chair Dolly Sandoval called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Other members in attendance were Cathleen Baker, Jim Blacksten, Richard Burnett, Carlos Castellanos, Elizabeth Clary, Wilbert Din, Richard Hedges, Dolores Jaquez, Linda Jeffery Sailors, Randi Kinman, Federico Lopez, Marshall Loring, Yokia Mason, Tina King Neuhausel, Kendal Oku, Lori Reese-Brown, Frank Robertson, Alan Talansky and Egon Terplan. **Excused:** Naomi Armenta, Joanne Busenbark, Bena Chang, Sandi Galvez, Tanya Narath, and Gerald Rico.

Chair Sandoval thanked the council members that were present earlier in the day for the joint work plan meeting with members of the Commission. In addition, the chair called for introductions, since this was the first meeting for three new Council appointees – Jim Blacksten, representing the disabled community of San Francisco; Elizabeth Clary, representing the low-income community of Sonoma County; and Alan Talansky, economy representative.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the July 11, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Mr. Hedges and a second by Mr. Loring. Ms. Baker abstained from the vote, as she was not in attendance at the July meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Subcommittee Reports

Equity and Access Subcommittee vice chair Randi Kinman reported that the subcommittee met earlier in the day and received a staff report on progress to date on the update of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. The subcommittee reviewed a matrix that identifies gaps in service for seniors, disabled and low-income; a column for veterans will be added to this matrix. In addition, the subcommittee asked staff to update the council next month on how MAP 21 affects Lifeline and other low-income program funding.

The Regional Equity Working Group also met and discussed the PDA Growth Strategy. A discussion on the Plan Bay Area Investment Analysis Methodology was continued until next month due to lack of time.

HUD Regional Sustainable Communities Planning Grant Initiative

MTC Senior Planner Doug Johnson gave a brief overview of the \$5 million grant that MTC, ABAG, 20 Bay Area cities and counties, and a dozen or so non-profit partners recently received from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

Following the report, Ms. Sandoval called for public comment, and Jane Kramer of Standing Together for Accountable Neighborhood Development (STAND) commented that in addition to re-educating individuals for job placement and advancement, focus needs to be placed on improving the current economic system.

The Council had the following comments:

- Interest groups that serve seniors, the disabled (paratransit providers and users) and individuals with limited English proficiency need to be included throughout this grant process.
- Funds should be allocated for education.
- Concern was expressed that work groups might not be representative of the region.
- There needs to be a focus on the intersection of economic development, workforce development and transportation.
- Identify policies to encourage job growth in transit accessible areas, including the possibility of city subsidies.
- MTC and ABAG should capitalize on their role as regional agencies and take the lead in promoting a regional focus in implementing this grant.

Climate Initiatives Program Overview

Brenda Dix gave an overview of MTC's Climate Initiatives Program, a transportation-related, greenhouse gas emissions reduction effort adopted by the Commission in December 2009.

- MTC should track pros, cons and successes of the electric vehicle program and share information with local governments.
- These policies – and thus funds – are focused more on urban and middle-upper class individuals. More emphasis should be placed on programs and policies that can also affect low-income and immigrant populations.

Ms. Sandoval called for public comment on this item, and Jane Kramer with STAND suggested providing rentable go-carts in neighborhoods for those who have mobility issues that prohibit driving but who are somewhat mobile.

Staff Liaison Report

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

Council Member Reports

Ms. Jaquez requested staff forward an electronic copy of an article on the state of the region's transit agencies published by the San Francisco Chronicle a few years ago. She suggested the Council use it as background information for a discussion of consolidating transit agencies. Mr. Hedges suggested the consolidation discussion begin with the five largest transit agencies.

Mr. Castellanos reminded the Council of the flyer attached to the staff liaison report announcing the East Bay Housing Organization's upcoming training on Transportation and Housing on October 1st and 4th.

New Business

Several council members expressed their desire to have a more in-depth discussion regarding the potential for transit agency consolidation.

Ms. Neuhausel would like to have future updates on the climate youth outreach and the Safe Routes to Schools programs.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. The next Policy Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2012 in the Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, California.