



Agenda Item 7

METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: February 6, 2013

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – February 2013

New Transit Signs on BART and Muni

In January, MTC rolled out clearer, fresher signage to help Bay Area transit riders. Passengers at downtown San Francisco BART and Muni stations should look for the big orange circle with the “i” for information — a signal that a new transit information center has been installed at that location, with street maps, schedules and transfer info, along with a live screen with real-time info on when your bus or train is coming. Now riders can tell at a glance whether they should rush to catch their ride, or whether they have time to grab a cup of coffee.

MTC Planner Jay Stagi has created a video that takes you on a guided tour of one of these info centers, which are being installed at key transit hubs around the region. To view the video, go to MTC’s web site at http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/video/transit_signage.htm.

For more information on the new signage program, contact Jay Stagi at jstagi@mtc.ca.gov or 510.817.5808.

As an aside, the San Francisco Ferry Building is also getting a new sign, known as a “flap” sign. Reminiscent of “old school” train station signs, this 1,000-pound sign will become operational the afternoon of February 13th, and will provide ferry riders with timetable information. Make sure you look for it the next time you’re at the Ferry Building.

Reminder: FTA Call for Projects Deadline

The deadline to submit applications for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 funds is March 11. Under the 5310 program, approximately \$13 million is available to provide capital grants to assist private non-profit organizations and, under certain conditions, public agencies, to provide safe, efficient, and coordinated transportation services for elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities for whom public transportation is otherwise unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate. Applications are due to county Paratransit Coordinating Councils (PCCs) and MTC on March 11, 2013. More information on this program can be found on MTC’s website at <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/FTA/5310.htm>, and if you have questions, contact Drennen Shelton at 510.817.5909 or dshelton@mtc.ca.gov.

California State Rail Plan Holds Public Open Houses

This month the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is hosting a series of open houses for the California State Rail Plan (CSRP). Caltrans will be presenting a draft of the CSRP, which establishes a statewide vision, sets priorities, and develops implementation strategies to enhance passenger and freight rail service in the public interest.

- February 12, 2013
4:30 pm – 7:30 pm
California State Railroad Museum
Stanford Gallery
111 I Street
Sacramento, CA
- February 14, 2013
3 pm – 6 pm
Elihu M. Harris State Office
Building
Room 1
1515 Clay Street
Oakland, CA
- February 19, 2013
4:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Caltrans District 11 Office Building
1st Floor Conference Room
4050 Taylor Street
San Diego, CA
- February 20, 2013
4:30 – 7:30 pm
Metropolitan Transportation
Authority
Lobby, One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA
- February 21, 2013
4:30 – 7:30 pm
Hugh M. Burns State Building
Assembly Room 1036
2550 Mariposa Mall
Fresno, CA
- February 26, 2013
11:30 am – 1 pm
Online Webinar
Web Link:
[https://aecom.webex.com/aecom/onlinestage/g.php?d=597054493&t=a,](https://aecom.webex.com/aecom/onlinestage/g.php?d=597054493&t=a)
Event Password: RailPlan1

Beginning February 8, 2013, the Draft CSRP will be available online at <http://californiastaterailplan.com/project-materials>, and comments will be taken at one of the five events listed above. For more information, to sign up for email updates or to submit questions, visit the web site at <http://californiastaterailplan.com/2012/12/18/please-join-us-at-one-of-our-upcoming-open-houses-in-february-2013/>.

High School Internship Applications Due

Each year MTC sponsors a High School Internship Program to introduce high school students to career opportunities in the field of transportation. In addition to having income, participating students will learn how public transportation agencies play an overall part in the community, county, and regional transportation operations.

High School Internship Applications Due (continued)

The program was conceived of by MTC's Minority Citizens Advisory Committee to encourage young people who might not otherwise consider a career in transportation to do so. Students of all races and ethnic backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply. The deadline to submit online applications is Thursday, February 28, 2013.

For information on the program, go to MTC's web site at:

<http://jobs.mtc.ca.gov/InternshipOpportunities/HighSchoolInfo/highschoolintern.html>.

Questions should be directed to the High School Internship Coordinator at

InternCoordinator@mtc.ca.gov.

Executive Director's Report

The following items of interest were in the January 2013 Executive Director's Report to the Commission:

- ***Governor's Proposed Budget, Sacramento, January 10***
For the first time in a decade the release of the governor's budget proposal for FY 2013-14 was not accompanied by ritualistic gestures of despair such as gnashing of teeth or rending of garments. Thanks to the passage of Proposition 30 and years of cost-cutting, Governor Brown's proposed budget is balanced and even includes a \$1 billion reserve. His budget would increase General Fund expenditures to \$98 billion, a five percent bump over the current year. There was both good and bad news (of the minor variety) in the transportation section of the budget.
- ***Transportation Research Board (TRB), Washington DC, January 12-16***
The winter mob scene known as the TRB annual meeting featured some 12,000 participants this year spread over three hotels and a seemingly never-ending supply of workshops, committee meetings, major speeches, and visits to Capitol Hill. I did a little bit of each of those things, including chairing a board of trustees meeting for the Mineta Transportation Institute; attending my first meeting of the TRB Executive Committee; speaking on a panel about the importance of good movement to regional planning; participating in "merger talks" between the two professional associations that represent metropolitan planning organizations; and meeting with new and returning members of the Bay Area congressional delegation. My power point presentation on freight issues can be found at www.mtc.ca.gov/meetings/presentations/.

To read the January 2013 Executive Director's report to the Commission in its entirety, go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed_report.htm.