

Agenda Item 7



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: March 6, 2013

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – March 2013

MTC Gets New Chair and Expands Membership to 21

On Wednesday, February 27, Commissioner Amy Rein Worth, mayor of Orinda in Contra Costa County, was voted unanimously as the new chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The new vice chair is Santa Clara County Supervisor Dave Cortese. Both will serve a two-year term.

Earlier this year, MTC also gained two additional seats, one representing the mayor of Oakland and the other representing the mayor of San Jose, being filled by Oakland Mayor Jean Quan and San Jose Councilman Sam Liccardo, respectively. This is Quan's first time serving on MTC, while Liccardo is shifting to this new appointment from his prior seat on MTC representing the cities of Santa Clara County

Also new to the Commission in 2013 are Redwood City Mayor Alicia Aguirre, representing the cities of San Mateo County and replacing Kevin Mullin (who was elected to the state Assembly in November 2012), and Los Gatos Councilman Joe Pirzynski, who is taking Liccardo's place as the representative on MTC of the cities of Santa Clara County. In addition, ABAG recently named Mark Luce, vice chair of the Napa County Board of Supervisors and ABAG president, as its new MTC representative, replacing Mark Green, former mayor of Union City.

For more details on the new positions and appointments, visit the MTC web site at:

http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/press_releases/rel597.htm

Policy Advisory Council Recruitment for New Terms

MTC Resolution No. 3931, which defines the roles and responsibilities for MTC's Policy Advisory Council, was revised by the Commission on February 22, 2012 to extend the terms of the current Council through July 2013. Staff will soon begin recruitment for all seats on MTC's Policy Advisory Council, and all current advisors are strongly encouraged to reapply.

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Policy Advisory Council Recruitment for New Terms (continued)

In preparation for the recruitment, MTC staff has proposed the addition of a conflict of interest policy and requirements for ethics training to Resolution 3931. That recommendation will go before the Commission in March, and can be found in the Legislation Committee packet online at http://apps.mtc.ca.gov/meeting_packet_documents/agenda_2003/2b_Proposed_Revisions_to_Resolution_3931.pdf

Once recruitment is opened, individuals will be able to apply electronically via MTC's Web site. We expect recruitment to close sometime in late May or early June, and the Commissioners to make their selections and final recommendations for approval by the Commission in June 2013. The new Council membership will take effect as of September 2013.

I welcome your thoughts as to where to send recruitment materials to get the word out over the next few months. Now that you've put so much time into learning about MTC policymaking, I hope you will consider reapplying, and as always feel free to ask me any questions about the process.

Smart Parking Symposium 2013

The Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITS America), in partnership with ITS California, Caltrans and the Green Parking Council Building, is holding a Smart Parking Symposium on March 18 and 19, 2013, at the David Brower Center in Berkeley, California.

The event will cover the latest in smart parking technology, its application in the public space, and the environmental and economic impact on the municipalities and private organizations that have implemented this technology. The event also aims to foster communication between the public and private sectors in order to facilitate the implementation of smart parking technologies and increase understanding of their impact on the community. Please note that there is a cost for this event.

For more information, to view the schedule and related documents, and to register go to: <http://www.itsa.org/events/smartparkingsymposium>

Reminder: Section 5316 and 5317 Call for Projects Deadline

The deadline to submit applications for the 5316 (JARC) and 5317 (New Freedom) programs for small and non-urbanized areas is April 19, 2013. As a reminder, approximately \$1.88 million is available under the 5316 JARC program to improve access to transportation services for employment related trips for low-income individuals, and to support transportation services for reverse commutes from small urbanized and non-urbanized areas to suburban employment opportunities. Approximately \$1.43 million is available under the 5317 New Freedom program for projects to help reduce barriers to transportation services and expand mobility options for

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Reminder: Section 5316 and 5317 Call for Projects Deadline (continued)

people with disabilities beyond what is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Applications are due to Caltrans on April 19, 2013.

Questions regarding the 5316 JARC or 5317 New Freedom call for projects should be directed to Kristen Mazur at 510.817.5789 or kmazur@mtc.ca.gov.

Plan Bay Area County Open Houses and Public Hearings Set

At your April Council meeting, staff will present briefings on several Plan Bay Area documents and analysis, including the Draft Plan Bay Area, the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), and the 2013 Transportation Improvement Project (TIP) and Air Conformity Analysis. Comments on this work will be received at a series of public hearings and open houses in the months of April and early May. All open houses will be held from 6 pm to 7:30 pm, and all public hearings will be held from 7 pm to 9 pm. The dates for those hearings can be found on the OneBayArea web site (www.onebayarea.org), on the MTC web site (www.mtc.ca.gov), and are listed below:

Monday, April 8, 2013

Sonoma County
Friedman Event Center
4676 Mayette Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA

Napa County
Elks Lodge
2840 Soscol Avenue
Napa, CA

Thursday, April 11, 2013

San Francisco
Hotel Whitcomb
1231 Market Street
San Francisco, CA

Monday, April 22, 2013

Solano County
Solano County Fairgrounds
McCormack Hall
900 Fairgrounds Drive
Vallejo, CA

Contra Costa County
Marriott Hotel
2355 North Main Street
Walnut Creek, CA

Monday, April 29, 2013

Marin County
Marin Center
Showcase Theater
10 Avenue of the Flags
San Rafael, CA

San Mateo County
Crowne Plaza Hotel
1221 Chess Drive
Foster City, CA

Plan Bay Area County Open Houses and Public Hearings Set (continued)

Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Santa Clara County
Hilton Hotel
300 Almaden Boulevard
San Jose, CA

Alameda County
Mirage Ballroom
4120 Peralta Boulevard
Fremont, CA

Executive Director's Report

The following items were in the February 2013 Executive Director's Report to the Commission:

- ***National Congestion Rankings, College Station, TX, February 5***
The Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) released its annual rankings of the nation's most congested urban areas, and the Bay Area tied for second with Los Angeles for the most yearly delay per auto commuter (61 hours). The honors for most congested region in 2012 went to Washington DC, with 67 hours of annual delay per commuter. In an interesting contrast, TTI also ranks regions according to a "travel time index" which is a ratio of the travel time during congested peak periods versus free-flow roadway conditions. According to this performance measure, LA ranks 1st (meaning the worst), but the Bay Area ranks only 23rd. This probably has something to do with the fact that quite a bit of our traffic congestion occurs on weekends and during non-peak hours.
- ***CTC Director to Retire, Sacramento, February 15***
I very much regret to inform you that Bimla Rhinehart – executive director of the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and my colleague on the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee – has retired from state service to deal with some personal health challenges. I have enjoyed working with Bimla immensely, and wish her and her family the very best.
- ***Dumbarton Bridge Seismic Safety Event, Fremont, February 21***
Commissioner Sartipi and I joined Congressman Eric Swalwell in speaking at an event last week commemorating the achievement of seismic safety and completion of major retrofit work on the Dumbarton Bridge. The project came in six months early and \$20 million under budget. We have now met the seismic safety milestone on all the state-owned bridges in the Bay Area except for the eastern half of the biggest one. As you will discuss in your next meeting, we are slated to cross that finish line over Labor Day weekend this year.

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