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Policy Advisory Council
April 10, 2013
Revised Draft Minutes

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

Approval of March 2013 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 13, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Mr. Loring and a second by Mr. Burnett. Mr. Talansky, Mr. Hedges and Ms. Sailors abstained from the vote since they were not in attendance at the March meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Plan Bay Area

Vice Chair Terplan gave opening remarks, mentioning the comment deadline for Draft Plan Bay Area topics is May 16th, and reminding the advisors that they will be able to formulate policy suggestions for the Commission at the Council's May 8th meeting. However, since the comment deadline for the Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is May 3rd, any comments related to the TIP would need to be crafted today and forwarded via the Council's report at the Commission's April meeting.

MTC Planning Director Ken Kirkey and ABAG Planning Director Miriam Chion gave an overview of the Draft Plan Bay Area document, issued on Friday March 22, 2013. MTC Principal Planner Carolyn Clevenger gave an overview of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), issued on Tuesday April 2, 2013. And MTC Principal Planner Doug Johnson gave an overview of the Equity Analysis for Plan Bay Area.

During and following the staff presentations, the Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- If the Express Lane network expansions at the outer edges of the region were not completed, the costs for the total network would decrease, and thus the revenue potential for the network could increase.

– *more* –

Plan Bay Area (continued)

- A concern was raised over building the Express Lane network in a particular manner that might impact the potential for express lane bus stations on the freeway.
- Information provided to the public is difficult to comprehend. MTC should work to provide information at a level the general public can understand. In addition, MTC should work to help the public understand the policies and the assumptions behind the Draft Plan.
- Council members should assist in promoting the public hearings and getting the word out so that there is a balance of individuals with various perspectives in attendance.
- MTC should conduct a sensitivity analysis with regards to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) tax, or any other alternative that has a high impact on the overall goals of the plan.
- MTC should consider imposing a sales tax on electricity at electric vehicle charging stations.

In addition to the Council's comments and questions, public comment was given by Jane Kramer, who questioned specific plans for the priority conservation areas and offered suggestions on growing food locally. Ms. Kramer mentioned that local organic gardens could provide a variety of fresh foods at a lower cost, and would preserve ground water and the land. She suggested staff look at renewable resources.

Council members gave positive feedback on the work MTC and ABAG staff has done on outreach and in crafting the documents related to Plan Bay Area.

At next month's meeting, the Council will formulate any Plan Bay Area policy suggestions for the Commission. As a reminder, comments on the TIP are due by May 3rd.

Subcommittee Reports

Ms. Armenta reported that the Equity and Access Subcommittee met earlier in the day and reviewed the four factor analysis used to update MTC's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plan. Subcommittee members questioned staff as to how the MTC LEP plan relates to transit agencies' LEP plans, as well as how the plan addresses varying issues across counties with different needs.

Ms. Armenta also reported on the Equity Working Group that met earlier today where they discussed the equity analysis. Ms. Kinman mentioned the group discussed the possible need to look at how different scenarios affect specific counties, and perhaps performing this type of analysis at the county level in the future might be beneficial.

Staff Liaison Report

Staff liaison Pam Grove presented her report to the Council, highlighting the Policy Advisory Council Recruitment deadline on May 10, 2013 and encouraging all current Council members to re-apply. Ms. Grove also reviewed the schedule for Plan Bay Area and EIR hearings.

Council Member Reports

Mr. Burnett reported that the Solano County Transit Board approved a July 1st switch to a new transit provider from the United Kingdom. The new provider is National Express, and this will be the first time a public transit provider from outside of the U.S. will be used.

Ms. Kinman reported that she attended the MTC meeting March 27th on behalf of the Council chair, and presented the Policy Advisory Council report to the Commission.

Ms. Busenbark reported on the new transit station in Napa, a new county-wide housing forum chaired by Supervisor Mark Luce, and she also mentioned she believes Napa County has a distinct advantage in fielding public hearing comments because of Supervisors Dodd and Luce.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next Policy Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2013 in the Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, California.