



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 2

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Policy Advisory Council
December 11, 2013
Minutes

Ellen Griffin of MTC staff called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m. Policy Advisory Council members in attendance were: Naomi Armenta Cathleen Baker, Caroline Banuelos, Jim Blacksten, Richard Burnett, JoAnn Busenbark, Carlos Castellanos, Bena Chang, Elizabeth Clary, Chris Coursey, Wilbert Din, Veda Florez, Sandi Galvez, Jack Gray, Richard Hedges, Randi Kinman, Mike Pechner, Timothy Reeder, Gerald Rico, Linda Jeffery Sailors, Benjamin Schweng, and Mordechai Winter. **Excused:** Jerry Levine. **Absent:** Bob Glover, Mark Nicholson, and Alan Talansky.

Elections for 2013-2014 Policy Advisory Council Chair and Vice Chair

The candidates for chair and vice chair were invited to make a statement prior to the election. Cathleen Baker provided information on her background, commenting on her equity and public health perspective. Randi Kinman withdrew her name for consideration for chair, but remained a nominee for vice chair. Seeing no other nominees for chair and following a motion by Richard Hedges, and seconded by Linda Jeffrey Sailors, Cathleen Baker was unanimously elected chair.

Newly-elected chair Cathleen Baker opened up the floor for additional nominations for vice chair. In addition to previous nominees Carlos Castellanos and Randi Kinman, Veda Florez was nominated for vice chair. All three candidates made statements, providing background information and perspectives. With a majority vote of nine, Randi Kinman was elected vice chair.

Approval of November 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the November 13, 2013 meeting were approved after a motion by Richard Hedges and a second by Veda Florez.

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

Subcommittee Reports

Naomi Armenta reported that the Equity and Access Subcommittee did not meet in December, noting that future meetings are determined by agenda items. She also requested that staff notify the Council each month via email as to whether the subcommittee will or will not meet.

Policy Advisory Council Orientation – Programming & Allocations Section

Alix Bockelman, MTC’s Director of Programming and Allocations gave the Council an overview of the role and responsibilities of the Programming and Allocations Section. The Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- Following a comment that even though it is currently in the EIR process, BART to Livermore is not included on the New Starts list, Ms. Bockelman responded that the current policy approved by the Commission for New Starts has two existing projects with full funding agreements: the Central Subway Project and the BART to Berryessa project. She added that the Commission also approved two additional New Starts projects as part of the investment strategy for Plan Bay Area: the extension of BART from Berryessa down to San Jose, and the extension of Caltrain downtown. Plan Bay Area also has a \$660 million reserve for future consideration for New Starts that can be considered for North and East Bay projects.
- Concern was expressed that taxpayers who continually do not see a return on their tax investment may rebel in the future. Creating a balance between equity needs and the needs of those who pay the bills is important.
- When questioned whether the Transit Sustainability Project (TSP) – which is intended to reduce the cost per passenger mile by 5% within five years for the seven largest transit operators – will actually see a similar benefit for the smaller transit operators, Ms. Bockelman responded that the TSP focuses on the largest seven operators because they are the bulk of the operating cost. However, the Commission may choose to reconsider a standard for the small operators at a future date. While Ms. Bockelman noted that some of the monies in the incentive and investment program are available for the smaller transit operators, she reiterated that the performance metric only applies to the large operators.

Policy Advisory Council Orientation –Electronic Payments Section

Carol Kuester, MTC’s Director of Electronic Payments briefed the Council on the role and responsibilities of the Electronic Payments Section. The Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- Concern was expressed as to whether the Clipper© Card loses value after six months. Ms. Kuester responded that there is not a policy that makes funds disappear after six months, but she agreed to look into the issue. In addition, she informed the Council that when a customer requests a refund due to nonuse of a card, they receive it.
- A regional transit fare should be developed. In response to this comment, Ms. Kuester informed the Council that the General Managers of the transit agencies have been quite receptive to the idea of standardization for the next generation system. Councilmembers suggested seniors, youth and the disabled who take transit regularly should be included in any discussions regarding a regional transit fare.
- Concern was expressed about compliance with the Golden Gate Bridge all electronic tolling, to which Ms. Kuester responded that surprisingly people want to pay the toll but the challenge has been in how they prefer to make the payment (i.e., phone vs. online payments). Golden Gate is also looking at improving signage at the bridge.

Policy Advisory Council Orientation –Electronic Payments Section (continued)

- Support was expressed for the idea of integrating FasTrak and Clipper© and incentivizing public transit use.
- It was suggested that Clipper© cards be made available for purchase at transit stations.
- A request was made to alleviate the credit card requirement for electronic payments (Clipper © cards and Fastrak transponders).

In response to requests made during the above presentation, staff agreed to provide annual growth information on the Clipper and FasTrak programs, as well as future projections; staff also agreed to add a future agenda item updating the Council on the region's Express Lanes.

Staff Liaison Report

Ellen Griffin went over the highlights of the staff liaison report, since Pam Grove was not in attendance. Richard Hedges requested reminder information about the New Freedom Call for Projects deadline, and staff agreed to forward the information to the full Council via email.

Council Member Reports

There were no Council member reports.

New Business

Wilbert Din requested the Council receive a six-month update on the Free Muni for Youth Pilot Program offered by SFMTA (which was also requested by Randi Kinman at last month's meeting). Staff agreed to provide any information available as soon as possible.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m. The next Policy Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2014 in the Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, California.