



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 2b

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MTC Commission
and
MTC Policy Advisory Council
Joint Planning Session on the
2014 Policy Advisory Council Work Plan

February 12, 2014
Revised Minutes

MTC Commission Chair Amy Rein Worth called the meeting to order at 11:57 a.m. Policy Advisory Council members in attendance were: Chair Cathleen Baker, Naomi Armenta, Jim Blacksten, Richard Burnett, JoAnn Busenbark, Carlos Castellanos, Elizabeth Clary, Chris Coursey, Wilbert Din, Veda Florez, Sandi Galvez, Bob Glover, Jack Gray, Randi Kinman, Jerry Levine, Mark Nicholson, Gerald Rico, Linda Jeffery Sailors, Benjamin Schweng, and Alan Talansky **Excused:** Caroline Banuelos, Bena Chang, Richard Hedges, and Mordechai Winter. **Absent:** Mike Pechner and Timothy Reeder.

Other MTC Commissioners in attendance were: Commissioners Cortese, Dodd, Giacopini, Haggerty, Halsted, Luce, Sartipi, Spering, Tissier and Wiener.

Opening Remarks

Commission Chair Amy Rein Worth thanked and welcomed Commissioners and the members of the Policy Advisory Council. Chair Worth called for introductions of the Commissioners, Council members and staff around the table.

Council Objectives for 2014

Ursula Vogler, MTC Staff, explained the purpose of the joint meeting and reviewed the meeting materials that describe how interests of the Policy Advisory Council members intersect with select items from MTC's overall work plan.

Group Discussion

Topics important to Commissioners were:

- Focus on the Priority Development Area (PDA) planning and implementation of the One Bay Area Grant Program.
- Climate Initiatives Program.
- Monitor the performance targets associated with Plan Bay Area.
- Build on the regional goods movement plan.
- Competitive Program for transit operations.

- Demographic changes: The increase in the number of seniors gives rise to the need for senior mobility plans; programs such as Transit Ambassadors are critical to reaching out to the public and educating them about public transit.
- Transit investments should come with transit oriented development; stress the importance of linking transportation funding to development around those investments.
- Encourage the federal government to consider tax incentives to encourage higher density or multi-family housing.
- Regarding plan Bay Area: more feedback from Council members about:
 - barriers to implementing Plan Bay Area in your own local county/jurisdiction;
 - indicators that would help the public understand the purpose of Plan Bay Area.
- Consider a more streamlined approach to CEQA.
- Identify best practices in the region with regard to paratransit services.
- Recognize that we need additional funding to maintain our system.
- Need better transit and ways to move people from other modes.

Policy Advisory Council members commented on the following issues:

- Acquisition of new funding:
 - Possibly a fuel extraction tax
 - Come up with a plan on how to spend the money before asking for it
 - One Bay Area Grant Program (OBAG)
- Regional standards for paratransit programs and standardizing terms used by individual transit agencies.
- Educating/Engaging the public:
 - What is the MTC and what does it do
 - Plan Bay Area and its update
 - Legacy planning (TLC & Station Area Planning Grants) and reminding the public that none of this is new.
- Create a definition and metrics for Workforce housing:
 - Look to Worker Proximity Housing loan program, i.e. Napa County.
- Limited amount of affordable housing:
 - Difficult to place homeless population.
- Improve the gateway into the Bay Area via the I-580 Corridor, including goods movement along that corridor.
- Demographic changes over the next few years and what that means for transit and housing demand:
 - The location of facilities for seniors or low-income residents needs to intersect with transit.
 - Consider programs that reimburse volunteer drivers in smaller communities – a cost saving compared to cost of paratransit services.
 - It is important to have age-friendly communities for seniors, regardless of where those communities are located.
- What is being done to get those communities that are adding thousands of high-paying jobs to add housing in their communities as well?

- What can be done to make sure we don't invest money in PDAs or other areas and then have the plans/projects overturned?
 - With regard to OBAG, the formula is based upon a city's expected housing production and actual housing production. The communities that do come through with housing are going to end up getting more money in the future.
- Consider creation of a master EIR for a whole area.
- Importance in providing incentives for developers actually building housing; learn from developers what the barriers are to development.
- Concerns about safety and security affect transportation and housing choices. How do we make improvement in these areas?

Public Comment

Jane Kramer spoke regarding health and its relevance to transportation and resilient communities. Mrs. Kramer made the following suggestions to the Commission and Council:

- Broaden and expand health insurance coverage to include alternative medical outlooks and technologies.
- Provide educational opportunities that come with ecologically safe jobs in workplaces and use them to build local economies that neighborhoods support.
- Support research that seeks out existing humanlike processes that we have yet begun to explore.
- Open discussion within communities on the issue of reducing population growth.

Wrap-up and Adjournment

Commission Chair Worth and Council Chair Baker thanked all the participants involved in the discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m. The next Policy Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2014 in the Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, California.