



Bay Area Regional Prosperity Plan Project

## Steering Committee #9 Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: Friday, January 10, 2014

### Introduction

The ninth meeting of the Regional Prosperity Plan Steering Committee was held on Friday, January 10, 2014, in the Claremont Conference Room, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607-4700. The meeting was attended by the following Steering Committee members:

<i>Seat</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization / Agency</i>
ABAG Board Member	Scott Haggerty	Alameda County
ABAG Board Member	Julie Pierce	City of Clayton
ABAG Board Member	Eric Mar	City and County of San Francisco
MTC Commissioner	Jim Spering	Solano County
MTC Commissioner	Jake Mackenzie	City of Rohnert Park
Prosperity Co-Chair (CBO)	Christina Canaveral	Coleman Advocates
Prosperity Co-Chair (Public Agency)	Margot Lederer Prado	City of Oakland
Housing Co-Chair (CBO)	Carlos Romero	Urban Ecology
Housing Co-Chair (Public Agency)	Kara Douglas	Contra Costa County
Equity Collaborative Co-Chair (CBO)	Jane Martin	People Organized to Win Employment Rights (POWER)
Community Foundation	David Pontecorvo	East Bay Community Foundation
CBO At-Large	Peter Cohen	Council of Community Housing Organizations (CCHO)

In addition to MTC and ABAG staff, the following members of the public attended the meeting: Egon Terplan, SPUR; Belen Seara, San Mateo County Union Community Alliance; Elizabeth Wampler, The San Francisco Foundation; Allison Brooks; Conny Ford, SF Labor Foundation; Evelyn Stivers, Urban Habitat; and Louise Auerhahn, Working Partnerships USA.

The agenda for the Steering Committee meeting included the following items:

1. Presentation on the Revised Draft Economic Prosperity Strategy Framework
2. Award Recommendations for the Economic Opportunity, Housing the Workforce, and Equity Initiative Sub-Grant Programs

The following handouts were distributed at the meeting:

- November 8, 2013, Steering Committee #8 Meeting Summary
- Revised Draft Economic Prosperity Strategy Framework
- Recommendation for Awards – Economic Opportunity Sub-Grant Program Memo
- Recommendation for Awards – Housing the Workforce Sub-Grant Program Memo
- Recommendation for Awards – Equity Initiative Sub-Grant Program Memo

### **Meeting Summary**

Comments from the Steering Committee meeting are summarized below by agenda topic.

#### ***Economic Prosperity Strategy***

Therese Trivedi, MTC, provided a status update on the project and an overview of the discussion at the Economic Prosperity Working Group meeting on Thursday, December 19, 2013. Egon Terplan, SPUR, presented a Draft Framework for the Economic Prosperity Strategy Project for review and comment by the Steering Committee. Steering Committee members provided the following feedback:

- Highlight the need for analyzing and accounting for potential negative impacts of rapid growth in high-wage jobs on existing low-wage workers, as it relates to housing affordability and risk of displacement. Align the need for more housing with wage levels of low- and moderate income workers.
- Emphasize the need to attract, retain and grow middle-wage jobs in the region.
- Highlight the benefits of infrastructure investment, especially for public transit, on growth in middle-wage jobs, economic competitiveness of the region, and quality of life of residents and workers.
- Acknowledge that some existing job-hiring practices are a barrier for low-income workers to opportunity and mobility, even when they have the training and/or skills for the job. Consider state legislation to “ban the box,” an applicant screening process that discriminates against formerly incarcerated workers.
- Advocate for policy and systems change at the state and federal level to support and enable implementation of local strategies.
- Outline the implementation mechanism for proposed strategies. Include information on potential lead organizations, timeline, and available resources.
- Address the need to preserve job opportunities for lower-skilled workers who are unable to compete with overqualified workers in a constrained job market with high unemployment rates.
- Explore the potential for growth in green jobs economy as a driver for future economic prosperity in the region.
- Consider engaging the Governor’s Office of Economic Development in future discussion since the state has developed similar strategies.
- Consider including strategies that improve affordability for workers who earn less than \$18 per hour.
- Include a discussion of pros and cons of each strategy. Consider the negative impacts of promoting labor agreements on local non-union workers.
- Emphasize the need to create more middle-wage jobs in the region. Businesses in the current economy are not creating a significant number of new jobs. And very few middle-wage jobs.

- Explore the potential for requiring all transit agencies in the region to adopt a uniform fare collection system that facilitates for seamless transfers between systems.
- To help inform local economic development initiatives, conduct an inventory of areas in the region that have the infrastructure and amenities to attract new employers. Identify sectors that can grow in these areas.
- Include information on best practices and successful models in the final report as a resource. These may include but should not be limited to:
  - Cradle to Career Program in Sonoma County that links middle and high school students with employers and related training programs.
  - Tax sharing and non-compete agreements among local jurisdictions in Contra Costa County in an effort to attract quality jobs to the area.
  - Commuter Benefits Programs for medium-sized employers funded through MTC and the Air District that support implementation of state laws related to greenhouse gas emission reductions and air quality.
  - Uniform fare collection system such as Clipper for urban and rural communities to connect workers to jobs, services and opportunity.
  - Living wage ordinance in San Francisco.
  - SF Made initiative in San Francisco that promotes the local manufacture sector and provides paid internships to high school students.
  - Coordinated economic development initiative among Carquinez Straight cities in Contra Costa County.

Egon Terplan summarized next steps for the project team, which includes developing a detailed outline for the final report based on the strategy framework discussed during the meeting, and getting feedback from the EPWG and the Steering Committee on the final report.

### ***Sub-Grant Award Recommendations***

Vikrant Sood, MTC, provided an overview of the sub-grant program and the call for proposals process for the third and final round of funding for pilot projects. Vikrant informed the Steering Committee that the Joint Projects Team (JPT) has twenty projects for funding, as outlined in the three attached staff memos.

Steering Committee members provided the following comments:

- For the *Planning Institute for Leadership* project, recommended for funding through the Equity Initiative, request the lead applicant to consider partnering with organizations in San Francisco that were funded on a similar effort in a previous round of Housing the Workforce sub-grants.
- For the *Housing Our Workforce* project, recommended for funding through the Housing the Workforce initiative, request the lead applicant to engage the Housing Working Group on the project.
- For the *Promoting Economic Opportunity at the Fremont Warm Springs BART Station* project, recommended for funding through the Economic Opportunity initiative, require the lead applicant to work directly with the City of Fremont.

The Steering Committee unanimously accepted the recommendations of the JPT for the sub-grant awards. Supervisor Eric Mar recused himself from the decision-making process due to a conflict of interest.

**Next Steps**

The next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for Friday, March 14, 2014 from 12 noon to 2 pm in the Claremont Conference Room at MTC.

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