



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 2

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Policy Advisory Council
March 12, 2014
Minutes

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

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the January 8, 2014 and February 12, 2014 meetings were unanimously approved after a motion by Linda Jeffrey Sailors and a second by Jerry Levine.

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Former Emeryville Mayor Ken Bukowski informed the Policy Advisory Council he would be recording the Council's meetings, which are available for viewing at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqj3M-gWCVFyKOV6GMD4Ccw>

Subcommittee Reports

Chair Cathleen Baker reported that the Equity and Access Subcommittee did not meet in March. The chair then called on Rich Hedges, who informed the Council that former Policy Advisory Council member Marshall Loring suffered a minor stroke.

Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program

Christine Maley-Grubl of MTC staff and Dave Burch, Senior Environmental Planner from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (Air District), provided an overview of SB 1339, which authorizes MTC and the Air District to jointly adopt a commuter benefits ordinance on a pilot basis. Ms. Maley-Grubl informed the Council that the Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program is not meant to replace the existing programs local jurisdictions have in place. Council members asked clarifying questions and made comments as follows:

– more –

Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program (continued)

- Council members noted it would be beneficial to reach out to local Chambers of Commerce, trade associations and traffic demand management (TDM) associations to get the word out about the program.
- In response to a Council member question about the jurisdiction of this regional program, staff stated that this program will not replace any local programs but MTC and the Air District will work coordinate with local programs for businesses with under 50 employees and those businesses with 50 or more employees will come under this program. In addition, staff reiterated that this is a regional effort and any employers within the limits of the Air District will need to comply with this program.
- In response to concerns expressed by a Council member that air quality standards set by the Air District conflict with the ability of local jurisdictions to efficiently advance infill development in PDAs, Mr. Burch informed the Council that the Air District would review the CEQA thresholds before the commuter benefits program goes into effect. The Council indicated they would like to look into this issue in the future.
- In response to a question about the program evaluation, Ms. Maley-Grubl stated that the evaluation is still under discussion and will be developed in the near future.
- In response to a question about how compliance and enforcement will be handled, staff replied that MTC and the Air District will emphasize education first but, where needed, will inform Air District Enforcement Program staff, who would serve the employer with a Notice to Comply. If necessary, the Air District has penalty authority under the Health and Safety Code.

Climate Initiatives Update

Ursula Vogler and Stefanie Hom of MTC staff provided an overview of the various Climate Initiatives projects, including a progress report and next steps on MTC's Climate Initiatives Grant Program—a \$33 million effort aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions by funding projects such as the Regional Bikeshare pilot program, electric vehicles, and regional carshare programs. Council members asked clarifying questions and made the following comments:

- Council members suggested more rules are needed to ensure access to electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.
- The suggestion was made to put systems in place to ensure we can track annual progress towards meeting the greenhouse gas reduction and other goals of Plan Bay Area.
- In response to a question about whether schools are being targeted for outreach, Ms. Vogler responded that MTC has two programs that encourage K-12 students to use alternative means of transportation to school other than the automobile.

Climate Initiatives Update *(continued)*

- Council members asked that the term Cold In-Place Recycling (CIR) be defined. It is a pavement rehabilitation technique in which the existing pavement materials are heated and reused in place. Ms. Vogler informed the Council that the draft report on CIR shows a slight reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Staff agreed to get back to the Council with more information on GHG emissions reduction and where there is any landfill reduction as a result of CIR programs.
- It was noted that the bikeshare program could be used for other than commute trips if additional amenities were put into place (such as baskets to carry groceries).
- Council members requested information on the total operational costs and number of members in the Bay Area Bikeshare Program. Staff agreed to research and provide the current numbers.

Policy Advisory Council Work Plan

Pam Grove of MTC staff reminded the Council of several key topics discussed at their meeting with the Commission last month. She asked the Council to select four or five topics from the list to be used in the 2014-2015 Work Plan. Based on the discussion that followed, the Policy Advisory Council's Work Plan for 2014-2015 will consist of the following:

1. Brainstorm best ways to **educate the public** about the idea of sustainability, the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and how Plan Bay Area fits into the picture (why it is important, what it does, what it doesn't do, the process and schedule for updating it, etc.).
2. Suggest **incentives for local governments and developers** to create transit-oriented development (TODs) and ensure affordable housing.
3. Brainstorm ways of developing **new funding sources** for transit.
4. Consider any new or remaining issues that should be addressed in the next **regional transportation plan** update, as well as potential barriers to local implementation of Plan Bay Area and ways to eliminate those barriers.
5. In addition, the Council's standing subcommittee on Equity and Access will take a look at **paratransit** in an effort to suggest standardization of policies and identify best practices for the region.

Council Chair Baker will submit the work plan as part of her report at the March 26th Commission meeting.

Staff Liaison Report

Ms. Grove presented her staff liaison report and reminded members of the deadlines to submit 1) nominations for MTC's 2014 Excellence in Motion transportation awards, and 2) applications for MTC's High School Internship Program. In addition, Kenny Kao of MTC staff answered clarifying questions related to the Guidelines for the Regional Active Transportation Program.

Council Member Reports

- Bena Chang informed the Council that the Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategic Council of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group will be hosting the "Silicon Valley Driving Charged and Connected" event on April 24, 2014. She will forward more information on the event to the Council.
- Alan Talansky presented a video on the Technical Assistance Panel for Brisbane, California, which is available at:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/08ngdxv58cxi2xs/ULI_BRISBANE_108.mp4.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m. The next meeting of the Policy Advisory Council is scheduled for April 9, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, California.