



Memorandum

TO: Planning Committee

DATE: April 4, 2014

FR: Executive Director

W.I.: 1121

RE: Update to MTC Guidelines for Countywide Transportation Plans

In January, Public Advocates and Urban Habitat submitted a letter to MTC raising questions about MTC's Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) guidelines. The letter called attention to the importance of the CTPs and their linkage to Plan Bay Area, the region's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). MTC's CTP Guidelines were last updated by the Commission in 2000. MTC staff believes this to be an opportune time to update the CTP Guidelines given the numerous changes in regional planning requirements, including SB 375 and MAP-21, and the expanded role the county congestion management agencies (CMAs) play in planning, funding, and delivering projects in the region.

Background

Government Code Section 66531 authorized Bay Area counties to develop CTPs on a *voluntary* basis, and directed MTC to develop guidelines to assist CMAs and other appropriate agencies in the development of the CTPs. MTC adopted the original CTP Guidelines in 1989 as MTC Resolution 2120, and last updated the guidelines in 2000.

The existing CTP guidelines are intended to:

- Strengthen the relationship between CTPs and the RTP;
- Encourage the compatibility of the CTPs with those of adjoining counties; and,
- Promote implementation of Federal legislation.

MTC staff stresses the importance of the iterative relationship between the development of the RTP/SCS and the CTPs, as the regional and county plans influence each other through amendment and refinement. The CTP Guidelines will reinforce the importance of this ongoing iterative relationship.

Approach for the Update

MTC staff will work with CMA Planning Directors to initiate the update of the CTP Guidelines, and will present the draft recommendations to the Regional Advisory Working Group (RAWG) and MTC's Policy Advisory Council to engage a broad range of stakeholders.

In addition to updating the CTP Guidelines, MTC staff will concurrently review the county Congestion Management Plan (CMP) process. Seven of the nine counties in the region submit

CMPs to MTC for approval, as required under the CMP guidelines (MTC Resolution 3000, Revised). MTC staff will identify linkages between the CTP and CMP efforts to ensure consistency between the county and regional work, and to streamline requirements to minimize duplication of existing planning efforts.

MTC staff recognizes that counties have managed successful countywide planning efforts, independent of the CTP Guidelines, which address the specific issues and needs of the respective county. Each county is unique, and there is no “one size fits all” approach to developing and adopting CTPs. The overarching goal of the update is to promote consistency between existing countywide planning efforts and Plan Bay Area.

Anticipated Plan Content

MTC staff anticipates the CTP Guidelines to address the following elements:

- Public participation process
- Regional goals, objectives, and policies
- Short-, mid-, and long-range programs and projects
- Land use linkage to Plan Bay Area
- Performance measures linked to Plan Bay Area
- Financial element linked to long-range forecasts in Plan Bay Area

Schedule

As previously noted, MTC staff anticipates working with a small group of CMA Planning Directors to guide the update of the draft CTP Guidelines before sharing the recommendations with RAWG and the Policy Advisory Council for review and comment. Revised CTP Guidelines will then be presented to the Commission in September.

A preliminary schedule is included below.

<i>Task</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>September</i>
Develop Draft						
RAWG and Policy Advisory Council Input						
Revise Draft						
Commission Approval						



Steve Heminger