



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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## *Memorandum*

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: July 2, 2014

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – July 2014

### **Reminder: Draft 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Comment Period**

The Draft 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Draft Transportation-Air Quality Conformity Analysis were released for review on June 26, 2015. Even though staff is presenting this item at your July meeting, it is always good to keep deadlines in mind. The public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, during the Programming and Allocations Committee meeting. Staff will take comments through July 31, 2014, and the final document will be presented at the September Programming and Allocations Committee and Commission meetings for adoption.

### **Draft Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) Guidelines**

Staff will also present the recommended revisions to the Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) Guidelines at your July meeting. The draft document will be available in its entirety in the next few weeks, and we want to remind advisors of the process and highlight deadlines.

First, two more workshops on the draft guidelines will be held on:

- **Tuesday, July 22, 2014, 9:30 a.m.**  
Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter Auditorium  
101 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, California
- **Thursday, July 24, 2014, 6 p.m.**  
Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter Auditorium  
101 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, California

Second, the revised guidelines will be presented to the Planning Committee and the Commission at their September 12 and 24 meetings (respectively) for adoption.

For more information and to keep up with the CTP Guidelines update process, go to:  
<http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/ctp/>

### **Policy Advisory Council Vacancy Recruitment**

Staff will begin recruitment later in the month for three vacancies on the Policy Advisory Council in the following categories:

- Senior/Disabled, Marin County
- Senior/Disabled, Santa Clara County
- Low-Income, San Mateo County

Your assistance is requested in filling these vacancies. If you know of someone who might be interested or have individuals or groups where you would like staff to forward recruitment information once it becomes available, please contact Pam Grove (510-817-5706).

### **MTC Wins Emmy Award**

Two of MTC's Legislation and Public Affairs staff have won a prestigious Emmy Award from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences San Francisco/Northern California Division for their work on a series of videos in 2013 chronicling the final construction on the new Bay Bridge East Span and the dramatic lead-up to the span's opening on Labor Day 2013. Congratulations go out to veteran newsman Mark Jones, who has been MTC's resident video journalist since 2011, and MTC Graphic Artist David Cooper for winning in the category of "Continuing Coverage."

To read more about the award, see a photo of the Emmy, and watch the award-winning videos, go to: [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current\\_topics/6-14/emmy.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/6-14/emmy.htm).

### **No MTC Meetings in August**

MTC does not usually hold meetings in August; therefore, the next meeting of the Policy Advisory Council is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2014.

### **Executive Director's Report**

The following items were in the June 2014 Executive Director's Report to the Commission:

- ***House Proposal on Highway Funding – Washington, DC, May 30***  
In a sign of how far we have traveled away from a user-fee financed transportation system, the House Republican Leadership has proposed that the beleaguered Highway Trust Fund be replenished with savings from the elimination of Saturday mail delivery. The conservative Heritage Foundation likened this idea to bailing out one trust fund with savings from another.

### **Executive Director’s Report (continued)**

- ***FTA Guidance on MPO Board Representation – Washington, DC, June 2***  
MAP 21 included a new statutory requirement that the boards of large metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) like MTC include “representation by public transportation providers.” The Federal Transit Administration has issued guidance interpreting this quite general requirement to mean that large MPO boards should include at least one voting members “specifically designated” to represent public transit. This exceedingly narrow interpretation apparently would not be satisfied by the current composition of the MTC commission, which includes board members from 13 different public transit provides in the Bay Area. This “baker’s dozen” is represented by elected officials who sit both on MTC and their local transit board. In fact, three of our commissioners each sit on two transit boards. MTC staff will be consulting with the commission about what next steps to take. As you well know, MTC’s board composition can only be changed by an act of the California Legislature.
- ***Cap and Trade Framework Adopted – Sacramento, June 14***  
After several months of back and forth negotiations among the Brown Administration, legislative leadership, and numerous stakeholders, the State Legislature adopted an FY 2014-15 state budget that included \$872 million in appropriations from Cap and Trade revenue in the budget year as well as percentage-based, continuously appropriated categorical programs for future year revenues. Roughly 60% of future year revenues would be allocated in program areas of concern to the commission, including 15% for public transit capital and operating purposes, 20% for affordable housing and sustainable communities, and 25% for the proposed high-speed rail network .

While the percentage allocations are favorable to our interests, the overall Cap and Trade framework is a mixed bag because the categorical programs are mostly under the control of state agencies rather than delegated to the regional level as we had advocated. Thus, 2/3 of the public transit funds will be administered by the California State Transportation Agency and the CTC; the affordable housing and sustainable communities funds will be administered by the Strategic Growth Council (at last in the early years); and the high speed rail funds will be administered by the state agency building that system. There are many devilish details still to be hashed out, so we will be able to continue our advocacy for a greater MPO role in the allocation of this important new funding source to implement Plan Bay Area and its sister regional plans around the state.

To read the June 2014 Executive Director’s report to the Commission in its entirety, go to [http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed\\_report.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed_report.htm).