



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 2

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Policy Advisory Council
July 9, 2014
Minutes

Chair Cathleen Baker called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. Policy Advisory Council members in attendance were: Naomi Armenta, Jim Blacksten, Richard Burnett, Chris Coursey, Wilbert Din, Veda Florez, Bob Glover, Richard Hedges, Randi Kinman, Jerry Levine, Mike Pechner, Gerald Rico, Linda Jeffery Sailors, and Alan Talansky. **Excused:** Caroline Bañuelos, Carlos Castellanos, Bena Chang, Sandi Galvez, and Mark Nicholson. **Absent:** JoAnn Busenbark, Elizabeth Clary, Timothy Reeder, and Benjamin Schweng.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 11, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved after a motion by Richard Hedges and a second by Jim Blacksten. Alan Talansky and Cathleen Baker abstained as they were not present at the June meeting.

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

Subcommittee Report

Equity and Access Subcommittee Chair Naomi Armenta reported that the subcommittee met earlier in the day to discuss the framework for FY13 and FY14 Section 5310 Large Urbanized Area Program. Two former federal funding programs—New Freedom and 5310—have now been combined, and Ms. Armenta went over the scope and outlined some of the major changes of the new combined program. MTC will hold a workshop in October for individuals and groups interested in applying for funds, the call for projects will be released October 1st, and applications will be due November 6th.

Subcommittee Vice Chair Randi Kinman summarized the subcommittee's discussion on the state Cap and Trade Funding Program Disadvantaged Communities Definition, which is currently being proposed to be based on a method known as the CalEnvironScreen. The Subcommittee believes using this particular tool would ignore a majority of the Bay Area's communities of concern and potentially make them ineligible for funding, additionally they would like to see the language revised to align with the region's definition of disadvantaged communities. The Subcommittee has asked staff to keep the Council apprised of upcoming local and state meetings so advisors can advocate on this issue.

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Draft 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis

Adam Crenshaw, MTC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Manager, presented the Draft 2015 TIP along with the draft results of the TIP Investment Analysis and the Draft Air Quality Conformity Analysis. In addition, Shimon Israel, MTC Associate Transportation Planner, was on hand to provide information about the travel survey and data used for the investment analysis. The Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- A request was made for individual transit agencies data. Staff agreed to provide that information.
- In response to concern from a council member about the inability to measure certain projects not assigned a project sponsor – such as the San Jose International Airport People Mover – staff responded that transit projects that cannot be attributed to a specific transit operator are evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine the appropriate distribution of funding.
- Concern was expressed about the use of the 2000 Bay Area Travel Survey and the 2006 Transit Passenger Demographic Survey for the investment analysis of the Draft TIP. Staff responded that while the plan was to use an updated survey, those efforts were combined with a state effort that was delayed. In addition, future plans will be to move towards a more continuous survey approach along the lines of the American Community Survey.
- Concern was expressed as to whether there were any efforts to specifically survey people with disabilities. Staff responded the current approach is to include disability survey questions in the household survey; however, perhaps a future discussion could be had about whether there is a need for a panel approach targeting specific populations and their travel behavior.
- A council member asked if staff can be contacted about specific project questions. Staff agreed, and also mentioned the availability of the online TIP database/fund management system as a project reference.
- A request was made for a more fine grain disaggregation when looking at income, along with a request that staff get ahead of this topic for the next TIP analysis.

Public Comment:

- Former Emeryville city councilmember Ken Bukowski commented that a dedicated express bus lane on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge would reduce commute time for buses and promote transit ridership.

Draft Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) Guidelines

Doug Johnson, MTC Principal Planner, presented a summary of the proposed changes to the Draft Countywide Transportation Plan Guidelines, which are scheduled to be adopted in September. The Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

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Draft Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) Guidelines (continued)

- MTC should be more specific with counties regarding the PDA investment and growth strategies. There needs to be more of a link between CTP transportation investments and more supportive and equitable transit-oriented development, especially in terms of location.
- Consideration should be given to potential economic impacts associated with certain performance targets that might affect project viability.
- In response to an inquiry about the effective date of the CTP guidelines, staff responded that the date has not yet been finalized and the topic is still open to discussion.
- In response to a clarifying question, staff commented that counties should use their engagement and outreach process with their stakeholder community to hone in on defining their county's low-income and minority communities.
- A suggestion was made that transit agencies purchase equipment that is compatible between agencies as a cost-effective, cost-saving measure.
- A suggestion was made to hold a contest to create a formula for modeling and benefit cost analysis for the projects in Plan Bay Area.
- MTC should have definite guidelines on minority, low-income and other disadvantaged communities (such as the homeless, those with special needs, and Native American tribes), and to encourage each community, city, and county to conform with, as well as identify, how they are meeting said guidelines, in order to qualify for funding.
- There is a disconnect between setting a regional goal, but measuring internally on a case-by-case basis based on a county/local criteria.
- There needs to be minimum guidelines for the outreach and regional coordination; perhaps the counties should use MTC's public outreach as an example.
- In response to a question about how the CTP guidelines will impact capital improvement projects, staff noted that while the table indicates MTC would like counties to identify projects that are financially constrained, the guidelines also provide some flexibility for addressing local priorities.

Public Comment:

- Saravana Suthanthira, Senior Transportation Planner for Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) commented that flexibility in meeting the performance and targets is important because both the framework and the tools for analysis change over time. Ms. Suthanthira also mentioned that consistency will be challenging to achieve at the county level because they will not be able to innovate based on county-level needs and environment. She also noted that many projects and programs ACTC began as local programs later became regional programs. ACTC continues to be innovative with FOCUS plans, goods movement, and transit and multi-modal arterial plans and would like MTC to consider flexibility in accommodating for this.

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MTC Draft 2014 Title VI Program

Denise Rodrigues, MTC Contract Compliance Manager, presented MTC's Draft 2014 Title VI Program, which demonstrates how MTC is complying with federal requirements of nondiscrimination in MTC policies, programs and activities, and is prepared in response to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Circular 4702.1B. The Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- Once MTC receives documents back from its translator, they should be reviewed by members of the community in order to check the dialect and the context.
- MTC should consider streaming its meetings online or creating webinars. Other possibilities would be targeting hyper-local newspapers, radio programs, and municipality television stations.

Staff Liaison Report

Leslie Lara presented the staff liaison report on behalf of Pam Grove, pointing out the Policy Advisory Council vacancy recruitment that will be opening soon. Ms. Lara also mentioned that David Cooper and Mark Jones of MTC staff won a prestigious Emmy Award for their yearlong coverage of the new Bay Bridge East Span.

Council Member Reports

Ms. Kinman congratulated Mr. Cooper and Mr. Jones on their Emmy win. Ms. Lara informed the Council that the award winning videos are available on the MTC website and YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/mtcabaglibrary>).

Mr. Hedges gave a review of the San Diego transit system, which he recommends. Mr. Pechner concurred with Mr. Hedges, mentioning the LA light rail, metro and Amtrak compatibility.

Mr. Din thanked MTC and Plan Bay Area for the street improvements in his community.

Mr. Burnett reported he attended the Curtola Park and Ride groundbreaking event in Solano County. He thanked MTC for their help funding the project.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m. The next meeting of the Policy Advisory Council is scheduled for September 10, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, California.