

Agenda Item 5



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: September 3, 2014

FR: Carolyn Clevenger, Principal Planner

W.I. 1124

RE: Regional Goods Movement Plan Update

Background

Plan Bay Area identifies goods movement as a key work item to advance as part of Plan implementation and to develop further for the Plan update in 2017. In response, MTC staff has initiated an update to the Regional Goods Movement Plan. This memo and attached presentation slides provide an overview of the process for developing that update and the issues and opportunities identified to date.

MTC staff is coordinating the update to the Regional Goods Movement Plan with the Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) which initiated a countywide goods movement planning effort in late 2013. Given the major role the transportation network in Alameda County plays in the region's goods movement system, and the fact that goods flow across county and even regional boundaries, the two efforts should be closely integrated. MTC is partnering with ACTC to use the same consultant team through the ACTC contract. The integration and simultaneous work on the regional and the countywide plans will ensure consistency in the county and regional work, maximize resources, and allow stakeholders to participate in one integrated effort. The work will result in two distinct but coordinated planning documents – an Alameda Countywide Goods Movement Plan and a Regional Goods Movement Plan;

Project Update

The primary focus of work for the past few months has been to initiate stakeholder outreach and conduct an assessment of baseline conditions. In addition, as part of the initial project work, a vision statement and goals were developed to help guide the project.

Project Organization

The goods movement planning work is being advised by an Executive Team composed of key leadership from the agencies most actively involved in goods movement in the region and actively committing staff resources to goods movement planning. Members include: MTC, ACTC, Caltrans District 4, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Port of Oakland, Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Solano County Transportation Authority, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, and the East Bay Economic Development Alliance. In addition, staff is working with the Partnership Technical Advisory Committee, county congestion management agencies, and a broader set of stakeholders described below.

Stakeholder Outreach

Staff and/or the consultant team have conducted numerous meetings with stakeholder groups to discuss their issues and needs related to goods movement. The stakeholders have included industry groups and the business community, shippers and receivers, logistics service providers, trucking firms and organizations, labor, community and social justice groups, environmental and public health organizations, the county congestion management agencies, and the Partnership Technical Advisory Committee. The project team will continue to engage these stakeholders, as well as additional stakeholders, on an ongoing basis over the course of the project. Some of the key issues and opportunities that were discussed at these meetings are included in the attached presentation.

In July, MTC and ACTC jointly hosted a kick off roundtable event to bring stakeholders from all groups together to discuss what goods movement is in the region, key trends, and what issues and opportunities are critical to the success of the planning efforts. This was the first of six roundtable events held over the course of the plan development. The roundtables are meant to foster dialogue between stakeholders from all groups and help build a platform for advocacy for goods movement within the region. The next roundtable will be held on a Saturday in October in West Oakland and will focus on community issues and opportunities. Staff is still finalizing the date and location and will forward that information to the Committee when it is available.

Baseline Conditions Assessment

The baseline assessment of goods movement in the Bay Area is nearing completion. The analysis builds upon work recently completed for a Caltrans District 4 study to support the state freight plan. The baseline assessment provides an overview of goods movement in the Bay Area – the types and amounts of various goods transported, the key facilities, highways and rail corridors, and the role goods movement plays in the region’s economy.

Vision and Goals

The project team, working with the technical advisory committee and other stakeholders, has developed a vision statement and goals to help guide the project. The vision and goals are meant to: provide focus to overall project approach and outreach; reflect issues and opportunities identified through early outreach; align common issues in regional, state and Alameda County plans; and organize strategy evaluation using performance measures. The vision statement is:

The Goods Movement system will be safe and efficient, provide seamless connections to international and domestic markets to enhance economic competitiveness, create jobs, and promote innovation while reducing environmental impacts and improving local communities’ quality of life.

The goals were developed to be consistent with the goals of the state freight plan, initial freight policy direction from the federal government, and to take into consideration the most recent goals from *Plan Bay Area* and the *Alameda Countywide Transportation Plan*. The goals for the project are:

- Reduce environmental and community impacts from goods movement operations to create healthy communities and a clean environment, and improve quality of life for those communities most affected by goods movement.
- Increase economic growth and prosperity that supports communities and businesses.

- Preserve and strengthen an integrated and connected, multimodal goods movement system that supports freight mobility and access, and is coordinated with passenger transportation systems and local land use decisions.
- Provide safe, reliable, efficient and well-maintained goods movement facilities.
- Promote innovative technology strategies to improve the efficiency of the goods movement system.

Issues and Opportunities

Based on the stakeholder outreach and initial baseline conditions analysis, a preliminary set of key issues and opportunities have been identified. They are summarized in the attached presentation and will be discussed with the Committee at your meeting. It is anticipated that the issues and opportunities will be updated throughout the planning work based on additional analysis and stakeholder feedback.

Next Steps

The next steps for the plan are to finalize the baseline conditions assessment and begin the needs assessment. This work will wrap up in the late fall, when we will begin developing draft strategies, related to goods movement projects, programs and policies, including infrastructure, operational and institutional strategies, for recommendation in 2015. Staff will return to this Committee to report on the needs assessment towards the end of the year.