



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 2

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Policy Advisory Council
September 10, 2014
Draft Minutes

Chair Cathleen Baker called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m. Policy Advisory Council members in attendance were: Naomi Armenta, Jim Blacksten, Richard Burnett, JoAnn Busenbark, Carlos Castellanos, Chris Coursey, Bob Glover, Richard Hedges, Randi Kinman, Jerry Levine, Mike Pechner, Gerald Rico, Benjamin Schweng, and Alan Talansky. **Excused:** Caroline Bañuelos, Bena Chang, Elizabeth Clary, Wilbert Din, Veda Florez, Sandi Galvez and Linda Jeffery Sailors. **Absent:** Mark Nicholson and Timothy Reeder.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the July 9, 2014 meeting were approved after a motion by Richard Hedges and a second by Gerald Rico. Carlos Castellanos abstained, as he was not present at the July 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 and discussed the Draft Lifeline Transportation Program Cycle 4 Guidelines and the Regional Means-Based (Low-Income) Transit Fare Pricing Study. Regarding the current Lifeline cycle, Ms. Armenta noted that some subcommittee members were not pleased with changes made by the federal government as to how Job Access and Reverse Commute funds are distributed since it in essence means non-traditional transportation providers will no longer be eligible for funding. Regarding the Means-Based Transit Fare Study, the subcommittee suggested money be set aside for a means-based fare project recommendation. In addition, Ms. Armenta noted that nominations for the low-income/equity positions on the study's Technical Advisory Committee will close September 19, 2014.

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Regional Goods Movement Plan Update

MTC Principal Planner Carolyn Clevenger gave an update on the Regional Goods Movement Plan. The Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- Concern was expressed over the shortage of long-haul drivers.
- Concern was expressed over noise pollution, and Ms. Clevenger responded that MTC is researching creation of a toolkit for jurisdictions interested in requesting quiet zones.
- In response to a question as to whether MTC contributes funds for truckers to refurbish or retool their engines to improve diesel emissions, Ms. Clevenger stated that the Clean Truck Program is currently funded by the Air District and at the state level by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). However, MTC did help to fund Shore Power at the Port of Oakland, and MTC will likely discuss if it will contribute funds to clean air technology programs in the future.

Countywide Transportation Plan Guidelines

MTC Senior Planner Adam Noelting gave an update on the process and a summary of the proposed changes to the guidelines for Countywide Transportation Plans. The Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- A request was made for language to be included in the guidelines clarifying that the Congestion Management Agencies' receipt of funding is not conditioned on adherence to these guidelines, and also that an enhanced clarification of the performance targets (i.e., what they are and what they are not) be included in the guidelines.

Air Resources Board Guidance Regarding Cap & Trade Funding for Disadvantaged Communities

MTC Legislative Analyst Rebecca Long reviewed the California Air Resources Board's interim guidance to agencies administering greenhouse gas reduction fund monies. The Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- Concern was expressed that the state's definition of disadvantaged communities does not correlate with the region's defined care communities or MTC's equity analysis defined communities of concern. Additionally, it doesn't appear the formulas used for allocating funds are going to be applied in the same way across the board. Ms. Long responded that the Bay Area's communities of concern would fare better if the state used Method 6; however, the question of where the boundary is drawn is a separate question that also needs to be answered.
- The focus should be on where the jobs are.

Air Resources Board Guidance Regarding Cap & Trade Funding for Disadvantaged Communities (continued)

- The state appears to focus mostly on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, but in order to improve the quality of disadvantaged neighborhoods monies should be targeted to those neighborhoods. The more you expand funds, the more you dilute the ability to achieve goals. Is the goal of moving funds to the Central Valley really to build affordable housing in the Central Valley and move the population there?
- Concern was expressed that funding would be given to encourage affordable housing in a community that would create longer commute times.
- The scope should be broader and include employment centers, walkability, and pedestrians, not just vehicles.
- Affordable housing is a major component and should be allotted some funding.

Legislative Update

MTC Director of Legislation and Public Affairs Randy Rentschler briefed the Council on current transportation funding initiatives and goals at both the state and federal level. The Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- MTC needs to assist the state in creating a program and strategy to educate the public as to what a fuel extraction tax is and how it could benefit California transportation. Several advisors supported the idea of a fuel extraction tax and educating the public about its benefits.
- MTC should consider proposing a quarter cent sales tax, and a vehicle-miles-traveled (VMT) tax on electric and hybrid cars.
- Concern was expressed about the economic impact of a VMT tax on the low-income community and employment centers in general.

Staff Liaison Report

Staff liaison Pam Grove went over the staff liaison report, reminding members that MTC is in a recruitment phase for three vacancies on the Council. Ms. Grove also mentioned that an updated Plan Bay Area map is now available and can be ordered through the MTC Library.

Council Member Reports

Ms. Armenta announced that Alameda County will be hosting their annual mobility workshop for seniors and people with disabilities on Friday, October 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley. She asked staff to forward information on the event to the Council. Ms. Armenta also mentioned that the Alameda CTC is looking for people to join a panel related to healthcare and transportation, and she welcomes anyone's ideas for panelists.

Mr. Blacksten reported the July opening of the Independent Living Resource Center of San Francisco was very successful.

Council Member Reports (continued)

Mr. Hedges reported on a new rental development on San Mateo Drive, stating that a 700 sq. ft. one-bedroom costs between \$3300-\$3600, and an approximately 1000 sq. ft. two-bedroom costs between \$3800-\$4000. Additional charges for residing in the complex are as follows: \$50/month per pet and \$100/month for a designated parking space.

Ms. Kinman noted that today was Jennifer Yeamans' last day at MTC, and publicly thanked her for all of her work with the Council.

Ms. Baker also thanked Ms. Yeamans for the work she did with the Council. Ms. Baker mentioned that a commemoration event will be held at the Napa 9/11 Memorial on Main and First Streets in Napa beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Mr. Coursey stated that the SMART rail system in Sonoma County has been recommended for an Active Transportation Program Grant, in the amount of \$8.1 million dollars. Ms. Baker congratulated the regional Active Transportation Program grant recipients.

New Business

Mr. Hedges requested the Council discuss the issue of an oil extraction tax for the state of California.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Policy Advisory Council is scheduled for October 8, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, California.