



METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 2

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Policy Advisory Council  
October 8, 2014  
**Minutes**

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

**Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the September 10, 2014 meeting were approved after a motion by Richard Hedges and a second by Jim Blacksten. Caroline Bañuelos, Elizabeth Clary, Wilbert Din, and Veda Florez abstained, as they were not present at the September 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 received an update from staff on the next generation of Clipper service (called C2). Ms. Armenta informed the Council that an online survey is pending, and she urged everyone to participate once it is available. In addition, Ms. Kinman urged Council members to give as much feedback as possible to Clipper staff so C2 can be a robust system.

**2015 Public Participation Plan**

Legislation and Public Affairs Principal Ellen Griffin presented process and milestone information for the 2015 update to MTC's Public Participation Plan. The Council asked questions about past public participation, which Ms. Griffin answered. She stated the 2015 Draft Public Participation Plan will be available for the Council's review at their next meeting.

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### **Cap and Trade Funding Framework Update**

MTC Principal Planner Matt Maloney gave an update on how MTC's adopted Cap and Trade investment framework compares to the State framework, and whether it's achievable and compatible with the State program. Mr. Maloney and MTC's Deputy Executive Director for Policy Alix Bockelman outlined some of MTC's concerns and identified potential next steps. The Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- In response to a request from an advisor, staff agreed to provide the Council with information on the CalEnvironScreen methodology and MTC's response letter (in conjunction with its partner agencies) regarding its concerns about the methodology.
- A comment was made that when expressing concern that the use of CalEPA's EnviroScreen tool to determine environmental impacts focus on the Central Valley and the inner basin of Los Angeles, perhaps Council members and staff should focus talking points on the fact that with these decisions come a lot of money, and is that really where you want to start investing money and encouraging growth; if this is really about strategic growth, are those the areas where you want the growth?
- In response to the question of whether a more complete definition of sustainable communities has been identified in the guidelines, staff replied the program is looking for transit-oriented development projects and integrated corridor projects (or "connectivity" projects). Essentially the goal is to encourage travel options for all users, more walkable and bikable communities, places where transit is accessible and where stations are more modern, and also where there is adjacent affordable housing.
- A comment was made that perhaps future lists should show BART rail expansion in a more generic fashion instead of listing BART to a specific city (i.e., BART to San Jose) since it would encourage people to see it as a regional system.
- A request was made for future updates and the process related to Cap and Trade funds as they are made available to Disadvantaged Communities through the state Cap and Trade Funding program.
- In response to a request, staff agreed to provide the Council with a copy of the Priority Conservation Areas (PCA) projects approved back in April.

### **Preliminary Discussion of 2015 Legislative Advocacy Program**

MTC Senior Legislative Analyst Rebecca Long prepared the Council for a small group discussion session focused on the 2015 legislative advocacy program, going over some past legislative ideas, and ideas the Council mentioned last spring regarding transportation funding. The Council brainstormed legislative and funding topics of importance and provided staff with a list of the following items:

- Require bike paths to be painted green
- Bicyclist behavior - enforcement of laws
- Stronger bicycle education program, for both motorists and cyclists
- Bike registration fee/program and/or bicycle license plates

**Preliminary Discussion of 2015 Legislative Advocacy Program** *(continued)*

- Electric bicycle issue: modify definition to allow riding in bike paths
- Make transit more responsible for bike theft
- Better management of disabled placard permits by DMV (track doctor approvals); there are no disincentives for doctors to write permits; there needs to be better management (model after RTC approval/tracking process)
- Raise fines for illegal disabled parking to the maximum possible
- Sustainable funding for mobility management
- Address first/last-mile connectivity issues through legislation – including increased funding...and late-night, all-night service
- Connect roads with transit initiatives (roadway improvements + transit)
- More transit centers near/around the freeway AND optimize the landscape (more development)
- If high-speed rail does not happen, redirect funds to local transit
- Dedicated right-of-way to passenger rail vs. freight
- Temporary license plate program – new plates every three months – FasTrak
- More carsharing programs – need support from Legislature
- Allow electric resale for electric cars
- Fuel Extraction Tax
  - Alan has researched, writer summarizing
  - Our resources are not benefiting California communities
  - Who controls funds? Think about alliances with housing, workforce housing, emergency services housing; safety issue, as well as AQ issue (20% of firemen/policemen in SM don't live there)
  - Lottery issue doesn't address workforce needs
  - Initiative tax failed by only 1%
  - Reach out to unions
  - A billionaire is working on this
- Vehicle License Fee (VLF) - keep on the table
- Residential parking fees
- Focus on cap and trade update - hard and fast funding for Bay Area - what's the timeline?
- Vehicle-Miles-Traveled (VMT) issue/gas tax - limited? Replacement considerations in Sacramento - plans with loss of gas taxes
- VMT-pilot for electric vehicles, or impose a tax on battery replacement or at charging stations
- VMT info - collect this via smog check
- VMT re: low-income drivers - possibly still a viable option

### **Preliminary Discussion of 2015 Legislative Advocacy Program** *(continued)*

- Increase toll roads around the region - those that are planned and more (look at other toll roads in other states as models)
- Return truck weight fees to the Highway Trust Fund
- Congestion management districts – in downtown areas
- Allow incentives for businesses to move to designated zones (enterprise zones)
- Make sure to tie above to sustainable communities strategy (SCS) and already identified priority development areas (PDAs) to identify appropriate "enterprise" zones
- Incentivize creation of all types of housing to be created, low-income housing, etc.
- Need to keep in mind the expiration of lots of affordable housing units under redevelopment law - clock ticking
- Workforce housing can be self-funded; counties own land; tax-free bonds

Ms. Long stated that the 2015 Draft Legislative Advocacy Program will be presented to the Council for review at its November meeting. The draft document will also be presented to the November Legislative Committee and will go before the full Commission for adoption at its December meeting. There may be some changes that are made to the program between the draft and final after soliciting feedback.

### **Staff Liaison Report**

Staff liaison Pam Grove went over her report, reminding members that the MTC biennial awards ceremony will be held October 22, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at the Scottish Rite Center.

### **Council Member Reports**

Ms. Clary reported that Sonoma County had a very successful safe routes to school event earlier in the day. She also reminded the Council that October celebrates employment of People with Disabilities and Napa and Sonoma County will host a Mayors breakfast on October 15.

Mr. Talansky commented that his Station Park Green project's formal application will go before the City of San Mateo's Planning Commission for approval on October 14. More information about the project can be found at <http://www.cityofsanmateo.org/index.aspx?nid=2808>.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Adjournment/Next Meeting**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m. The next meeting of the Policy Advisory Council is scheduled for November 12, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, California.