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Executive Director

Alix Bockelman
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Andrew B. Fremier
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

Policy Advisory Council
November 12, 2014
Minutes

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

Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the October 8, 2014 meeting were approved after a motion by Richard Hedges and a second by Wilbert Din. Cathleen Baker and Sandi Galvez abstained, as they were not present at the October meeting.

Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Mr. Ken Bukowski informed the Council of an update to his regional video website: <http://regional-video.com/>. Mr. Bukowski also offered free video record services to the Council.

Subcommittee Report

Equity and Access Subcommittee Vice Chair Randi Kinman reported that the subcommittee met earlier in the day and received an update from staff on the Regional Means-Based (Low-Income) Transit Fare Pricing Study. Ms. Kinman noted that she was pleased with the diversity of the Technical Advisory Committee members. The study is out for bid, and a consultant is expected to be selected and the process started by the beginning of 2015. The subcommittee will receive periodic updates throughout the nine-month study.

MTC 2015 Draft Advocacy Program

Legislation and Public Affairs Senior Legislative Analyst Rebecca Long provided an overview of the MTC's 2015 Draft Advocacy Program. The Council asked clarifying questions and made the following comments:

- Mr. Talansky submitted a report he drafted on the extraction tax to staff for review.

MTC 2015 Draft Advocacy Program (continued)

- A member of the Council asked staff to specifically list BART to Silicon Valley under Item 2.B., Federal Appropriations (Advocate for Capital Investment Grant Funding for Resolution 3434/Plan Bay Area Projects).
- Upon inquiry from a member of the Council, Alix Bockelman, Deputy Executive Director, Policy, responded that MTC will be advocating for New Starts funding on behalf of the BART Extension Phase II to San Jose and the Downtown Extension project for Caltrain.
- In response to a question from an advisor, Ms. Long stated that the change in Congress due to the recent election might allow for more movement on reauthorization of MAP-21 and funding for transportation.

Bay Area Bike Share Program Update

MTC Active Transportation Program Manager Sean Co and MTC Bike Share Program Coordinator Kevin Mulder gave an update on the Bay Area Bike Share program. Patrick Wenzinger, Administrator of the Bike Share Program for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) was also present to provide information. The Council asked clarifying questions and made the following comments:

- In response to an inquiry about what lessons have been learned so far, Mr. Co commented that since the program has only been going for a year there are still a lot of things to be learned. He did comment that in areas along the Peninsula like Redwood City, the location of the bike stations are being reexamined and adjusted to see if it will increase ridership.
- In response to a question as to whether helmets are provided with the bike rental, Mr. Co stated that helmets are not provided with the rental. In California, there is no mandatory helmet law for riders over 18; however, there are a number of programs that discount helmets to annual members, but it's up to the person using the bike to use their own helmet. In addition, the Bike Share program offers bike safety classes through the Bicycle Coalition.
- A suggestion was made to redesign the bikes in order to decrease the overall weight, which is currently 42 lbs.
- Consider expanding this program into Marin surrounding the SMART rail system when it is completed in 2016 since at least the four largest stations (San Rafael, Novato, Petaluma and Santa Rosa) will be similar to the Caltrain rail system on the Peninsula.
- Concern was expressed about the need for low-income users to have access to helmets.
- A request was made for a list of bike rental groups the Bay Area Bike Share Program is working with.
- A suggestion was made to add Clipper as a form of payment.
- In response to the question regarding what MTC is doing to encourage low-income participation in the program, Mr. Co stated that a pilot program for low-income residents will be rolled out in San Francisco in early 2015.

Bay Area Bike Share Program Update (continued)

- A suggestion was made to move docking stations to accommodate special events going on in the region, such as football and soccer games.

Bay Area Regional Prosperity Plan Project Overview

MTC Program Manager Vikrant Sood provided a brief overview of the project, along with an update on work completed to date. The Council asked clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- In response to a request to clarify one of the presentation charts, Mr. Sood stated that the distribution of grant funds was intended for projects in areas with significant need, such as communities of concern. He also noted that this is the only project in the country where a majority of the \$5 million funds (\$3.6 million) went directly to the community-based organizations and local jurisdictions for projects at the local level.
- The Steering Committee and other aspects of the program should be more representative of the regional population and more regionally balanced.
- There is value in working with high school, community colleges and workforce investment boards in the future.
- Future reports could be enhanced by the use of infographics that summarizes the projects.
- Upon request, Mr. Sood agreed to send the Council future analysis on the final outcomes of the project.

Staff Liaison Report

MTC Public Information Officer Leslie Lara presented the staff liaison report on behalf of Pam Grove. Ms. Lara also pointed out that the MTC's Draft 2015 Public Participation Plan was released for public comment on November 7. Written comments are due by 4 p.m. on Monday, January 12, 2015 and can be mailed or faxed to the MTC Public Information Office. Public comments can also be submitted via email to info@mtc.ca.gov.

Council Member Reports

Mr. Coursey resigned from the Policy Advisory Council due to his election to the Santa Rosa City Council. Mr. Levine and the rest of the Council congratulated Mr. Coursey on his election.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment/Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m. The next meeting of the Policy Advisory Council is scheduled for December 10, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, California.