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Cities of Alameda County

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Dorene M. Giacomini
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Federal D. Glover
Contra Costa County

Scott Haggerty
Alameda County

Anne W. Halsted
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission

Steve Kinsey
Marin County and Cities

Sam Liccardo
San Jose Mayor's Appointee

Mark Luce
Napa County and Cities

Jake Mackenzie
Sonoma County and Cities

Julie Pierce
Association of Bay Area Governments

Bijan Sartipi
California State
Transportation Agency

James P. Spering
Solano County and Cities

Adrienne J. Tissier
San Mateo County

Vacant
Oakland Mayor's Appointee

Scott Wiener
San Francisco Mayor's Appointee

Steve Heminger
Executive Director

Alix Bockelman
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Andrew B. Fremier
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

MTC PLANNING COMMITTEE
December 12, 2014
MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Chair Sperring called the MTC Planning Committee meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Planning Committee members in attendance were: Commissioners Aguirre, Giacomini, Haggerty, Halsted, and Mackenzie. Commission Chair Rein-Worth was present in her ex-officio voting member capacity. Commissioner Bates, Campos, Luce, Pierce, and Wiener, were present as ad hoc non-voting members of the Committee.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Minutes of November 14, 2014

Commissioner Halsted moved approval of the Consent Calendar and Commissioner Worth seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION PILOT STUDY

Ms. Stefanie Hom, MTC and Ms. Lindy Lowe, BCDC presented an overview of the Climate Adaptation Pilot Study.

Committee discussion:

- Commissioner Sperring requested that staff work on mainstreaming climate change into the region's transportation agencies. Ms. Hom stated that staff is engaging with agencies to further the climate discussion; for example, BART discussing adaptation in the context of its seismic planning, which is integrated into almost every aspect of what they do. Ms. Lowe stated that mainstreaming climate change into agencies or existing practices means doing it throughout their processes as one standard issue being considered along with all of the other issues being considered. It is something to be incorporated into the plans, programs, and projects that are already being done.
- Commissioner Sperring stated it appears that plans are happening in little islands; Commissioner Sperring questioned who will coordinate all of this, and how will this effect transportation funding in the short-term and long-term. Mr. Heminger noted that Commissioner Sperring is asking all the right questions, which cannot be answered today, but stated that MTC needs to do two things, 1) MTC and the region needs to go a lot faster on this subject, and 2) the region needs to start approaching it in a more systematic way. The time to move from pilot work to systematic work is here. He noted that mainstreaming moves the subject into the update to Plan Bay Area.
- Commissioner Sperring asked if staff is doing an inventory of all of the facilities, as well as the transportation system itself. Mr. Heminger stated that staff intends to do that. He noted that he met with Commissioner Sartipi and discussed seeking grant funding from the State.

- Commissioner Haggerty stated that four agencies (MTC, BCDC, ABAG, and the Air District) were brought together to work on climate change, and it looks as though MTC is doing all the work. At what point does the Joint Policy Committee (JPC) get integrated into this discussion. Mr. Heminger stated that MTC is doing some work, but so is ABAG and BCDC, but it is not nearly coordinated enough yet. He noted that most important is getting the owners of the infrastructure involved to do the work to protect the assets.
- Commissioner Halsted stated that staff needs to think about working regionally on this issue, and to make the partnership effective.
- Commissioner Mackenzie commented on the State Rte. 37 analysis, and stated that coordinating through the JPC would be appropriate.
- Commissioner Bates commented on the drainage study and asked how it would work. Ms. Clevenger stated that a drainage study would conduct analysis on where the water is flowing. They need to understand when, where, and how the water is flowing to determine best how to manage the water and build adaptation strategies. Ms. Lowe noted that these are interrelated assets that are owned by a variety of agencies and entities - one agency owns the drainage infrastructure, and another agency owns the transportation infrastructure so ownership is a critical component of understanding vulnerability.
- Commissioner Pierce stated that the CMAs may not be talking about this as much as they need to be. She noted that if staff is discussing about policies of building these kinds of strategies into everything that is being done, then staff needs to set examples about adopting policies and encourage other agencies to do the same. Mr. Heminger stated that the CMAs are doing more work than some may expect, and expressed his concern about the owners and what they are up to. He noted that the important part of this work was having BART and Caltrans involved.
- Commissioner Spring asked if there is an organizational chart to talk about how to deal with the various levels of stakeholders. Mr. Heminger stated that Bruce Riordan has probably developed one, but staff will come back to the committee with more details.
- Commissioner Mackenzie noted that the Sonoma County Transportation Authority and Regional Climate Protection Authority under a Strategic Growth Council planning grant, are developing Climate Action Plan 2020. He noted that they have also been working with other CMAs in the context of Highway 37, and will be conducting an adaptation forum in Sonoma County.

Public Comment:

- Mr. Rich Hedges commented on flooding conditions caused by debris in the high-speed pumps in San Mateo County and the local response.

REGIONAL ADVANCED MITIGATION PLAN (RAMP)

Ms. Elizabeth O'Donoghue, The Nature Conservancy, presented an overview of a potential RAMP pilot program in the Bay Area that would coordinate mitigation across multiple transportation projects.

Commission discussion:

- Commissioner Spering asked how this compares with the county habitat conservation plans (HCPs). Ms. O'Donoghue stated that within the Bay Area there are two Natural Communities Conservation Plans (NCCPs) - one in Santa Clara and one in Contra Costa, which are the premier plans in the Bay Area. When a region-wide mitigation green print is developed, they will work very closely with them to make sure there is nothing that is done in the program that negatively impacts those HCPs or NCCPs.
- Commissioner Spering asked how CEQA fits in. Ms. O'Donoghue stated that this process does not change CEQA in any way. She noted that through CEQA there is a mitigation process.
- Commissioner Spering encouraged staff to get county planning agencies involved in this process.
- Commissioner Aguirre asked what challenges did Orange County and San Diego face that staff should be made aware of. Ms. O'Donoghue stated that staff will need to focus on regulatory involvement, funding, and the capacity and culture.
- Commissioner Worth stated that the potential benefits of this are significant.
- Commissioner Pierce noted that the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy has been very successful in helping streamline housing development and the expansions of Highway 4 East.
- Commissioner Luce asked if staff is talking about a regional mitigation plan specifically for transportation or is this more broad-based related to any type of development or project that could look for a way to have a more regional impact with their mitigation dollars. Ms. O'Donoghue stated that this effort is focused on transportation and it brings together transportation projects from all of the agencies.
- Commissioner Mackenzie commented on the statewide framework and asked if the final document is to be approved this year. Ms. O'Donoghue stated that it is a draft document. There are some proposals that need to be test driven before being approved.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 9, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium, Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter, Oakland, CA.