

Agenda Item 7



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
TEL 510.817.5700
TDD/TTY 510.817.5769
FAX 510.817.5848
E-MAIL info@mtc.ca.gov
WEB www.mtc.ca.gov

Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: March 4, 2015

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – March 2015

Change in April and May Policy Advisory Council Meeting Schedule

Over the next two months, there will be a change in the normal schedule for your Council meetings. In April, we will have no meeting, and in May there will be two meetings.

MTC Resolution No. 3931, Revised — the resolution that created the Policy Advisory Council — states that the Commission will hold an annual work plan workshop with the Council. This year's annual work plan meeting is currently being planned immediately following the Commission meeting on May 27, 2015. Because this means the Council will have its regular meeting in May in addition to the work plan meeting with the Commission on the 27th – and also due to a lack of agenda items for April – we are canceling the April Council meeting.

Please mark your calendars with these meeting cancellations and additions.

New MTC Commission Chair

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors President Dave Cortese took over the reins of the Commission on Feb. 25th after the 18 voting members of the 21-member regional Commission unanimously elected him as chair for the two-year term running through February 2017. Cortese brings to his assignment two years as MTC's vice chair, and eight years overall as an MTC commissioner. He was first appointed to MTC in 2007 as the Association of Bay Area Governments' (ABAG) representative, later transitioning to Santa Clara County's seat on the Commission. The Commission will elect their vice-chair in March. For an online list of the current Commission (including links to their local elected biography), visit MTC's web site at: http://www.mtc.ca.gov/about_mtc/commissioners/

Recruitment Remains Open for Contra Costa Vacancy on Policy Advisory Council

Recruitment remains open for an individual to represent disabled interests in Contra Costa County. Even though a deadline is currently posted, the online application will remain up until the position is filled. If you know of any organizations or individuals that staff can provide flyers or information on the advisor position, please forward the contact information to the Council staff liaison, Pam Grove.

MTC Annual Report to the California State Legislature

The 2015 Annual Report to the California State Legislature is now available and can be found online at http://www.mtc.ca.gov/library/leg_reports/leg_reports.htm. In this report, we provide a snapshot of MTC's latest plans and projects. The report includes the Commission's top 2015 advocacy priorities, including:

- Preserving and augmenting transportation funding by preventing the variable gas tax cut anticipated July 1, 2015; restoring over \$900 million in truck weight fees per year to the State Highway Account; and securing additional ongoing revenue sources.
- Requiring temporary license plates to be placed on all vehicles sold without plates at the point of sale to improve public safety and restore \$15 million per year in foregone tolls statewide.
- Beginning a conversation about voter consideration of a bridge toll increase on the region's seven state-owned bridges, similar to voter consideration of Regional Measure 2, authorized by the Legislature in 2003 as Senate Bill 916 (Perata).

MTC Annual Report to Congress

With the federal surface transportation law set to expire this spring, Congress faces a difficult decision about how to fund the nation's program. The gas tax and other user fees haven't been raised since 1993 and now fall short by about \$13 billion/year, a gap that's been made up by short-term General Fund bailouts. MTC's 36th Annual Report to Congress makes a strong case for restoring funding predictability and increasing revenue levels by raising the federal gas tax, establishing a national freight grant program and steering more federal transportation funds to metropolitan areas, our nation's economic engine. The report also highlights the region's priorities for the federal New Starts program, which funds major transit infrastructure projects. The report can be found online at http://www.mtc.ca.gov/library/leg_reports/leg_reports.htm.

Parking Pricing Analysis Workshop

From 2014-2015, MTC will continue work on a parking initiative which will focus on a Value Pricing Pilot (VPP) Parking Pricing Regional Analysis Project. This project will analyze regional parking policy approaches and develop and demonstrate local parking strategies, both using a new regional parking database.

MTC will hold a workshop on April 3, 2015, from 8:30 until noon in the MetroCenter Auditorium to review progress to date and gather input for the next steps. The workshop will focus on two key and interrelated components: the new regional parking database and analysis of key regional policies.

For more information on the VPP Regional Analysis Project, go to:
http://mtc.ca.gov/planning/smart_growth/parking/2014.htm

To register for the workshop, send an email to Janice Richards at jrichards@mtc.ca.gov.

High School Internship Application Deadline Extended

The deadline for applications for this summer's high school internship program has been extended to March 22nd. If you know of any high school students who might be interested in applying, they can find information about the program and submit their application online via MTC's web site at:

<http://jobs.mtc.ca.gov/InternshipOpportunities/HighSchoolInfo/highschoolintern.html>.

Executive Director's Report

The following items were in the February 2015 Executive Director's Report to the Commission*:

- ***Secretary Foxx Visit – February 2, San Jose***
Several MTC Commissioners joined state and local officials in welcoming U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx to the Mineta Transportation Institute for a discussion about his visioning initiative known as "Beyond Traffic 2045." Later in the day, Secretary Foxx was interviewed by Google Chairman Eric Schmidt on a webcast that garnered quite a bit of national press attention. For more information, please follow this link: <http://www.dot.gov/beyondtraffic>.
- ***Testimony Before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee – February 25, Washington, D.C.***
MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger was invited to testify before this Senate Committee about reauthorization of the federal surface transportation program. The current federal authorizing legislation (MAP 21) expires in May.

To read the February 2015 Executive Director's report to the Commission in its entirety, go to http://www.mtc.ca.gov/news/ed_report.htm.