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Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Programming and Allocations Committee
October 4, 2006
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 10:38 a.m. Committee members in attendance were Chair Haggerty, Vice Chair Anderson, Commissioners Ammiano, Blanchard, Dodd, Sartipi, McLemore, Giacomini, Lempert, Torliatt, and Halsted.

Consent Calendar

The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of September 13, 2006 meeting as submitted.

The Committee received as information the Quarterly Report of Executive Director's Delegated Authority Actions.

Regional Programming

The committee voted unanimously to refer the following resolutions to the full Commission for adoption.

- Regional Measure 2 (RM2) Proposed Capital and Operating Allocations. MTC Resolution Nos. 3663, Revised, 3666, Revised, 3739, Revised, 3770, Revised.

Kenneth Kao, MTC, reported on the RM2 Allocations. The first project for capital allocations, I-80 HOV lane project in Solano County, asks for \$1 million to complete the environmental and preliminary engineering work. The draft environmental document is to be circulated in November 2006 and approved in February 2007.

The second capital allocation is the Grand MacArthur Express Bus project. Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA) expects the operational improvements along the Grand and MacArthur Boulevard corridors to be completed sooner than other strategies evaluated such as on-ramp improvements. Therefore ACCMA requests focusing RM2 funds for the operational improvement element of the project and requests \$600,000 for final design. Of the requested amount, \$175,000 for final design will be carried over from the environmental phase.

The third project is for the Ardenwood Park and Ride lot off of State Route 84. Following last month's approved exception to allow reimbursement for work prior to allocation, ACCMA notified MTC that the environmental document would be approved within a week and requests an allocation of \$210,000 for final design and \$1.8 million in additional right-of-way funds. These supplemental funds will allow for acquisition and design of a larger park and ride lot.

The last request is for an operating allocation of \$1.1 million for AC Transit's operating owl service.

- Auditor's presentation on the triennial performance audits of Golden Gate Transit, SamTrans, City of Vallejo, WestCAT, Tri Delta Transit, Napa County Transportation Planning Agency (NCTPA), City of Vacaville, and City of Dixon (Mundle & Associates, Inc.).

Vince Petrites, MTC, reported on the background of the Triennial Performance audits. Under MTC's process, Mundle and Associates was awarded a three-year contract, which covers a complete cycle of audits. A third of the operators are audited each year.

Subash Mundle, Mundle and Associates, reviewed the PowerPoint presentation, which contained the results of the third cycle performance audit. *Mr. Mundle* stated that the audit followed a two-phase approach. The first phase included conducting a compliance audit, which reviews an operator's data collection activities and recording method, while the second phase, the audit survey phase, evaluates actions that operators took to implement the prior audit recommendations as well as the operator's performance as compared to their goals, objectives, and standards.

Commissioner Lempert inquired if Samtrans' contributions to the BART to SFO service were included in the audit. *Mr. Mundle* replied that they were not included.

Upon *Commissioner Haggerty's* request, *Mr. Mundle* agreed to e-mail a list to the Committee of both the small and large operators in California that were used as peer agencies for the comparison of cost per hour growth trends.

Therese McMillan, MTC, mentioned that at the Commission workshop in May 2006 the topic of transit productivity was and still is a very important topic and the Advisory council has specifically taken up the topic for further discussion.

Commissioner Halsted asked who the audit recommendations were submitted to. *Vince Petrites* stated that the audit is given to the transit operator's management, who has 30 days to respond to the recommendations before the final audit goes to the chair of the board of each transit agency.

The Commissioners made a few requests for additional supplemental materials. *Commissioner Giacomini* requested a copy of paratransit performance audits.

Commissioner Haggerty requested to see an analysis of the costs, to explain what drives the operator's expenses.

Commissioner Torliatt stated she found the audit extremely valuable and thanked staff and Mundle & Associates for their efforts. She also requested a list of systems that were audited during the first and second year and a comparison of all the transit operator's results, both small and large operators.

Bob Planthold, Transit Performance Improvement Working Group, stated that the results should be made available to other small operators to communicate and compare their peer's progress.

Federal Programming

The committee voted unanimously to refer the following resolution to the full Commission for adoption.

- Revisions to Second and Third Cycle STP Policies. MTC Resolution Nos. 3615, Revised, 3723, Revised.

Glen Tepke stated that the revision to the second and third cycle STP policies directs approximately \$14 million in funds to the AC Transit bus replacement project. AC Transit made the request to FTA and MTC to retire 71 1997 federally funded buses prior to the end of their federally established useful life because the agency currently exceeds its federal 20% limit on spare buses. AC Transit also requested \$14 million to procure 50 buses in 2006 instead of replacing the 71 busses in 2009 for net reduction in their fleet of 21 buses. While the project does not meet the requirement of the transit capital shortfall policy, it would save the region approximately \$14 million in future FTA funds and accommodates AC Transits fleet reconfiguration needs.

AC Transit also proposes to purchase Van Hool buses that do not meet the federal "Buy America" provision and therefore could not be funded with FTA or STP transit capital shortfall funds. MTC staff recommends a funding swap of \$14 million in second and third cycle funds directed to an eligible ACCMA project and in return ACCMA would direct \$14 million in non-federal STIP funds to AC Transit bus purchase.

Commissioner Haggerty proposed an amendment to the resolution requesting that AC Transit send the Committee a letter stating why they propose to purchase buses from another country rather than from the United States.

California Transportation Commission (CTC) Report

Alix Bockelman, MTC, reported that CTC released the draft guidelines for the Corridor Mobility program, the \$4.5 billion competitive program that is part of Proposition 1B of the Transportation Bond. MTC staff will provide a comprehensive report on the guidelines at the Legislation

Committee next Friday October 13th as well as an overview of the schedule associated with various bond programs.

Ms. Bockelman stated she would e-mail the Committee a copy of the overview.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Chair Haggerty adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.