

PARTNERSHIP TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 19, 2007

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1. Introductions

Marcella Rensi (Vice-Chair) requested introductions.

2. Minutes of February 26, 2007 PTAC Meeting

The minutes of the February 26, 2007 PTAC meeting were accepted.

3. Partnership Reports

Transit Finance Working Group (TFWG) – *Cory LaVigne, LAVTA* – TFWG met on March 7, 2007. Key items discussed were 1) Proposition 1B Revenue-based funds distribution with the idea of potentially fixing or not fixing a year for fund distribution. 2) Proposition 1B Population-based proposed funds distribution; and, 3) the TFWG 2007 Calendar Year Work Plan, which focuses heavily on the 2009 RTP development and the FTA 2007 Appropriations impacts. Cory concluded stating a presentation was given regarding MTC's 2009 RTP vision.

Local Streets & Roads (LS&R) Working Group – *Ben Tripousis, City of San Jose*- LS&R met on March 2, 2007. Ben reported that the Working Group is continuing to work on the development of the LS&R Strategic Plan and expects to have a final draft available for public comment in April. Other key points of the meeting include 1) PTAP Round 7 is in its final stages and PTAP Round 8 is going well. 2) The Group heard a presentation from Ted Droettboom (ABAG JPC) about FOCUS and the importance of developing Transit Oriented Developments (TOD) and facilities and linking those to various fund sources. The Group is supportive of the FOCUS efforts but has concerns about pulling resources from rural jurisdictions and/or areas that may not qualify under the FOCUS plan.

Programming and Delivery Working Group (PDWG) – *Kenneth Kao, MTC* – PDWG met on March 19, 2007. Key discussions include 1) STP/CMAQ project delivery and issues arising from the recently signed continuing resolution on the Federal level; 2) the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) and the deadline for allocation and extension requests for all projects programmed this fiscal year; the final CTC meeting for this fiscal year is approaching; and, 3) issues regarding the STIP Augmentation program and updates from Caltrans regarding their STIP projects.

Standing Updates

4. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Ross McKeown (MTC) provided an update on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ross briefed the group on what MTC has done to bring TIP Amendment 07-06 into SAFETEA compliance. MTC staff hopes to release Amendment 07-06 for public comment in April. By July 1, MTC expects to have a SAFETEA Compliant TIP, which will allow the processing of amendments to continue until the next TIP is adopted. MTC staff encourages project sponsors to review the draft once it is released for public comment.

5. Legislative Update

Rebecca Long (MTC) summarized the legislation introduced to date that implements Proposition 1B and 1C. In terms of the state budget, informational hearings have been set in both the state assembly (March 28) and senate (March 29). Rebecca added that for those agencies interested in submitting comments regarding the State Budget, sample letters are posted on the MTC website. Rebecca reported that the House has passed an emergency appropriations bill that includes \$250 million for transit security in FY 2006-07.

6. 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Augmentation Update

Kenneth Kao (MTC) provided an update on the 2006 RTIP Augmentation, reporting that MTC Resolution 3800, the adopting resolution for the 2006 RTIP Augmentation, went to the Programming and Allocations Committee (PAC) for their review on March 7 and is scheduled for review by the MTC Commission on March 28. The public comment period ended on March 17, 2007. The resolution includes a listing of projects, totaling \$337 million, recommended for funding through the augmentation; approximately \$32 million over the target amount for the county share and approximately \$73 million under the maximum amount available to the region. At the California

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Transportation Commission (CTC) meeting, staff requested to see preferences in the priority listed in the augmentation. The Programming and Delivery Working Group (PDWG) tentatively discussed the following regional priorities: 1) I-bond projects, 2) cost overruns and 3) other highway funds. Regarding PTA, current indications show the region receiving the majority of the PTA requested. MTC staff expects to deliver the final program to the CTC by its deadline of April 2.

Discussion Items

7. Draft Funding Proposal for Proposition 1B Population-Based Transit Funding

Anne Richman (MTC) presented an overview of MTC's draft funding proposal for Proposition 1B population-based transit funding. In response to comments previously received at various forums, MTC staff included with the presentation, additional details on how funds were to be distributed. Cory LaVigne (LAVTA) requested that comments collected from the various forums regarding this proposal be summarized and included in a comments page as part of the final presentation to the Programming and Allocations Committee (PAC) in May and requested an additional session be agendized at the next Transit Finance Working Group (TFWG) meeting.

Committee members raised concerns about the feasibility of the local 1:1 match requirement, in particular using Proposition 1B revenue-based funding as the match source because smaller operators generate very little revenue-based funding. MTC staff responded by stating that there may be flexibility on the types of matching fund sources for those smaller operators.

MTC staff reported that there are some preliminary "spot" bills currently in the both the Assembly and Senate, AB901 and SB716, which may address the specific types of projects to be funded and may potentially provide language pertaining to the useful life of the projects and will deal with who allocates the money and who determines project eligibility, CTC or the State Controller. The issue remains about what factor will be used to determine how much funding each operator will get. In addition, there has been discussion in Sacramento about performance measure requirements related to this money, and there is push back from the cities and counties and the transit operators that this money is supposed to be used for projects over which they have more control.

Martin Engelmann (CCTA) reported that that this item has been agendized at the Contra Costa County Authority Board meeting on March 21 at 7:00pm, and requested MTC representation at the meeting

8. Regional Rail Plan Update

Ashley Nguyen (MTC) provided a brief update on the status of the Regional Rail Plan, informing the Committee that the Plan is delayed. In December 2006, the steering committee finalized twelve network alternatives and has since fine-tuned that down to 2 regional rail alternatives without high-speed rail. MTC staff is proceeding with the modeling and forecasting work on those two network alternatives, but due to technical challenges with the travel model and complicated work being completed by the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA); the forecasting work has taken much longer than anticipated. Further, the regional rail study needs to receive alignment and forecasting information from the CHSRA. The CHSRA made a summary level presentation to the Board with the regards to preliminary travel times and cost estimate for the high speed rail alignments for the south entry and the east entry; at this point in time, there is little difference amongst the two alignment options. The CHSRA is continuing their work on the forecasting; once the work is completed MTC will be taking their input and incorporate it into the Regional Rail process. MTC staff hopes to release a draft plan for public review in mid to late May and is ultimately required to present this plan to the MTC Commission for adoption in September.

9. Third Cycle SAFETEA STP/CMAQ Program Funding Proposals

Ross McKeown (MTC) and *Glen Tepke (MTC)* briefed the Committee on the proposed Third Cycle funding investments. In December 2005, MTC approved the Third Cycle STP/CMAQ policies and programming (Resolution no. 3723) for the final two years of the SAFETEA authorization period, FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09. Third cycle includes \$300 million in STP/CMAQ investments. There were two outstanding issues noted at the time of Third Cycle policy adoption, 1) Planning Funds and 2) Transit Capital Shortfall. Ross

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McKeown (MTC) reported on MTC's proposed efforts to resolve the Planning Funds issue while Glen Tepke (MTC) provided an overview of the proposed efforts to resolve the Transit Capital Shortfall. MTC staff is proposing to follow a similar framework for the transit capital shortfall element as agreed to for the Second Cycle; however, due to the timeline for the operators to begin Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) procurement, approximately \$5 million has been included in the proposal as escrow to allow the operators to begin procurements now to ensure Bay Area compliance with CARB rules.

Information Items / Other Business

10. **Regional Transit Capital Inventory Update**

Glen Tepke (MTC) provided an update on the status and next steps of developing a Regional Transit Capital Inventory (RTCI) to facilitate planning and programming. In order to improve MTC's ability to forecast transit capital rehabilitation and replacement needs in the region, MTC staff has proposed the development of a RTCI. Glen reported that the RTCI consultants have submitted their interim report which provides an overall assessment of the suitability of the transit capital data and data management systems currently used by transit operators for development of the RTCI, and preliminary alternative approaches to developing the RTCI. The consultant also submitted draft operator reports to each individual operator that provide more detailed assessments of each operator's asset data and data management systems. Upon determination of what will be needed from each individual operator to come into compliance with the data standard, MTC staff will work to determine the most cost effective way to spend the remainder of the project budget to improve the operators' ability to provide that data and also set aside a small portion for the development of the inventory itself.

11. **Regional Real-time Transit Information Program**

Jim Macrae (MTC) provided a status report of the real-time transit information program. Jim reported on the RM2 project deployment, the regional real-time data clearinghouse and the dissemination services using the various 511 services and regional signalization. Jim elaborated on outstanding implementation issues and the next steps for decision-making and deployment of the Regional Real-time Transit Information Program. Agencies interested in joining the Real-time Transit Information Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) should contact Jim Macrae at MTC.

12. **Recommended Future Agenda Items**

Vice Chair, Marcella Rensi (VTA), advised the Committee that the April PTAC meeting would focus solely on the 2009 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

13. **Next Meeting**

Monday, April 16, 2007

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

MTC MetroCenter, Auditorium (Ground Floor)

101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607