

Regional Pedestrian Committee (Metropolitan Transportation Commission)

Meeting Minutes – Thursday, February 15, 2007

Attendees: Nancy Baer (Contra Costa Health Services), Ron Bishop (Oakland BPAC), Sean Co (MTC), Jason Patton (Oakland), Rochelle Wheeler (ACTIA), Ana Validzic (SFDPH) and Brad Beck (CCTA)

Jason Patton, committee chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10am and Ana Validzic volunteered to take minutes.

Summary of December Meeting

The minutes from the December meeting stated that an election for vice-chair would occur at the February meeting; however, that was not listed as an agenda item. Therefore, the election of the vice-chair of the committee was deferred to the April meeting. **Individuals are encouraged to submit nominations for vice-chair to Sean Co before then.**

Strategic Highway Safety Implementation Plan Update

Pedestrian issues comprise Area 8 in the Strategic Highway Safety Implementation Plan. Currently, the Area 8 committee is identifying their problem statement. The committee is working on surveying counties and cities to see if these localities have a pedestrian safety plan or program and if so, what the contents of those plans or programs are.

Caltrans and the committee are gathering SWITRS pedestrian trips data. They also need local data. Sean Co sent them the Bay Area Travel Survey data. However, there is a big discrepancy between different areas in the state. The Bay Area has more data on pedestrians than other CA areas.

There was some discussion on the need for activity-based travel journals for both pedestrian and bicycle challenge areas but it is hard to see how this will filter down to the local level.

There was also discussion that it is not clear what the next steps are for this plan and not much is predicted to come to the Bay Area as a result of this plan. The proposal is to divide funds for the entire safety program by the different challenge areas and then estimate the share of funds for the Bay Area. The whole process will end in June. Outcomes will be problem statements and data with final recommendations.

MTC is concerned about pedestrian safety and may include this in the RTP. Rochelle Wheeler pointed out that MTC can coordinate how county funds are allocated for pedestrian and bike plans/programs.

Work Plan

The workplan was the main focus of the December meeting. A subcommittee has met since then to discuss what this committee's role could be in developing a regional pedestrian plan. A draft of this subcommittee's recommendations, labeled Attachment A, was distributed to this committee as a point of discussion for the February meeting.

All agreed that it was useful to identify a direction for this committee and that there is need to discuss a regional pedestrian plan. Some of this work will spill over into 2008, which only

emphasizes the need for the vice-chair election who will oversee this work in 2008. There will be 6 meetings total to discuss various aspects of a regional pedestrian plan. This will allow the committee to collect information in order to justify a regional pedestrian plan to MTC and then develop a scope of work.

Sean Co can help minimally with this work but it will be an effort mainly driven by committee members. Therefore, the committee needs commitments from some members. Rochelle Wheeler volunteered to help with this effort. **Please email Sean or Jason if you want to help with this effort.**

Jason Patton gave ideas as to why a regional pedestrian plan is necessary. Nancy Baer commented that she wanted to make sure the work on pedestrian districts wasn't neglected, to which Sean Co replied that the committee will also monitor the status of that work. Jason further commented that the work on a regional pedestrian plan could accomplish a lot because a lot of the pieces have already been done by MTC so committee members just need to compile that, start thinking of it as a whole, and put some flesh on those ideas.

Attachment A lays out a vision and general scope as an overall framework for the work of this committee. Jason Patton acknowledged that the workplan specifics might be too ambitious so prioritization on specific workplan items is needed. Nancy Baer commented that item #4 – “Provide advice to BARHI on prioritizing recommendations from Walkable Communities Collaborative” may not be a priority although Jason Patton replied that providing advice to other groups should be the role of this committee. **Please email suggestions to Sean Co for prioritization on workplan items.**

When updating this workplan in future years, the committee will leave the vision statement as is and just update specific workplan items. This item will be placed back on the April agenda for further discussion.

There was some discussion on submitting a proposal to the CA Walk/ Bike Conference to conduct a session on the regional pedestrian plan. Someone suggested submitting a proposal on a statewide panel or workgroup to see if similar work is being done elsewhere. Are there other places that have done regional pedestrian plans? Are they successful? What are lessons learned? What are some obstacles and how to overcome them?

Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Training

MTC is committed to conducting 4-5 trainings throughout the region. Fehr and Peers is under contract to develop and conduct a one day course. The current idea is to do a walking audit of pedestrian and bicycle conditions in the morning and then present technical information in the afternoon. Policymakers and elected officials will be invited to join the walking audit. Sean Co is working with the Local Streets Committee on these trainings.

The first training will be in April. Other proposed locations are Santa Rosa, Vallejo/Benicia area, eastern Alameda County, and somewhere in San Mateo County because of the high pedestrian collision numbers there.

Call for Projects

Caltrans just announced the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Applications are due April 13th. More information can be found at <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/hsip.htm>.

Safe Routes to Transit released their second call for projects since the program started. Applications are due April 3rd. More information can be found at http://www.transcoalition.org/c/bikeped/bikeped_saferoutes.html#application.

The SF County Transportation Authority released a local call for project for the Transportation for Clean Air Fund. Applications are due March 2nd. More information can be found at <http://www.sfcta.org/Funding/TLCPage.htm>. The regional call is expected in the spring.

The California Walk/Bike Conference is calling for proposal and exhibitors for the conference program. Deadline for this call is March 16th. The conference will be held in Davis from September 11-14th. More information can be found at <http://www.walkbikecalifornia.org/proposals.htm>

Information sharing

Jason Patton asked if 9AM was a good start time for this committee since a number of people were late. All agreed that 9AM was fine, just that there were a variety of factors as to why people were late this time.

Sean Co announced that MTC is developing a process for the RTP update. The committee will focus on the RTP update starting in April. Sean will attend and update committee members. **Please let Sean know if you want notification of the RTP update.**

Next Meeting: April 19th

Routine Accommodation Checklist Presentation