

## PARTNERSHIP TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 21, 2007

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1. Introductions

*Rick Moshier (Chair)* requested introductions.

2. Minutes of April 16, 2007 PTAC Meeting

The minutes for the April 16, 2007 PTAC meeting were accepted.

3. Partnership Reports

Transit Finance Working Group (TFWG) – *Glen Tepke, MTC* – The TFWG met on May 2, 2007. Topics of discussion included 1) the 5309 Bus Discretionary, 2) the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle Transit Capital Shortfall Program, 3) Transit Capital Inventory Project status and the planned use of inventory structure for the Transit Capital Program Shortfall Projections for the RTP, 4) Proposition 1B Transit Funding proposal from MTC, 5) a TDA and AB1107 Fund Monitoring Update, and 5) Marc Roddin's final item before retirement, the Transit Passenger Demographic Survey Phase 1 results and schedule. MTC staff reviewed the proposed goals for the 2009 RTP as well as RM2 changes to the project-funding plan.

Local Streets & Roads (LS&R) Working Group – *Ben Tripousis, City of San Jose* - LS&R WG met on May 4, 2007. Highlights of the session included the adoption by the group of the LS&R Strategic Plan and also an endorsement by the group in support of a 20% local match/20% contribution by local agencies toward the ongoing operation of the P-TAP program.

Programming and Delivery Working Group (PDWG) – *Kenneth Kao, MTC* – PDWG met on May 21, 2007. Kenneth reported that the CTC just recently amended their STIP award deadline from 12-6 months and solicited feedback on delivery concerns of this change. The Group received an update on the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) Augmentation, the CTC staff recommendation came out last week and staff has recommended all of the highway and PTA projects proposed by MTC. Some PTA projects have been shifted out in different years but overall all the funding was included. There were discussions with Caltrans about their quarterly STIP project update and reflecting in that report to include better expended to date numbers.

### Standing Updates

4. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

*Ross McKeown (MTC)* provided an informational update on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). MTC staff will be going to the Commission on Wednesday, May 23 for their approval and with that, thereafter, FHWA and Caltrans for their approval. Staff expects to meet the July 1 deadline for a SAFETEA Compliant TIP so as not to be in a lapse situation.

5. Legislative Update – *The legislative update was deferred to the June PTAC session.*

### Discussion Items

6. Regional Measure 2 (RM2) – Project Funding Plan Changes

*Melanie Choy (MTC)* presented the two proposed funding reassignments to the Regional Measure 2 (RM2) program. Under RM2, there is a provision that allows funding reassignments if a project can be completed with new funding other than RM2 funds. Melanie emphasized that program exchanges are only done under special circumstances or if the exchanges are the only available option to the affected projects.

This first proposed amendment to the RM2 program involve BART projects and amending the funding make-up of the projects in the RM2 program; a total of \$62M is being proposed for reassignment. The proposed project changes involve two existing RM2 projects, the BART Tube Seismic Retrofit project and the Oakland Airport Connector (OAC) project and one new project, the BART Transit Capital Rehab project.

Public notice for the proposed reassignments was released on May 11 and is posted on the MTC website. MTC will be conducting a public hearing on June 13, which is also the close of the public comment period. The Commission will consider this proposal for adoption on June 27.

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### 7. 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

*Kenneth Kao (MTC)* reported on the initial policies and programming issues for the 2008 RTIP. The 2008 RTIP is around the corner, anticipate a call for projects in summer to get us on track for MTC adoption of the RTIP in November and submittal to CTC in December. Items to consider in developing the 2008 RTIP include: 1) matching the projects nominated in the RTIP to the CTC priorities, those priorities are listed in the CTC guidelines and include projects that are already in the STIP that need more funding, TCRP projects and also projects that leverage federal discretionary funds, 2) for federal discretionary funds, staff is considering proposing projects that would fit into those programs, including the Local Highway Bridge Program, 3) for the Local Streets and Transit Rehabilitation, a portion of the RTP; the 2005 RTP proposed using RTIP funds as a source of funding for the Local Streets and Roads Shortfall and Transit Rehab Shortfall funding needs, 4) the MTC Freeway Performance Initiative (FPI) and considering how the proposed projects in the RTIP would fit into the FPI, 5) future STIP prioritization. Kenneth reported that for this current RTIP Augmentation, the region was slightly over the highway target and in order to bring us down to the target, MTC had discussed with San Francisco and Alameda counties to remove two of their projects and move them to a later STIP and in return, their projects would be the highest priority in the 2008 STIP. Group members suggested using SHOPP funds and GARVEE bonds as part of the prioritization considerations.

Kenneth reported on the Transportation Enhancement (TE) portion of the STIP, whereas half of the TE funds are to be allocated to MTC for the TLC Program and the other half is to go to the CMAs for non-discretionary local funding. Staff recommends proposing holding MTC's TE funds in reserve until such time that the priorities can be made in relation to the federal reauthorization and the 2009 RTP. MTC staff would like to remind the CMAs to notify all eligible project sponsors of the Call for Projects and the availability of TE funds and to remind Caltrans to notify the CMAs of any cost increases as soon as possible so they may consider that when putting together their RTIP proposal.

### 8. 2009 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

#### a. Request for RTP Project Updates/New Submittals

*Raymond Kan (MTC)* reported that MTC has forwarded a letter to the Bay Area Partnership apprising partners of the project submittal process for the 2009 RTP. MTC would like the partners to update project and program information submitted in the previous RTP as well as propose new ones for consideration. The project submittals are due to MTC by July 27. This committee and the Partnership Board will have an opportunity to review the scenario performance assessment in June, and MTC staff will request MTC's Planning Committee approval of the approach on July 13.

Group members expressed concerns about having RTP related items on the standard PTAC meeting agenda and requested that RTP related items be restricted to the RTP-focused PTAC meetings, which occur every other month.

#### b. Freeway Performance Initiative (FPI) Overview and Coordination with RTP

*Joy Lee (MTC)* reported that the FPI is a new MTC effort, in collaboration with Caltrans District 4 and the Partnership, to conduct technical assessments of the major freeway corridors in the Bay Area to develop a strategic plan for the Bay Area's freeway system. FPI goals include: 1) improve systems operations and management strategies, 2) maximize freeway capacity, 3) address regional freight movement issues, and 4) close key gaps in the freeway systems' physical infrastructure; essentially, Mobility, Reliability and Safety. The FPI effort will build on existing county corridors studies and will focus on the freeway operations while taking into consideration arterial and transit as it relates to and influences freeway operations.

As agencies update the countywide plan and form their RTP project submittals, MTC would like to use existing condition findings from the FPI to assist in the project nomination process as well as use the nominated projects in the FPI effort. Analysis of existing conditions findings will be available by the end of June. And with this information MTC would like to participate in project prioritization in getting ready for the July 27 RTP project submittal deadline. To build upon FPI findings, the RTP performance assessments are

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going to start in August to produce draft FPI recommendations for the freeway component of the RTP. The primary product of the FPI will be a prioritized list of strategies and projects and is expect to be completed by the end of October. The FPI recommendations will be finalized in December to help frame the RTP financially constrained list of projects and strategies.

c. **Project Performance Assessment Approach and Evaluation Criteria**

*Lisa Klein (MTC)* provided an overview of the performance assessment approach to the 2009 RTP. Investments fall into three themes: (a) Maintenance and operation of the existing system; (b) System efficiency and customer service; and, (c) Strategic expansion. To inform development of the Vision MTC proposes a scenario performance assessment that will consider regional policies and system expansion investment strategies in major travel corridors. A key objective is to demonstrate that investments alone will not be sufficient to achieve the ambitious performance standards under consideration in state plans and legislation. The strategy will evaluate three modal-based expansion scenarios against specific performance targets. MTC may conduct a similarly structured, goal-based assessment to inform policy and investment strategies for the other Vision themes: (a) Maintenance and operations, and (b) System efficiency and customer service. MTC could qualitatively evaluate how investments strategies address a set of desired outcomes. MTC may wish to consider supplementary quantitative indicators.

Following completion of the Vision by the end of the year, MTC will begin to develop the financially constrained plan. Through the October 2007 RTP Summit, the public and partners will have an opportunity to weigh in on various trade-offs that must be made to get to a financially constrained plan. Performance assessment data could be one factor considered.

In May and June 2007, MTC staff will refine the overall approach with input from stakeholders. Staff will present the approach to the MTC Planning Committee in July 2007. Forward comments on the performance assessment approach and criteria to Lisa Klein at [lklein@mtc.ca.gov](mailto:lklein@mtc.ca.gov) by June 11, 2007.

Group members suggested the scenario assessment include one “business as usual” scenario and one “environmental” scenario (focused on reducing VTM and green house gas emissions instead of the three modally based scenarios. Group members recommended first producing data necessary for decision makers to make trade offs about what is it they want to accomplish with the RTP.

9. **Release of Draft MTC Public Participation Plan**

*Catalina Alvarado (MTC)* reported that under SAFETEA, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) are required to prepare a Public Participation Plan (PPP) in order to provide the public with opportunities to be involved with our Transportation Planning Process. The Draft MTC PPP seeks to address the requirements of SAFETEA as well as an environmental justice principle that MTC adopted in 2006, to create and open and transparent PPP process that empowers low-income communities and communities of color to participate in decisions that affect them. The Plan includes information about MTC’s ongoing public outreach efforts, including some of the basic PPP techniques used in developing the RTP as well as the TIP, but describes the process used in updating the RTP and TIP and how MTC proposes to handle public participation with regard to amendments to both of those plans. The schedule for adoption includes a Public Hearing before our Legislative Committee on June 8; Public Comment closes on June 20; on July 13 the Legislative Committee will be presented a revised plan in anticipation of Commission adoption in July.

10. **Local Streets and Roads Working Group Strategic Plan**

*Ben Tripousis, (City of San Jose, Chair of LS&R WG)* reported that the Vision Statement of the Local Streets and Roads (LS&R) Strategic Plan is focused on improving the conditions of pavement region wide. The Plan seeks to increase the average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) for the Bay Area from the current 64 to 75 by the year 2035 and, as a result, provide an efficient well-maintained local street and road network in the Bay Area for all travel modes. In order to reach the target of 75 PCI, the investment in LS&R by 2032 must be doubled. The Plan is a concerted effort to identify other investment resources. The purpose of the Plan is build a constituency for the local streets and roads, to use it an education tool to educate policy stakeholders and decision makers, to provide an opportunity to more accurately assess the LS&R shortfalls, to better communicate the issue of the shortfalls and

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then to advocate for increased investment for LS&R, a central component of the strategic plan. The highlights focus on maintenance, safety, efficiency, and the financial aspect.

### 11. Regional Streets and Roads: P-TAP Round-9 Call for Projects

*Sri Srinivasan (MTC)* announced the Regional Pavement Technical Assistance Program (P-TAP) Round-9 Call for Projects and provided an overview of the changes for Round 9. MTC staff is proposing to make five changes to the program. Changes include increasing the local match of 11.47% to a local contribution of 20% and in return for the added contribution; successful applicants will receive a complimentary subscription of 2-3 years to Streetsaver Online. Due to the additional contribution, grant maximums have increased to \$40,000 from \$25,000 from Round-8 and a minimum of \$7,500; whereas in Round-8 project grants consisted of \$2,500 or \$3,000. One key criteria of eligibility for P-TAP grant funds is that jurisdictions must have completed the revenue survey. The deadline for project submissions is June 22, 2007, submission forms and additional details can be found online at <http://www.mtcpms.org/ptap/ptap9.html>.

## Information Items / Other Business

### 12. FTA Sect. 5309 Bus Discretionary Program

*Glen Tepke (MTC)* reported that the 5309 Bus program, which is normally entirely earmarked, was not completely earmarked in FY07, so FTA created two discretionary grant programs to distribute the \$438M in unearmarked funds: 1) the Urban Partnership Program (UPP) and 2) the 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities Discretionary Program. The Federal Register noted that only the designated recipient of 5307 funds is eligible to apply for the 5309 Bus Discretionary Grant Program, which is MTC. MTC will submit projects on behalf of the region's transit operators but will not screen project proposals other than to make sure they are eligible and consistent with the RTP. Per the Federal Register, project proposals should be submitted through FTA's TEAM system; therefore, MTC staff will enter the numbers into TEAM and attach all the individual submitted proposals to the application. **Follow-Up:** *On May 22, 2007, MTC submitted, through TEAM, a final application consisting of 33 projects, totaling \$139.5M from 21 operators and other eligible recipients. The FTA is expected to make final fund determinations in approximately eight weeks.*

### 13. Third Cycle SAFETEA STP/CMAQ Program Funding Proposal

*Glen Tepke (MTC)* presented a follow-up to the Third Cycle SAFETEA STP/CMAQ Program Funding proposal. Glen reported on the changes to the proposal previously presented. There was \$64M in Third Cycle STP funds for Transit Capital Shortfall; previously \$5M was programmed for an AC Transit bus replacement project, \$45M for the BART car replacement, \$5M for ZEB Demonstration, with the remaining \$9M to be used as a reserve for any shortfall in the FY09 MTA formula program. Subsequent to that, there was a change to our Prop 1B Transit proposal, we had proposed \$20M of those funds for the ZEB Demo program; however, in response to comments, that was reduced to \$10M. To compensate for the reduction, MTC proposes to take the \$9M that was to be left in reserves and apply it to the ZEB Demo Program for a total of \$14M, a required DEMO program by the California Air Resource Board (CARB).

### 14. Recommended Future Agenda Items

The June session of PTAC will focus solely on RTP related items.

## Next Meeting

Monday, June 18, 2007

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

MTC MetroCenter, Auditorium (Ground Floor)

101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607