



DRAFT

MINORITY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE Minutes – June 12, 2007

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Deputy Executive Director,
Bay Area Toll Authority

Therese W. McMillan
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Attendance

Those in attendance were Chair Raphael Durr and Charles Rivasplata of Marin County; Jacquee Castain, Edgar Centeno and Frank Gallo of Alameda County; Michael Rubiano of Contra Costa County; Gerald Rico of Napa County; Alejandro Castillo, Harvey Louie and James McGhee of San Francisco; Asok Mukhopadhyay and Carlos Valenzuela of San Mateo County; Martin Nguyen of Santa Clara County; and Dawn Love, Low-Income Representative.

MCAC member Candy Gayles, was excused.

MTC staff in attendance were Catalina Alvarado, James Corless, Pam Grove, Georgia Lambert, Anne Richman, Marc Roddin and Ursula Vogler.

Also present were Alice Chan and Brian Godbe of Godbe Research; Lindsay Imai of Urban Habitat; Doug Buckwald; Bob Planthold of MTC's Advisory Council; David Schonbrunn of TRANSDEF and Pat Piras.

Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the May 8, 2007 meeting were approved.

Chairperson's Report

The Chair reported that Michael Rubiano, MCAC vice chair, suggested MCAC start operating in a more active way and come up with topics/issues MCAC would like to work on. He suggested the MCAC work plan be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Rubiano added that he wants to find some key initiatives MCAC can achieve that are tangible, measurable and actionable over the course of the Committee's tenure and to come up with an annual report showing MTC the things that MCAC accomplished.

Chairman Durr mentioned that, at the June 8 Planning Committee meeting, discussion on the Transportation 2035 Plan included the need to develop a measurement of equity, and that MCAC should be able to help with that. Ms. Alvarado reported that MTC is planning to have a joint meeting with the advisory committees on the Transportation 2035 Plan, and will be seeking input on how to measure equity. Committee members received email invitations to attend the meeting, which is scheduled on June 25 at noon.

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Draft 2007 Public Participation Plan

MTC Public Information Officer Ursula Vogler presented a summary of the draft Public Participation Plan and the process of its creation. Public comment period closes June 20, 2007. Dawn Love, MCAC member, commended Ms. Vogler and Pam Grove on the workshops.

David Schonbrunn said one of the barriers to public participation for low-income communities is cost, and he recommended stipends for participants, as MTC has provided previously at a few regional transportation plan workshops. This is one thing missing in the Plan as it currently stands, he said. He stated he feels it would be more significant if MCAC were to make the recommendation to MTC. A second idea to recommend to MTC is that there be stable funding to enable community organizations to have a representative at MTC meetings.

Frank Gallo, MCAC member, expressed concern about the deadline of June 20. It was determined this deadline was to inform the draft processes found in the Public Participation Plan, not the Transportation 2035 Plan or Regional Transportation Plan (which has not closed).

Alejandro Castillo, MCAC member, encouraged more use of inside space on buses to inform the public about meetings and encourage their involvement.

Pat Piras commented that the Public Participation Plan does not state how this version differs from previous plans. Additionally, she commented that an MCAC agenda item in April, to review the Transportation 2030 equity analysis, was tabled due to time constraints and has not been re-agendized. Ms. Alvarado responded that although the item was removed this month due to the ongoing Prop 1B discussion, it is scheduled for next month's agenda. Ms. Piras requested that the PowerPoint that was going to be presented in April be mailed to members as soon as possible so that the review of the 2030 equity analysis be considered in the current equity discussions.

Doug Buckwald, who said he has helped to develop Sunshine laws for the city of Berkeley, just recently heard of MTC's Draft Public Participation Plan. He said too often regional agencies follow DAD – Decide, Announce, Defend. He feels that public outreach efforts are conducted mainly for show and need to be real. He conducted an informal survey on Bus Rapid Transit and less than 1% knew about it. Mr. Rubiano urged that data needs to be analyzed in context.

Lindsay Imai of Urban Habitat was encouraged that MTC is making public participation a priority and that the public is given real choices and an understanding of how their input is considered. However, she wondered if this is the case at the congestion management agency level. The Alameda CMA hasn't given Urban Habitat a chance to be on the agenda, she said.

Asok Mukhopadhyay, MCAC member, said it behooves MTC to indicate how public participation is considered and ideas adopted, and give the public feedback on if what they're saying is actually percolating up. He noted the Community-Based Transportation Program is a good example of public participation – a prototype we can expand upon.

Draft Tabulations from MTC's Transit Passenger Demographic Survey

MTC Senior Planner James Corless, and Godbe Research team members Alice Chan and Brian Godbe, summarized the work done over the last 18 months. The group reviewed objectives of the survey, how data was collected, and results. It was noted that it was the first time that MTC conducted a comprehensive survey regarding transit passenger demographics.

Draft Tabulations from MTC's Transit Passenger Demographic Survey *(continued)*

Comments/questions regarding the presentation were posed by Mr. Castillo and Vice chair McGhee, re: bi-lingual interviewers and use of minority contractors. Ms. Chan said passengers were able to pick surveys in a different language (English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese). No specific minority contractors were hired, but the interviewers weren't all Caucasian, she said. Mr. McGhee mentioned that qualified minorities to serve as interviewers can be found (his consulting business has qualified people) and that should have been a requirement of the study.

Mr. Rivasplata, MCAC member, asked if the larger report is broken down by time of day, including pre-peak hours as well as early evening. Ms. Chan said that different data points were analyzed in the report and the breakdown by time of day is in the Appendix.

Mr. Mukhopadhyay asked what will happen next, and said he would like to see additional questioning of passengers as a companion study. Mr. Corless noted that the study was designed to establish a baseline to understand who rides transit in 2007.

Mr. Gallo questioned trip times and whether the study looked at use of multiple types of transport. Ms. Chan said that wasn't asked but could be inferred by looking at answers regarding transfers.

Mr. Valenzuela asked 1) How did surveyors determine who would be interviewed; 2) How were the different routes selected; and 3) How many youths were interviewed and factored into the overall income scheme? Ms. Chan explained how the sampling plan used randomization; on the third question, she stated income statistics are based on household income, not the individual rider's income. Mr. Valenzuela encouraged MCAC to urge Commissioner Dodd to embrace an auto loan program in Napa County because the data supports the need for such a program.

Other comments from MCAC members included Mr. Nguyen, who inquired whether the study took into account fare-jumpers, and asked if the data was representative of an assumption that a fare was paid by people who responded to the survey. Mr. Mukhopadhyay wondered how anyone could live in the Bay Area with less than \$25,000 income, and why SamTrans buses are often empty. Mr. Castillo said he found it unacceptable that 93.5% of the interviews were done in English--with 54% of Bay Area residents being minorities. He said someone else needs to be conducting interviews.

Doug Buckwald questioned double-reporting and weighing of other groups. Ms. Chan said everyone got equal weighing, but a person could check and be counted in several categories.

Several members said the study was well done, considering it was the first one. If done again, the questions brought up by MCAC should be addressed, noted Vice chair McGhee.

Draft Funding Proposal for Proposition 1B Regional Transit Funding

MTC staff planners James Corless and Anne Richman explained this item will be before the Commission on June 27, and suggested MCAC members attend to reiterate their priorities/options.

Mr. Gallo asked for more clarity on the Caltrain right-of-way issue, which Ms. Richman provided by explaining the Southern Pacific track purchase in 1991. Mr. Castillo questioned where MTC

Draft Funding Proposal for Proposition 1B Regional Transit Funding *(continued)*

would get funds to match BART funds. Ms. Richman explained that isn't known yet; information will be mailed to MCAC one week before the Commission meeting.

Mr. Valenzuela suggested MCAC send a formal letter to the Commission stating MCAC's position. From the audience, Mr. Schonbrunn suggested MCAC ask that funds NOT be taken from Lifeline.

Chairman Durr and Mr. McGhee both agreed that in addition to the letter, members should call Commissioners to stress a few key points on what MCAC feels is important. Ms. Alvarado will prepare information to assist members with those calls.

Mr. Gallo asked where BART suddenly got \$40M when a West Oakland group requesting noise reduction was told there were no funds for their project. Mr. Corless noted it was most likely Prop. 1B revenue.

Lindsay Imai urged members to remind Commissioners of their promise to increase Lifeline funds.

Committee Reports

Mr. Mukhopadhyay reviewed discussion at the Advisory Council regarding key points to be considered in the RTP. Sherman Lewis, who represents academia on the Advisory Council, wrote a letter in the SF Business Journal on how Proposition 1B transit funds should be spent. His thinking parallels that of MCAC member Alejandro Castillo, Mr. Mukhopadhyay said.

Mr. McGhee said the DBE subcommittee did not meet this month and will meet again in July.

Mr. Gallo said James McGhee and he attended a presentation sponsored by TALC that featured the former mayor of Bogota, who spoke about how quality high-speed buses transformed lives and improved quality of life in Bogata. There are ideas to incorporate into our plan, Mr. Gallo said.

Staff Report

Catalina presented her staff report, included in the packet.

Mr. Valenzuela indicated he cannot attend the July meeting so this was his last meeting. He wished everyone well. Chairman Durr thanked him for all of his efforts.

Mr. Gallo requested an agenda item to invite the minority community in Concord to share their positive experiences on community-based transportation planning.

Other Business/Public Comment

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 2007.