



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

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**MTC Advisory Council
June 13, 2007
Minutes**

Margaret Okuzumi called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m. In attendance were members Michael Amman, Steve Belkin, Herbert Crowle, Raphael Durr, Tian Feng, Richard Hedges, David Lipsetz, Asok Mukhopadhyay, Bryce Nesbitt, Bob Planthold, Peter Oswald, and Don Rothblatt.

Minutes

Due to a lack of quorum, the minutes were not approved.

Staff Report

Ms. Therese Knudsen announced two upcoming events: 1) Smart Parking Policies Seminar, Thursday, June 14th. This event is targeted at elected officials interested in creating lively pedestrian-oriented downtowns, city centers or transit station areas, city staff interested in addressing parking demand and developing supportive policies, and development professionals interested in exploring lower parking requirements and supportive measures for development projects; 2) Joint Advisory Committee Meeting, Monday, June 25th. MTC is meeting with the Advisory Council, the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee and the Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee to discuss the revised 2009 Regional Transportation Plan goals.

Lastly, she noted that Prop. 1B has been delayed one month and will go to the full Commission on June 27, 2007

Mr. David Lipsetz announced his resignation from the Advisory Council, as he has taken a new job in New York.

Legislative Update – State Budget May Revise

Ms. Rebecca Long updated the committee on the 2007-08 State budget. She stated that the six-member Assembly Senate Conference Committee has begun meeting, and is currently discussing how to respond to a hole in the general fund. The Governor proposed a \$1.3 billion diversion of transit funds to the general fund, which caused an increase of \$188 million. The senate rejected the Governor's proposal, but the assembly approved some of the transfer – the Transportation Bond Debt Service and the Regional Center Transportation, which is transportation for the Department of Developmental Services. She noted that with the Assembly's diversion, the STIP would be ok as well as State Transit Assistance funding.

She also commented on the High Speed Rail funding and noted that they are looking at the spillover as a potential fund source.

In closing, she stated that if they are going to allow this diversion, the Assembly wants something in return, including a long-term fix to this problem that keeps arising relative to the spillover – a formula which is triggered when gas prices are high. The Assembly’s proposal is to fold the spillover into Proposition 42 and to change the shares for Prop. 42 to increase the transit share and lower the shares going to cities and counties for streets and roads and to the STIP.

Transit Passenger Demographic Survey Phase I – Final Results

Mr. James Corless stated that the first phase of this endeavor, now complete, covers transit riders during the period between 6 am and 9 pm, which is when most transit users make their trips. The fieldwork for Phase 1 began on October 24th and was completed March 31st. The second phase, now underway, is surveying nighttime transit riders who use the system between 9 pm and 6 am.

He commented that staff has made presentations on study progress, including the sampling plan, fieldwork, and the tabulations, to the Minority Citizens Advisory Committee, Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee, and Transit Finance Working Group. The same three advisory groups had also provided comments on the study design and survey wording during the project’s initial tasks.

He also noted that the final report for Phase 1 covers 1) Research method and survey protocol used; 2) Demographic profile of the region’s transit users; 3) Disaggregated demographic data by geographic sub-region, and by transit system; 4) Detailed responses by individual transit systems; and 5) Appendices include comprehensive tables of all of the project’s sampling and cross tabulations.

Mr. Corless presented some analysis that puts the demographic survey results within the context of the Bay Area’s total population and ongoing Lifeline programming efforts.

Committee comments include:

- Difference between those who are poor and those who don’t have any money – Is there a way to tease that kind of difference out from the data? Response: Unsure. MTC has a huge database where staff can extract a lot of information such as student fare.
- Does not deal with paratransit.
- Is it possible to get the margin of error for specific transit providers? Response: Staff will check into it.
- Electronic survey not good for senior citizens – physical limitations.
- Encourage other communities to apply for grants where the pockets of poverty are.
- The survey only covered 4 languages with no surveyors being a minority.

Public Participation Plan

Ms. Ursula Vogler presented the Draft Public Participation Plan. She outlined how early input shaped the plan, including input received from MTC’s advisory committees, the Partnership TAC and a Welfare to Work group, several focus groups, a peer panel and a Web survey taken by some 1500 participants. Ongoing input is being received during the public comment period, which began on May 4.

Ms. Vogler summarized the key messages which emerged from the various meetings: 1) early input is powerful, 2) focus on outcomes, 3) make it relevant, 4) say it simply, 5) redundancy is good, 6) remove barriers, 7) go where the people are, 8) move beyond traditional meetings, and 9) Web access is not universal.

In closing, she highlighted key dates leading up to adoption of the Plan. The Plan was released for public comment on May 4, 2007. The public hearing was held on June 8, 2007. Close of the comment period will be June 20th. Staff response to public comments will be on July 13th, and Commission action on the final Plan will be on July 25, 2007.

Committee comments include:

- Telephone surveys, surveys handed out at meetings, surveys taken on the street can be used for those who do not have access to the internet.
- Would like to see some description of what the feedback mechanism is to the public.
- Would like to see some guidelines in terms of timelines on the amount of outreach being done.
- A lot of the feedback comes from a population that doesn't represent the overall population (people who serve on committees, and people who are angry/worried about something due to something being planned in their area) – recognize that bias in the input.
- Feedback – list what was done differently - what was learned from the public process and publish that.
- When a survey is done on transit riders you should do a complementary survey of non-transit riders – it is just as vital to find out why people do not ride transit.

2007/08 Work Plan

Ms. Knudsen recommended that the committee keep its current Work Plan list with the addition of the RTP that will be coming to the Advisory Council over the course of its development.

Mr. Peter Oswald recommended that with the commission appointments next month there is an opportunity to stagger the committee with 1/3 with one-year term, 1/3 with two-year term, and 1/3 with three-year term picked at random. He also suggested having term limits, which would allow new members more often. Ms. Knudsen stated that to make such a change involves amending a resolution, which she will look into.

Mr. Don Rothblatt would like to see more procedural items in the work plan. Mr. Bryce Nesbitt suggested that outgoing members pass on their ideas/suggestions to be added in the work plan for the new members.

Other Business/Public Comment

There was no other business. The next meeting of the Advisory Council is scheduled for July 11, 2007. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.