

PARTNERSHIP TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 16, 2007

Page 1 of 3

1. Introductions

Marcella Rensi (Chair) requested introductions.

2. Minutes of June 18, 2007 PTAC Meeting

The minutes for the June 18, 2007 PTAC meeting were accepted.

3. Partnership Reports

Partnership Board – The Partnership Board met on June 29, 2007.

Transit Finance Working Group (TFWG) – *Todd Morgan, Chair* – The TFWG met on July 11, 2007. Topics of discussion included: 1) the Small Starts Call for Projects, 2) scheduling a joint meeting to include transit finance managers and planning managers, 3) and the Transit Capital Inventory Project status, including the bus/van pricelist, and the planned use of inventory structure for the Transit Capital Program Shortfall Projections for the RTP.

Local Streets & Roads (LS&R) Working Group – *Mike Duncan, Chair* - LS&R WG met on July 13, 2007. Highlights of the session included strategizing on how to increase funding for both transit and local streets and roads within the RTP; the working group is looking to schedule a joint meeting with transit agencies and the LS&R WG to strategize further.

Programming and Delivery Working Group (PDWG) – *Kenneth Kao, MTC* – PDWG met on July 16, 2007. Kenneth reported that, due to State Budget delays, the 2008 RTIP schedule is now delayed by approximately 1-2 months. The Group received a presentation on the draft Routine Accommodations Checklist web module; the module is expected to be online for public review and comment by September 2007. Kenneth announced that the Call for Projects for CMAQ projects is still in development and is not expected to occur until 3rd quarter of FY 2007-08.

4. Election of new Vice-Chair for FY 2007-08

Elections were held, by way of secret ballot, for the new Vice-Chair for PTAC for the FY 2007-08 term. Nominees included Ben Tripousis, City of San Jose and John Andoh, City of Benicia. The Committee elected, by majority vote, Ben Tripousis, City of San Jose, as the new Vice-Chair for the FY 2007-08 term.

Standing Updates

5. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Raymond Odunlami (MTC) provided an informational update on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Raymond reported that formal amendments will now be referred to as Amendments and administrative amendments will now be referred to as Administrative Modifications.

- TIP Amendment 07-06, the SAFETEA-Compliant TIP Amendment, was approved by FHWA/FTA on June 14, 2007 and is now available for amendments.
- TIP Amendment 07-10 was approved by the MTC Commission on June 27, 2007 and is currently being reviewed concurrently by both Caltrans and FHWA/FTA. Final federal approval is anticipated in late July or early August.
- TIP Administrative Modification 07-11 is expected to be approved by Caltrans by mid-August.

The deadline to submit requests for the next formal TIP Amendment is August 1. Requests for administrative modifications are due through the FMS – Universal Application the first of each month.

6. Legislative Update

Rebecca Long (MTC) reported that the State Budget is not expected to be approved by Friday, July 20, as originally anticipated. Rebecca reported that the Republicans are advocating for an operational reserve and that the Transportation Account of the spillover is a key candidate as a source for that reserve. Rebecca stated that the 2008 Federal Appropriations are currently under way in both Houses of Congress.

7. Transportation 2035 Schedule Update

Ashley Nguyen (MTC) announced that the Transportation 2035 (T2035) Three “E” Principles and Goals as well as the scenario performance assessment approach and methodology were approved by the Planning Committee on

PARTNERSHIP TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 16, 2007

Page 2 of 3

July 13, 2007. Ashley distributed the key milestones and schedule for the scenario performance assessment that leads up to the unveiling of the evaluation results at the October 26 joint MTC/ABAG Fall Forum.

8. CMIA Update

Kenneth Kao (MTC) provided an update on the Corridor Mobility Improvement Act (CMIA) and Proposition 1B. At the California Transportation Commission (CTC) meeting on July 25-26, the CTC is expected to adopt the project baseline for the CMIA projects as well as discuss the Project Delivery Council Make-Up for the CMIA and the Local Streets and Roads portion of the Prop 1B funding. Kenneth reported that Caltrans is holding monthly Prop 1B videoconferences (VCF); the next VCF is scheduled for July 24 at 1:00 p.m. at the Caltrans District 4 office. Highlights from the May 23rd Prop 1B VCF as well as an updated Draft Prop 1B Schedule and Implementation Chart were included in the agenda packet.

Anne Richman (MTC) provided an update on the transit portion of Proposition 1B. On June 27, 2007, the MTC Commission adopted the framework for the Prop 1B Transit funds. The adopted investment categories for the \$419 million package are as follows: \$143M for Lifeline Funding for Transit Operators, \$203M for (5) Urban Core Transit Improvement projects, \$41M for Small Operators – Operating Enhancements, and \$32M for Small Operators – Capital Enhancements. In addition, the Commission confirmed their intent to direct \$62 million in population-based state spillover funds to increase Lifeline, Urban Core, and Small Operators/Northern Counties funding, as well as to resolve outstanding issues regarding the Caltrain right of way. Proposed funding is contingent upon the passage of the State Budget.

Discussion Items

9. Resolution 3434 Strategic Plan

Anne Richman (MTC) reported that on July 11, the MTC Programming and Allocations Committee (PAC) authorized staff to develop a strategic financing and phasing plan for Resolution 3434, the Regional Transit Expansion Program. Anne provided an overview of the Resolution 3434 Strategic Plan process, which is to be used as input in the development of the 2009 Regional Transportation Plan.

10. Call for Small Starts Projects

Anne Richman (MTC) reported that during the 2006 update of MTC's Regional Transit Expansion Program, Resolution 3434, the Commission agreed to consider endorsing one additional candidate project for the Small Starts program. MTC staff plans on working with the Partnership to identify qualified candidates and recommending an additional project to the Commission for endorsement by the end of 2007. Anne provided an overview of the guidelines and project selection criteria and discussed the timeline for identifying the project. MTC is expected to release a call for projects in August with proposal due back to MTC in September. During the selection process, both Small Starts and Very Small Starts projects will be reviewed. MTC staff will make a recommendation to the Commission at the November or December Programming and Allocations Committee meeting.

11. Housing Incentive Program (HIP) Update

James Corless (MTC) provided a status update on the 2nd cycle of the Housing Incentive Program (HIP), which provides incentives for the construction of housing near high quality transit service. In order to receive Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) incentives, project sponsors were required to submit to MTC a valid building permit by the deadline of June 22, 2007. At the July 11 Programming and Allocations Committee meeting, MTC staff requested approval to extend the permit submittal deadline to October 1, 2007. This extension provides an opportunity for between \$3 million and \$7.5 million in additional HIP projects to secure their building permits and move into the TIP this fall. The cycle two HIP funding extends to the end of SAFETEA (FY 2009) and all of the \$30.1 million need to be obligated by March 2009; MTC staff seeks assistance from the Partnership agencies in delivering projects.

12. End of SAFETEA Funding Update

Craig Goldblatt (MTC) reported on potential delivery issues resulting from the end of SAFETEA funding. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act (SAFETEA) expires on September 30, 2009. The issues are:

PARTNERSHIP TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 16, 2007

Page 3 of 3

- a. Regional Delivery Policy Deadlines. The Regional Delivery Policy deadline requires that all STP/CMAQ projects be obligated by May 31, 2009 with the obligation request due to Caltrans by March 1, 2009, funding cannot be carried over into the next Act. Since FY 2008-09 is the last year of SAFETEA, any funds not obligated by the May 31, 2009 will likely be lost.
- b. Under SAFETEA, \$8.5 billion in federal funds will be rescinded with the potential of \$60 million in apportionment to be rescinded from the region on September 30, 2009.
- c. Under SAFETEA, a region must have a SAFETEA-compliant TIP and Plan by July 1, 2007. Though TIP Amendment 07-06's approval brought the TIP into SAFETEA compliance, the Plan will not be deemed SAFETEA-compliant until March 2009, when the new Plan update is approved. The current 2007 TIP expires on October 1, 2008, with the next Plan update not scheduled to be approved until March 2009; therefore, it is possible the TIP will be in a lapse between October 2008 and March 2009. During this time, amendments to the TIP will not be approved and it is unclear whether FHWA will approve obligations during this time.

MTC staff strongly encourages project sponsors to review project schedules to ensure they can meet the regional obligation deadlines for both FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09, and, if possible, consider advancing projects from FY 2008-09 into FY 2007-08.

Information Items / Other Business

13. Building a Better PTAC

Marcella Rensi (Chair) led a discussion on how to improve the Partnership Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC). The role of the PTAC is 1) to work, on behalf of the Partnership Board, on technical issues, 2) to advise and counsel the Partnership Board, 3) to act as the multi-modal counsel to MTC for the TIP process, and 4) to be the multi-modal forum to MTC staff, agencies and attendees for getting feedback. Over the past years, the role has changed and there appears to be less discussion and interactive dialogue.

Group members agreed that PTAC has become the final forum for referral to the Commission and Partnership Board but that the various working groups work out the details before presentation at PTAC. Suggestions to improve dialogue and communication include:

- Expanding Partnership Reports and including a standing report from the Transit Planner Managers meetings.
- Providing more substantial agenda topics, perhaps more multi-modal or crossing discussion lines between Planning and Operations (P&O) and finance.
- Summarizing each of the various working groups' discussions after each agenda item.
- To improve communication between attendees and decision makers, Committee members suggested matching the PTAC agenda to the Partnership Board agenda and to have the PTAC Chair provide a report at the Partnership Board meetings.

Marcella Rensi (Chair) will discuss these suggestions further with the Chairs of each of the working groups.

14. Recommended Future Agenda Items

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

Next Meeting

Monday, August 20, 2007

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

MTC MetroCenter, Auditorium (1st Floor)

101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607