

# REGIONAL PEDESTRIAN COMMITTEE

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## Minutes

20 October 2007

### Attendees

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Sean Co, MTC	Mona Mena, Alameda Co PHD
Brad Beck, CCTA	Arlando Teller, Caltrans
Rochelle Wheeler, ACTIA	Heath Maddox, SF MTA
Bob Planthold, Advisory Council & Senior Action Network	Victoria Eisen, Eisen Letunic
Jason Patton, Oakland	Sara Woo, STA
Michelle deRobertis, VTA	Roger Bazeley, SF MTA
Nancy Baer, CCHS	Ron Bishop, Oakland BPAC

### 1. Introductions

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Jason Patton called the meeting to order and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

### 2. Summary of Previous Meeting

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Brad Beck volunteered to take minutes.

Several members noted that Anna Validzic had a baby girl named 'Nelia (short for Cornelia)

### 3. Process & Schedule for Defining Transportation 2035 Vision and Investment Strategies

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Sean Co summarized the information in the memo from Ashley Nguyen. MTC is still at the "vision" phase in the RTP process. They have identified goals and targets and are in the process of running various investment and planning scenarios. The results will be unveiled at the ABAG General Conference/Transportation 2035 meeting on October 26. MTC will be talking with CMA directors in December and developing a draft financially constrained investment program between April and June.

In response to a question, Sean noted that the RTP is updated every five years.

#### **4. Regional Pedestrian Planning Needs (Existing Conditions)**

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Jason started with an overview, noting that it will take a year to define why a Regional Pedestrian Plan is needed, which is probably not enough time to do the plan and get its recommendation incorporated into the next RTP, aka T-2035.

Rochelle said that the current RTP calls for a Regional Pedestrian Plan. Michelle noted that policies from the Regional Bicycle Plan may be able to get into T-2035. Victoria felt that MTC may be able to incorporate policies that the committee develops before the fall plan.

Jason outlined six steps in the process — 1) purpose, 2) existing conditions, 3) policies, 4) facilities and programs, 5) implementation and 6) funding — and noted that we are not taking them in order. He emphasized that these weren't necessarily chapters but steps in developing the white paper. He asked that committee members review Memo #2 and send him any comments you have. He will hold them until we get to Step #6.

#### **5. Regional Pedestrian Planning Needs (Facilities and Programs)**

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Nancy started with a chart of existing MTC programs that could be used to support the development of pedestrian facilities. Today, we're looking for initial ideas, she said, and to fill in with other existing or potential actions. Jason asked committee to remember that we're working within MTC roles: policy-making, funding, information and data, and programs; we're not looking to set standards or undertake construction. Michelle noted that MTC doesn't control facilities. Heath asked where this committee fits? Nancy felt that one of this committee's roles is to create a work plan for the pedestrian plan and committee itself.

Rochelle suggested that MTC streamline navigation for its online resources section. Jason asked that examples include standards and specifications that local agencies develop. Roger suggested that the MTC resource section provide links to resources on other agency websites, such as those of FHWA and SHSIP. Ron thought that information on level-of-standards and methods of measurement would be useful. Roger suggested streetscape design and the role of ADA requirements to help improve the pedestrian environment. Jason thought he heard two types of suggestions: shifts in MTC programs and a compilation of good examples.

Nancy suggested that MTC needs to publicize the programs and resources it provides, including its list of qualified consultants that locals can hire. Victoria suggested that it should be easier to get to these resources from the home page. Heath felt it wasn't necessary to invent new standards or guidelines; instead MTC should look for what's best and most relevant for Bay Area from existing standards. Michelle thought that before and after studies would provide very useful data. Brad suggested that the RPC could play a key role in updating this information.

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**Funding Programs** Jason asked committee what new funding programs could help meet regional pedestrian needs. Rochelle asked whether this wouldn't be covered in the implementation step. Bob felt that MTC needed to make the many reasons why sidewalks are important clearer to local agencies.

**Data** Nancy suggested that the region needs to partner with the statewide process. Victoria suggested that a breakdown of modes below the regional level provided with the Nationwide Personal Transportation Survey which would provide statistically significant data at the county level.

Heath suggested that we should try to establish consistent methods of collecting data. Sean noted that MTC tried to do that for its signal timing program and found it didn't work. Bob thought a pavement management system for sidewalk condition would be good.

Rochelle said she was working with UC to develop a model to predict pedestrian rates at intersections. There is a problem with getting accurate counts. Is a regional database of pedestrian counts useful if it isn't accurate?

**Pedestrian District/Transit-Oriented Development** Nancy asked if the information developed in the Pedestrian District used anywhere. Jason noted that MTC provided incentives for pedestrian district planning through the Station Area Planning grants, Resolution 3434 requirements, and Priority Development Areas. Brad noted that development of policies and recommendations for pedestrian circulation was one of the requirements of Resolution 3434 projects and for SAP grants. Victoria suggested that MTC clearly require the consideration of pedestrian needs in these and other programs. Roger suggested this be expanded to cover transit-pedestrian connections. Ron brought up the problem of freeways separating land uses near transit stations.

**Public Outreach** Michelle defined the issue as how to refine public outreach to get at pedestrian needs and potential improvements. Heath suggested expanded the online transit trip planner to cover walk trips at either end. Sean felt that it does to some extent already. Brad noted that we would need to get additional detail from TeleAtlas, Navtech and other services that provide basic data for many online mapping. Rochelle wondered what a "ped mapper" would look like.

**Walk-to-School** Roger noted that training for students up through middle school for walking and taking transit safely would be a good idea. Jason thought that such training would fit into the Toolkit; a regional program could lead to economies of scale. Brad responded that while some aspects may have economies of scale, the programs would need to be implemented at the local level. Victoria noted that a program developed at the regional level could be a great help for local schools.

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Nancy noted that health departments have a real interest in implementing these kinds of programs. Jason suggested that “Spare the Air” day might be expanded to cover walking as well as bicycling and transit. Rochelle thought mobility training would generally be helpful.

**Pedestrian Safety Promotion** Nancy started by asking the committee what MTC could do to promote pedestrian safety. It could be part of general mobility training; she noted the Street Smarts material developed by San José. Roger suggested placing public service announcements on the rear of buses or using changeable message signs to convey safety messages. Ron suggested America needs to learn from Europe by starting with teaching kids how to walk safely, then to bicycle safely and only then to drive.

**Further Steps** Bob suggested that the committee try to get a statement in the RTP that a Regional Pedestrian Plan is coming later. This should be on the next agenda. Jason asked Sean to check with other MTC staff about this possibility.

### **6. Info-sharing**

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- a) Sean noted that the ABAG/MTC forum to be held on October 26 is full but that those interested can listen to it online.
- b) Sean also noted that the Safe Routes to School call for projects has been released.
- c) Finally, Sean noted that there will be ped-bike facility design training on November 7 in Oakland. Jason suggested that those interested should “buddy” with an engineer since it will reinforce lessons for each.
- d) Ron noted that there will be a charrette organized by AIA on the redesign of the Railroad Avenue corridor in Pittsburg. If interested, it will be held on October 27 at the Elks Club in the Pittsburg Marina. The corridor connects the Delta-de Anza Trail with 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

The next meeting is on December 13.