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Programming and Allocations Committee
December 12, 2007
Minutes

Chairperson Tissier called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Other Commissioners present were Vice Chair Federal Glover, Commissioners Ammiano, Bates, Blanchard, Chu, Cortese, Dodd, Kinsey, Giacomini, Haggerty, Halsted, Kinsey, Lempert, Rubin and Worth.

Consent Calendar

The Committee approved the following consent items.

- *Minutes of November 14, 2007 meeting as submitted.*
- *Proposed allocation of \$3 million in Regional Measure 2 (RM2) Capital funds to the Capital Corridor Joint Powers Authority for the Crossover Track Improvement Project in Solano County. MTC Resolution No. 3691, Revised.*
- *FY 2008 through FY 2009 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Nonurbanized Area Formula (Section 5311) Program of Projects. MTC Resolution Nos. 3733, Revised and 3838.*
- *Allocation of FY 2007-08 State Transit Assistance (STA) to BART for transit operations. MTC Resolution No. 3811, Revised.*
- *2007 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 2007-17. MTC Resolution No. 3755, Revised.*

Federal Programming

- *Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. MTC Resolution No. 3787, Revised.*

The Committee approved the staff recommendation to refer MTC Resolution 3787, Revised, to the Commission to adopt the Elderly and Disabled Component of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan.

Therese Knudsen, MTC Planning Section, provided an overview of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. Committee approved and adopted the Low Income component of the plan over a year ago. The Elderly and Disabled Component is the second half of the plan. Plan is a requirement under SAFETEA. There are three funding sources tied to this plan; 1) Job Access Reverse Commute; 2) New Freedom Program and 3) FTA Section 5310 program. MTC hired a consultant to complete this component of the plan. Public comments were received and documented within the plan where appropriate.

Chair Tissier expressed her gratitude to staff on the work involved with the plan. Chair Tissier inquired about the timing of the funding.

Speaker Jerry Grace spoke on his gratitude regarding the plan moving forward.

State Programming

- *STA Population-Based Consolidated Policy. MTC Resolution No. 3837*

The Committee unanimously voted on deferring this item to the January 9, 2008 PAC meeting to allow MTC's Minority Citizens Advisory Committee sufficient time to comment.

Theresa Rommell, MTC, reported on the STA Population-Based funds in conjunction with the Prop 1B Regional Transit Program. The signing of SB 717 resulted in an additional increment of approximately \$90 million over the next 10 years in the region's share of the STA population-based funding. Categories included: 1) Northern Counties/Small Operators; 2) Regional Paratransit; 3) Lifeline and 4) MTC Regional Coordination. In working with various partnership working groups, several options were developed to distribute the STA population-based funding.

Option 1 – Apply the extra \$90 million to each category utilizing percentages consistent with the Prop 1B program adopted in June 2007.

Option 2 – Recommendation from the Partnership Board, which would distribute 1/3 to Northern Counties/Small Operators, 1/3 to Regional Paratransit, with the Lifeline Program and Regional Coordination splitting the remaining third.

Handouts include a letter signed by Commissioner Haggerty stating the position of the ACCMA that the SB717 increment should be dedicated to transit capital replacement needs. Memo received from MCAC expressing their discontent regarding insufficient time given to the committee to consider the options and how each option impacts the citizens that they represent.

Commissioner Kinsey voiced his concern regarding the MCAC memo, stating the importance that MCAC has ample time and opportunity to speak regarding this item.

Commissioner Lempert inquired regarding the MTC Regional Coordination's percentage drop and how this will affect programs under this category. Steve Heminger, Executive Director, assured the Committee that these numbers and percentages are conservative estimates over the next 10 years.

Commissioner Haggerty asked how we can justify not spending this money on transit capital. Steve responded that the passing of SB 717 is a good thing for the Bay Area in that the Bay Area will receive more absolute transit funds. By running these funds through this policy, it provides flexibility to the individual transit operator. Commissioner Haggerty inquired about the definition and breakdown within the category "Northern Counties / Small Operators". This category refers to both the Northern Counties and small operators primarily in the eastern part of the region.

Commissioner Cortese also voiced his concern with the MCAC issue, what we as a Committee can do, and what our formalized response to the MCAC is. Steve assured the Committee that by deferring this item to the January PAC meeting, there will still be time to meet MTC's fund estimate deadline.

Commissioner Worth stressed the importance of MTC advisory councils weighing in on these types of items.

Commissioner Bates suggested meeting either individually or as a group to understand these project categories and the ramifications of either options.

Vice Chair Glover moved to defer this item to the January PAC meeting.

- *Proposition 1B - Transit: Priorities and Policy for FY 2007-08 Population-Based Funds. MTC Resolution No. 3834*

The Committee approved the staff recommendation to refer MTC Resolution 3834 to the Commission, holding \$6.4 million in the Lifeline category in reserve for a future round of allocations.

Kenneth Folan, MTC gave an update for the Proposition 1B transit priorities for FY 2007-08 population-based funds.

- *Trade Corridor Improvement Fund Program of Projects. MTC Resolution 3830.*

The Committee approved the project list, subject to additional revisions and will refer MTC Resolution No. 3830 to the Commission for approval.

Carolyn Clevenger, MTC Planning Section, gave an update on new developments occurring since the November PAC meeting. There were 2 changes on the list: 1) a new project has been added to the list – Shafter Intermodal Facility, and 2) The Eastbound I-580 truck climbing lane project has been elevated to Tier 1, totaling roughly \$850 million.

Chair Tissier inquired about the projects that are being submitted to the CTC and flexibility to move projects up from Tier 2 to Tier 1 if the CTC does not approve some of the Tier 1 projects. Ms. Clevenger replied that CTC proposes a 2010 check-in to ensure projects are meeting milestones and targets. The CTC may consider at that point to allow additional projects to be submitted that were not originally selected.

Commissioner Haggerty made a motion to approve the item.

Commissioner Bates asked for clarification on the air quality screen. The air quality screen is currently constructed as such that a project will need to show a net benefit regarding emissions in the region.

Commissioner Cortese questioned how State Route 152 compares to other priority projects in the Bay Area. In attempting to be competitive with Southern California, MTC has focused primarily on the two corridors that have the highest freight volume within the Bay Area, I-80 and I-880/238/580.

Regional Programming

- *Resolution 3434 Strategic Plan Update (Information Only)*

Alix Bockelman, MTC Programming and Allocations Section, gave the Committee an update a Strategic Plan for Resolution 3434, last updated in April 2006. Since that last update, just under \$600 million in additional funding has been secured for several Resolution 3434 projects. Projects have been separated in to 5 different categories. MTC is seeking feedback and direction from the Committee.

Speaker Jim Bigelow, Redwood City San Mateo County chamber, expressed his concern over the category ‘Projects Depending on California High Speed Rail Project’. Mr. Bigelow would rather see the projects in this category move to the category above with an asterisk noting there is a relationship to the High Speed Rail project.

Commissioner Lempert voiced her thoughts, which echoed Mr. Bigelow in that these projects shouldn’t be listed under a category that is not definite.

Speaker April Chan, Caltrain, asked the Committee to extend the deadline of December 1, 2007 in Resolution No. 3434 relative to the Electrification project scope and cost sharing.

Commissioner Haggerty voiced his agreement with others on the High Speed Rail project category. He inquired about the financially constrained element, and if projects would be prioritized.

Steve Heminger explained that although all the projects on the list have financial challenges, the projects in the category “Projects Needing More Scope / Cost Refinement” have more manageable financial challenges. Each of the projects that are in the “Projects Dependent on High Speed Rail Project” category have a shortfall of at least \$200 million. MTC does not know where funding for these projects will come from short of a big state bond measure which could bring high-speed rail service into the corridors where these projects are located. Steve suggests that staff can start to figure out whether there are segments or phases within each project that can be completed.

Chair Tissier summarized the comments and gave staff feedback that the category “Dependent upon High Speed Rail” isn’t exactly correct and suggested staff adjust the categories per the comments. She also supported that the deadline for Caltrain be postponed another couple of months.

- *eBART Project Update and Bridge Toll Commitment. MTC Resolution No. 3839.*

Anne Richman, MTC Programming and Allocations Section, gave an overview of the eBART project and asked the Committee to refer the eBART policy commitment of bridge tolls funds to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Haggerty inquired about the bridge toll monies and if the figures had been adjusted. Steve Heminger responded that the monies have not been adjusted, and are consistent with the adopted Resolution 3434 program. He also inquired if this jeopardizes any other project. Steve Heminger responded that it did not.

The Committee unanimously approved the staff request.

Speaker Jerry Grace expressed his gratitude of this eBART expansion to Antioch.

Public Comment

No Public Comment.