

PARTNERSHIP TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PTAC) MINUTES

December 17, 2007

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1. Introductions

Marcella Rensi (Chair) requested introductions.

2. Minutes of November 19, 2007 PTAC Meeting

The minutes for the November 19, 2007 PTAC meeting were accepted.

3. Partnership Reports

The Partnership Board met on November 30, 2007.

Transit Finance Working Group (TFWG) – *Todd Morgan, Chair* – The TFWG met on December 5, 2007. Key topics included: 1) Proposition 1B, population share applications are due by December 17 and applications for the revenue share are due December 28, 2007; 2) STA Consolidation Policy; 3) Transit Capital Priorities; 4) Lifeline – a roundtable was held on December 11 and the TFWG has asked for a report from MTC staff on the discussions that took place at that meeting; 5) USDOT Congestion Initiative, an announcement for funding availability, applications are due to Caltrans by December 31, 2007.

Local Streets & Roads Working Group (LS&RWG)– *Ben Tripousis, City of San Jose* – The LS&RWG met on December 7, 2007. Key discussions included: 1) the finalization of the LS&RWG Advocacy Platform, “*Saving Our Streets*”, and 2) received a presentation regarding T2035 and FOCUS programming, as well as discussed potential revenue sources for funding FOCUS.

Programming and Delivery Working Group (PDWG) – *Kenneth Kao, MTC* - PDWG met on December 17, 2007. The Group received an update on the Proposition 1B programs and Margaret Buss (Caltrans District 4) presented a workshop on NEPA Delegation.

Discussion Items

4. Local Streets and Roads Working Group’s (LS&RWG) Advocacy Platform for Transportation 2035 (T2035)

Ben Tripousis (City of San Jose / LS&RWG) provided an overview of the LS&RWG’s Advocacy Platform, *Saving Our Streets, a Strategic Plan for Maintaining the Bay Area’s Local Streets and Roads*. The LS&RWG sought the Partnership’s support in recommending the final platform to the Partnership Board. The Partnership supported the platform.

5. Bay Area Transit Planners Group’s (BATPG) A Strategic Vision for Transit in the San Francisco Bay Area

Cory LaVigne (AC Transit / BATPG) provided an overview of its strategic vision for Transportation 2035, *A Strategic Vision for Transit in the San Francisco Bay Area*. The BATPG sought the Partnership’s support in recommending the final document to the Partnership Board. The Partnership recommended changes to the document and asked to reagentize the final revised plan in February. Recommended changes included: 1) to clearly reflect that the document is subject to revision, 2) try to collaborate with the LS&RWG document to develop a “bigger picture” document, and 3) suggested presenting the document to the Congestion Management Agencies prior to the Partnership Board.

6. a. Transportation 2035 Plan – Vision Policy Discussion

Ashley Nguyen (MTC) summarized the lessons learned from the target analysis phase and provided an overview of the feedback received from the Commission Workshop on November 28 and the Partnership Board meeting on November 30. Group members commented on the policy questions discussed. Suggestions for performance targets included: 1) Maintenance – measure target through achieving the lowest long-term lifecycle costs and through measuring how close you get to achieving the target. 2) Safety – incorporate bike/ped collision and/or access data in the safety target and, in general, benchmark targets to be achieved by the next RTP. Ashley noted that the nomenclature between “target” and “goal” would need to be clarified to show the difference between the two terms. Echoing the general sentiment from the Commission and Partnership Board, the Group felt that more discussion was needed before promoting the Regional High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Network, particularly with the accuracy of the pricing analysis, revenue assumptions and implementation. Regarding focused growth, Ashley reported that the Commission felt that the Local Streets and Roads maintenance funds should not be considered to encourage focused growth, but did propose the use of TLC funds and new revenue sources to promote focused

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growth. The Group expressed concerns about increasing TLC funds without having an opportunity to see the overall plan and felt that the “trade-offs” needed to be clearly identified. Regarding the Freeway Performance Initiative, Group comments included maximizing local growth initiatives, regional versus local discretion as well as a suggestion to deliver a similar initiative for transit. Regarding developing a Regional Climate Protection Program, the Group agreed that there was a need to develop a regional strategy and felt that the region has an opportunity to model for the nation the importance of climate protection. Additional comments should be submitted to Ashley Nguyen by December 31, 2007.

6. b. Draft Transportation 2035 Financial Projections

Theresa Romell (MTC) provided an overview of the draft financial projections for the Transportation 2035 (T2035) Plan and general assumption differences from Transportation 2030 (T2030). The preliminary projects will help to identify general trends for T2035 revenues and provide information on how much of it may be considered “discretionary” versus “committed” to specific program categories or projects. The projections are reflected in “year of expenditure” dollars and assume a 3% inflation rate if de-escalated. Group members requested the plan to be developed in actual dollars, but published in escalated dollars. Staff stated that, initially, project submissions should be done using 2007 funds with a projected year of obligation.

6. c. Prior Commitment Policy

Ashley Nguyen (MTC) provided the methodology for defining the prior commitments policy. Staff estimates that the preliminary budget for the T2035 Plan is approximately \$212B (escalated), with up to 80% of those dollars deemed committed and 20% discretionary, depending upon how the Commission wants to define committed funding. Staff requests that the Commission revisit the prior commitments policy contained in MTC Resolution 3609, and consider a more restrictive policy on what is considered a prior commitment, thus “opening up” more funds for discretionary action. Staff will present the prior commitment policy at the Planning Committee in January 2008 with a request for Commission action.

6. d. RTP Project Submittal Process

Ashley Nguyen (MTC) reported on the project submittal process and schedule. In early January 2008, MTC will issue a “Call for Projects” to the Partnership to submit projects/programs to be considered in the Transportation 2035 Plan. Project submittals are due to MTC on February 15, 2008. All deadlines are firm; projects received after February 15 will not be considered. MTC has developed a web-based application form that allows sponsors to update current project and submit new ones for consideration in the Plan. MTC will host a regional workshop for all interested sponsors on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 between 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter to orient sponsors to the application form and explain the data being requested and how to fill out the form. The Group expressed concerns about deadlines and felt the requirements for project consideration were not feasible and didn’t allow enough time to complete a meaningful outreach process. Group members requested the deadline to be moved to March 15, 2008 and suggested that public-requested projects be submitted through MTC as in past RTPs as opposed to directly from sponsors; current policy has the potential of creating a barrier for public participation. *Follow Up: The deadline for project submittals has been revised; the revised deadline is March 5, 2008.*

6. e. Transportation 2035 Project Performance Assessment

Lisa Klein (MTC) reviewed the proposed approach to evaluate projects for inclusion in T2035 and its schedule. MTC staff is outlining the approach, consistent with the Commission’s recent guidance, to evaluate projects for inclusion in the plan. The evaluation criteria is expected to be closely tied to quantitative targets the Planning Committee is expected to approve at its meeting on January 11, 2008. At its November 30 meeting, the Partnership Board decided to convene an ad hoc group of planning directors to senior planning staff from the CMAs and transit operators, along with Caltrans and ABAG, to work with MTC staff on this effort. The first meeting has been scheduled for the afternoon of January 7. The Planning Committee is expected to adopt the performance criteria at its meeting on February 8. Group members expressed concern that the smart growth model wouldn’t be accurate and felt that the timeline between finalizing the criteria and the project submittal deadline is unrealistic. Those interested in participating on the ad hoc committee should email Lisa Klein at lklein@mtc.ca.gov by December 31, 2007.

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6. f. Freeway Performance Initiative Status Report

Joy Lee (MTC) provided an overview of the Freeway Performance Initiative (FPI) and its coordination with the T2035 Plan. Detailed FPI performance assessment is scheduled to be completed within the next few weeks. FPI mitigation strategies and projects may range from system management strategies to traditional capital improvement projects. These projects and strategies will help to inform project selection for the RTP project submittal in early 2008.

6. g. Update on Transportation 2035 Outreach Activities

Ellen Griffin (MTC) offered to email to the Group comments received from past presentations /workshops regarding the Transportation 2035 Plan.

6. h. Update on Transit and LS&R Needs

Glen Tepke (MTC) provided a status report of the Transit Operating/Capital Call for Data and reported on the projections for the cost of operating and maintaining the existing transit capital system. On the capital side, those projections are based on capital asset inventories submitted by each of the operators. All inventories have been submitted. Final projections will be presented to the Transit Finance Working Group (TFWG) in January. On the operating side, all operating data has been submitted to MTC.

7. FOCUS Priority Development Areas Status Report

Kenneth Kirkey (ABAG) provided a presentation and reported on the recently adopted list of FOCUS Priority Development Areas (PDAs), adopted by the Planning Committee at its December 14, 2007 meeting. Kenneth provided an overview of the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) and the intent of PDAs on the region.

Information Items / Other Business

8. 2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Process and Schedule

Sri Srinivasan (MTC) reported that the 2007 TIP is due to expire in October 2008 and outlined the development plan and schedule for the 2009 TIP, which must be in place and approved by October 2008. Detailed information regarding the TIP and its amendments is available online at <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/tip/amendments.htm>. There will be a 2009 TIP Development Workshop on January 14 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in the MTC MetroCenter, Auditorium. Those interested in attending should email Marcella Aranda (MTC) at maranda@mtc.ca.gov.

9. 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

Kenneth Kao (MTC) reported that the final day to submit projects for the proposed 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) is December 18, 2007.

10. Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects

Kenneth Kao (MTC) distributed the draft Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects for FFY 2006-07 for the Partnership's review. Comments should be submitted to Kenneth Kao at kkao@mtc.ca.gov.

11. Transit Capital Priorities (TCP) Process and FY 2008-09 Programming

Glen Tepke (MTC) reported on the proposed policy for programming the FTA formula funds for FY 2008-09. At the Transit Finance Working Group (TFWG) meeting on December 5, MTC recommended to continue the existing policy from FY 2007-08 through FY 2008-09 with minimal updates then reopen the discussion for FY 2009-2010. The Working Group concurred with the MTC recommendation with the exception of a few issues. Regarding Fixed Guideway caps, the Committee supports the MTC staff recommendation to retain the existing cap policy, but will then reconsider the caps on a case-by-case basis upon the conclusion of the FY 2008-09 call for projects. The Committee supports the SFMTA staff proposal of, in the event of a shortfall, modifying the existing TCP policy to allow the operators the flexibility to decide which of their projects to reduce. The Committee recommended deferring the remaining points to the TFWG for consideration.

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12. Legislative Update

Ellen Griffin (MTC) reported that the State Budget is estimated at \$14B, \$2B for the current fiscal year and \$12B for future years. Proposition 58, approved by voters, allows the Governor to declare a fiscal emergency and to call a special session of the Legislature. The Legislature would have 45 days to take action or will be barred from doing any other business. The Governor has been quoted as saying he is prepared to call a fiscal emergency.

13. Recommended Future Agenda Items (T2035 and Non-T2035 Items)

- Bay Area Transit Planners Group – Strategic Plan

Proposed Next Meeting:

NOTE: *Due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. and Presidents' Day Holidays, the January and February 2008 PTAC sessions have been consolidated.*

Monday, February 4, 2008

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

(Note: New Meeting Location)

Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority
1333 Broadway, Ste 300, Oakland 94607