

Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 6, 2007

Paul Branson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Attending: Janet Abelson, Ken Altenburger, Joe Bischofberger, Eleanor Bloch, Richard Burnett, David Grant, Eugene Halliday, Rich Hedges, Julio Lacayo, Marshall Loring, Joshua Miele, Bruce Oka, Dennis Trenten, Doug Weir.

Excused: Steve Belkin, Myrtle Braxton, Barbara Rhodes, Craig Yates.

Audience Member Self-introductions

Bob Planthold, member, MTC Advisory Council.

EDAC Minutes

Moved by Mr. Hedges and seconded by Mr. Grant, the committee approved meeting minutes from Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>.

Advisory Council Report

Mr. Hedges reported the announcement at the Advisory Council of David Grant as a new EDAC representative on the Advisory Council. Mr. Grant brought up the subject of Advisory Council subcommittees, or lack thereof, due mostly to members' daytime business obligations.

Chair's Report

Chair Branson credited EDAC for part of the attention now going to mobility management, and encouraged continued persistence and patience. He suggested members do for EDAC's work plan what he does; check it often to keep on track. Subcommittee discussions followed. Mr. Hedges, as chair of the Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee, noted its name change from the Accessibility of Transit Oriented Developments Subcommittee. Mr. Lacayo, chair of Senior Driver Issues-Alternatives Subcommittee, distributed a Dept.

of Motor Vehicles publication, “Senior Guide for Safe Driving.” Subcommittee logistics and issues were generally discussed.

### Nomination of Officers

Ms. Vogler requested annual leadership nominations. Nominated for chair were Mr. Branson, Mr. Grant and Mr. Loring. Nominated for vice chair were Mr. Hedges (declined), Mr. Weir and Mr. Yates. Chair Branson said additional nominations would be accepted at next month’s meeting, prior to the election of officers. Additionally, nominated members will be able to decline during next month’s elections.

### Staff Report

Ursula Vogler reported MTC awarding \$4.5 million last month to Ed Roberts Campus, the first of its kind of project for elderly and the disabled. She asked if EDAC wanted an update on the project at a future meeting (yes). Ms. Vogler noted new language on EDAC agendas allowing action to be taken on information items. She also discussed the possibility that the January EDAC meeting be moved back a week due to holiday vacation schedules (members declined this option; the meeting remains on Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>). She also said that due to building construction, EDAC meetings in February 2008 and likely March 2008 would be held in a different room.

### Legislative Report

Rebecca Long reviewed main items in the draft MTC 2008 Legislative Program. Member comments:

- Transportation access to medical appointments needs improving, especially given its direct relationship with reducing the number of patients using hospital emergency rooms. [Ms. Long agreed but was not hopeful, given the reduced general fund this year.]
- Consider input to the rules governing architecture, which are now being updated, including crosswalk technology (Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines, ADAAG).

Public commenter Bob Planthold said ADAAG, under the U.S. Dept. of Justice, has a double-decker bus experiment in process. He said transit operators seem to ignore rules about precluding access to second-deck views. Mr. Miele noted flexibility of such rules.

Mr. Hedges asked about advocating in support of a resolution in declaration of an international day for the disabled, which he said Congressman Lantos recently asked President Bush to sign. Mr. Hedges said he would provide Ms. Long with a copy of the resolution.

The agenda was rearranged at this point in the meeting.

### State Transit Assistance Funds

Theresa Romell explained options for distributing STA funds. She reported that fund amounts increased, and that presentation of the information at a Partnership meeting resulted in a new recommendation, which would increase the percentage of funds that both paratransit and small counties would receive. Member comments:

- Q: What is the definition of regional paratransit funding?  
A: Funds that flow through MTC to the transit operators.
- Q: Would the increase in funds be for what operators are already doing or be for new transit service?  
A: Most likely for existing transit service due to so few transit funds overall.
- Population in the counties of Napa, Solano and Sonoma tends to be underreported, which negatively affects their funding amounts.

### Transportation 2035 Draft Vision Policy

Ashley Nguyen requested input on five important questions that would be outlined at the Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> Planning Committee. She explained that she needed answers to the five questions today; she would review the questions, provide background information and then request direct input on the issues. Highlights of initial comments:

- Q: Can you consider a crisper mission statement, one that includes the most basic issues of ‘who’ the Transportation 2035 plan is addressing? The plan seems to address commuters only.  
A: MTC’s job is to reconcile options for the region given available dollars. We’re now at the policy stage and are considering all viable options. But, the point about a mission statement (or statement of purpose) is duly noted.
- Since there is so little time for this item and we won’t be able to receive all of the information we need, we are likely sending the wrong message by voting on certain targets (and not others).

- Seniors and the disabled receive too little mention.
- Beware that toll roads under CMA purview could in the future be given to a private entity, such as occurred in southern California.

Members discussed other feedback methods, such as conference calling or e-mailing, for EDAC to weigh in on the plan since having too little time to do so at this meeting. One of several similar comments, “We can’t jam a watermelon through a funnel.”

It was concluded that a questionnaire would be circulated among EDAC members that would at least gather additional member feedback.

### Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

After receiving comments on the plan, Therese Knudsen said that it would be presented to the Commission for approval in December. Next steps in implementing strategies for coordination outlined in the plan would involve applying for a Caltrans grant to assess how to improve the connection between the siting of health care, social service facilities, and transit access. EDAC comments included:

- Transit options from point of origin are not the same as transit options to a destination, although of equal importance to be able to access information about.
- MTC ought to help make varying requirements from one town/county to another consistent.

### Other Business

Ms. Vogler apologized for not being able to finish discussing today’s Transportation 2035 item, explaining unsuccessful attempts to strike a balance between too much and too little information. She encouraged participation in the Transportation 2035 questionnaire despite its not being an official endorsement of options. Ms. Abelson asked that PowerPoint presentations display fewer colors.

### Next Meeting (1/3/08)/Adjournment (12:35PM)