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Bay Area Toll Authority

*Therese W. McMillan*  
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Legislation Committee  
January 11, 2008  
**Minutes**

Chair Rubin called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. Committee members attending: Azumbrado, Chu, Dodd, Giacopini, Halsted, Lempert, and Sperring. Also attending: Commissioner Tissier.

**Minutes**

Minutes of the Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved after a motion by Commissioner Chu seconded by Commissioner Halsted.

At this point in the meeting the agenda was reordered because the MCAC vice chair was still in transit.

**Legislative History**

Ellen Griffin reviewed the Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the history.

**Proposition 91: Transportation Funds**

Ms. Griffin discussed the Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> ballot proposition to amend the state's Constitution to prohibit General Fund diversions of Proposition 42 revenues. Initial Proposition 91 sponsors have withdrawn their support due to passage of Proposition 1A, which is nearly identical to Proposition 42.

**Governor's Proposed FY 2009 State Budget**

Randy Rentschler said transportation, unlike other fields, was generally not subjected to significant reductions. Specifically, Proposition 42 sales tax monies were not proposed to be loaned to the general fund. However, over \$400 million in "spillover" monies are proposed to be shifted to the general fund. In reference to specific projects in the region, high speed rail would be kept alive for another year, but the monthly transfer of gas tax receipts used to repair local streets and roads will be postponed until September 2008. Otherwise, there was an increase in Transit Assistance funding by \$427 million (a 135 percent increase over last year's level). A revised staff memorandum summarizing the budget proposal was distributed.

**Legislative Visits to Washington and Sacramento**

Both Committee Chair Rubin and Commission Chair Dodd encouraged committee members to participate in what are always worthy annual interactions with members of Congress and their staff in Washington. Ms. Griffin said the event now traditionally includes MTC's statewide partners, and that dates for this year are March 10-12. The Legislation Committee will meet one week early on March 7 due to D.C. trip.

For visits to Sacramento, Ms. Griffin spoke of dates in February for meetings with the Assembly Caucus and also the Senate [those dates subsequently changed and remain in flux]. Noted was Commissioner Chu's unavailability for meetings during

the week of February 18th.

### **Minority Citizens Advisory Committee (MCAC)**

MCAC Vice Chair Michael Rubiano articulated MCAC's approach to accomplishing its work plan: ● rank committee priorities (already completed via a member survey) ● set reachable goals to yield measurable results (much to be gained from 'low-hanging fruit') ● have subcommittees follow general MCAC operating principles of active membership: build a sense of ownership; demonstrate to other citizens how to play a role in the transportation of their own community; attend to minority media online and offline; speak to communities in non-threatening ways including in languages other than English. He said that MCAC agendas have been reorganized to place subcommittee reports near the top.

Mr. Rubiano summarized MCAC's priorities: ● Transportation 2035, review methodology for equity analysis and outreach, be able to 'move the needle' despite not solving all of the problems ● Environmental Justice and Lifeline, look at allocations of federal and state dollars ● business-focused DBEs/SWBEs, make the bidding process less intimidating for contractors and focus on outreach to minorities in professional services ● High School Internship program, increase pie by growing the supply and demand as a whole, assist MTC staff in finding transit-operator job opportunities for high school students and in placing more applicants. He suggested restructuring MCAC terms to prevent a large wave of turnover in experienced members simultaneously.

Commissioner comment: ● Chair Rubin said an excellent presentation and that we best "look to our mettle here because the bright young people are knocking on our door" ● Commissioner Lempert said an outstanding report and very good advice, and anticipated that in a few years citizens who want to serve on MCAC from her county of San Mateo will have to wait in line to become members ● Commissioner Azumbrado asked about the MCAC-initiated high school internship program and proposed measuring its outcomes possibly through participants' school and work pathways after leaving the internship program. Therese McMillan agreed and suggested the idea go to a subcommittee to consider. She added that it has been helpful to MTC to seek employer feedback on the internship program.

### **Federal Legislation**

FY 2008 Federal Appropriations – Mr. Rentschler reported on the FY 2008 Omnibus Appropriation legislation that the president signed on December 26<sup>th</sup>. He reported that Steve Heminger, who for several months has served as a member of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, would soon be issuing its report to Congress.

Tom Bulger's Report – was received by the committee.

### **Other Business/Public Comment/Adjourn**

There was no other business or comment, and the next meeting was scheduled for Feb. 8, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.