



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 4
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Memorandum

TO: Planning Committee

DATE: February 1, 2008

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Policy

W. I.

RE: Transportation 2035: Proposed Vision Policy Strategies

Background

MTC launched the Transportation 2035 planning effort in early 2007, focusing on defining our vision first, and then, in broad strokes, identifying those policies and investment strategies to carry out that vision. To date, this Committee has taken action on two core elements of the vision: **(1)** based on the three E principles of economy, environment, equity, gave provisional approval of eight plan goals of safety and maintenance, reliability, security, freight, clean air, climate protection, access, livable communities; and **(2)** gave provisional approval of a set of performance objectives that serve as: **a)** quantifiable policy measures against which future progress toward meeting objectives will be evaluated in subsequent RTPs and annual State of the System reports; and **b)** the basis for developing performance measures that will be used to inform Transportation 2035 investment decisions.

The Vision Policy Strategies, which are the subject of this memo, are the third and final core element that will define the plan's vision. Staff will present them for initial discussion by this Committee on February 8, and following review by our partner agencies, advisory committees, stakeholders and the public, we will seek your approval of the vision policy strategies at your March 2008 meeting.

Vision Policy Strategies

From the scenario analysis that was presented at the October 26 Bay Area on the Move Summit, we learned that:

1. Infrastructure projects alone do not achieve our performance objectives.
2. Pricing has a much bigger effect in the shorter term.
3. Focused growth helps make progress in the longer term.
4. Technology advances further closes the gaps.
5. Travel behavior changes are essential to achieving better system performance.

Staff has identified five policy areas that were drawn from these lessons learned. We view the five policy areas identified below as the key components of the Transportation 2035 vision; however, we note that there are likely other important policy areas that are not captured here that will round out the vision (such as affordability, goods movement, etc.); staff will seek partner and stakeholder help to identify these policy areas.

1. Investments
2. Pricing
3. Focused Growth
4. Technology
5. Individual Actions

The attached package of Vision Policy Strategies includes **(1)** a statement articulating the vision for the Transportation 2035 Plan, and **(2)** briefs for each of the five policy areas. Each policy brief explains where we are today, describes the challenges to overcome, and identifies policy strategies that will take us on a *shared journey* to get to where we want be. For illustrative purposes, we sketch out what this “journey” might look like; we show a continuum of efforts and innovations that will help us move from today towards attainment of our vision in 2035. The continuum categorizes short, medium and long-term improvement strategies based available resources, the state of various technologies and/or the time needed to realize the full impact of improvements (mainly in the land use arena). **Attachment A** describes the vision policies.

Process

The Vision Policy Strategies serve to inform the RTP project evaluation process, influence the ensuing investment trade-off discussions, and help with benchmarking achievement of performance objectives over time. Staff sees this process unfolding through the following key steps:

1. Identify the most cost-effective projects/programs with respect to the performance objectives (i.e., quantitative project evaluation approach – see agenda item #2b);
2. Consider the extent to how projects/programs advance the Commission’s vision policy strategies as outlined in Attachment A (i.e., qualitative policy review by Commission);
3. Debate the trade-offs among various investment strategies that consider both performance objectives and vision policy strategies as part of the deliberations;
4. Determine which projects/programs we can afford within the revenues projected to be reasonably available to the region over the next 25 years (i.e., dollars and cents approach); and
5. Develop an investment plan of projects/programs for the financially constrained plan.

Ultimately, the Commission will deliberate and make informed decisions on the set of transportation investments for the financially constrained Transportation 2035 Plan, taking into account the Three Es, goals and performance objectives set for the plan; the project performance evaluation results; vision policy strategies; financial constraints; and input received from partners, stakeholders and the public.

Schedule

The vision policy strategies outlined in the policy briefs are intended to initiate a robust discussion amongst partner agencies, stakeholders, the public and Commission. Staff expects to refine these vision policy strategies based on input received. The key milestones for review and input on the draft vision policy strategies, investment trade-off discussions, Commission review and action on the draft investment plan, and approval of the T-2035 Plan are as follows:

February 8	Planning Committee reviews <u>Draft</u> Vision Policy Strategies
February 15	Joint Policy Committee reviews Draft Vision Policy Strategies
February/March	Partnership Board reviews Draft Vision Policy Strategies
March 5	RTP project submittals due from CMAs/partner agencies
March 14	Planning Committee approves <u>Proposed Final</u> Vision Policy Strategies

Mid April	MTC staff releases project performance evaluation results
May - June	Investment trade-off discussions occur amongst partner agencies, stakeholders, public and Commission
June 13	Planning Committee reviews Draft RTP Investment Plan
July 11	Planning Committee approves Final Draft RTP Investment Plan
July 23	Commission approves Final Draft RTP Investment Plan
December 12	Planning Committee releases Draft RTP for public review
February '09	Commission approves Final RTP

Therese W. Mc Millan

SH: AN

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