



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

Agenda Item 8

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Memorandum

TO: Policy Advisory Council

DATE: Sept. 2, 2015

FR: Pam Grove, Staff Liaison

W.I. 1114

RE: Staff Liaison Report – September 2015

State Assembly Select Committee on Improving Bay Area Transportation Systems

MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger was one of the speakers at a recent State Assembly Select Committee information hearing on improving Bay Area transportation systems. The meeting – held on Friday, August 21 in the MTC MetroCenter Auditorium – was chaired by California Assemblymember Jim Frazier and included speakers Josh Huber of the East Bay Leadership Council, Michael Cunningham of the Bay Area Council, and Egon Terplan of SPUR and a former member of the MTC Policy Advisory Council.

While there is no audiocast of this event, the PowerPoint presentations given by the speakers can be found online here: http://files.mtc.ca.gov/pdf/SC1_8-21-15_agenda-packet.pdf

BART Shuts Down Transbay Service for Second Weekend

BART will hold the second of two scheduled weekend shut downs of its Transbay service on Labor Day weekend, September 5-7. As reported to you last month, BART is making repairs to a critical section of track near the Transbay Tube.

While BART will offer limited bus service and special accommodations for persons with disabilities, customers are encouraged to find alternate transportation solutions for the holiday weekend, such as ferries and AC Transit bus service. Bicycle riders are being encouraged to lock their bikes at BART stations rather than bringing them on crowded buses.

During the shutdown, BART service within the East Bay and within the West Bay and the Peninsula will be more frequent than during a typical weekend.

For more information on the next scheduled shutdown in September, go to:
http://mtc.ca.gov/news/current_topics/7-15/bart.htm

For information on alternate transit options or traffic updates, go to www.511.org.

Policy Advisory Council 2015-2016 Work Plan

As a follow-up to your August meeting, attached is the edited version of your 2015-2016 work plan. This version includes the additional brainstorming item regarding alternative transportation systems discussed and voted on at your last meeting, as well as other minor edits.

Your chair will present this work plan to the Commission at their September meeting for ratification.

Reminder: Meeting Date Changes in November and December

Last month I mentioned that the November and December Policy Advisory Council meeting dates will be changed from our normally scheduled Wednesday meeting dates due to the holidays. Because of a last-minute room availability, the November meeting date is now rescheduled again to coincide with the other MTC committee meeting dates on November 4th. This means that your November meeting will be on the first Wednesday of the month, while your December meeting will be on the second Tuesday, as follows:

Wednesday, November 4, 1:30 pm
Tuesday, December 8, 1:30 pm

If subcommittee meetings occur in those months, they will meet on the same day, and the Regional Equity Working Group will also meet on the same day as the Council.

Staff will remind the Council in meetings again as the dates get closer.

MTC POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL 2015-2016 WORK PLAN

Overview

Resolution 3931, the document that established the Policy Advisory Council and sets forth the roles and expectations of the advisors, calls for the Commission to hold an annual workshop for the purpose of setting the Council's work plan for the following year. The Policy Advisory Council met jointly with the Commission in May 2015 and discussed MTC's upcoming programs and initiatives, as well as the general state of the region. A robust dialogue yielded the following work plan, and the Council will explore some of these topics via ad hoc subcommittees or working groups and in brainstorming style discussion formats.

Work Plan Recommendations

Based on the discussion at the May 2015 work plan meeting, the Council recommends focusing on the following topics in the coming year:

1. Plan Bay Area will remain at the center of the Council's work, just as it will be for the Commission. This next fiscal year will be a critical one in terms of providing guidance, as staff and the Commission consider how various policies and strategies meet the goals of **Plan Bay Area 2040**, which is scheduled for adoption in mid-2017.
2. **Brainstorm the following topics as time permits:**
 - a. Discuss ways to **incentivize housing development** (including affordable housing and workforce housing), **preservation and restoration of housing, and protection of existing residents**.
 - b. Consider best practices for **alternative housing solutions** throughout the Bay Area (such as shared housing, alternate development units, Air BNBs, etc.).
 - c. Consider **how to create a more seamless, better connected multimodal transportation network** in the Bay Area, including the possible option of consolidation.
 - d. Explore the impact of **alternative transportation systems** (such as Uber/Lyft and private company buses).
 - e. Explore ways to 1) **further reduce greenhouse gas emissions** for climate change and 2) **educate the public** about those reduction methods.
3. Continue the work of the Council's two subcommittees:
 - a. The **Equity and Access Subcommittee** will continue to meet to participate in discussions with MTC staff on the equity work related to Plan Bay Area 2040, including discussions on what equitable access means in terms of housing and transportation. Also, as suggested in last year's work plan and as time permits, the subcommittee will take a look at paratransit in an effort to suggest standardization of policies and identify best practices for the region.
 - b. The **Fuel Extraction Fee Subcommittee**, whose first meeting was in April 2015, will continue to meet to consider how to advocate for California to consider creating an energy extraction fee that would 1) put California on par with what other oil production states are already doing and 2) focus fees collected for use on transportation and housing improvements, or other areas as considered by the subcommittee.