



**METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION**

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607-4700
Tel: 510.464.7700
TDD/TTY: 510.464.7769
Fax: 510.464.7848

Memorandum

TO: Planning Committee

DATE: December 4, 2015

FR: Executive Director

RE: Mega-Region Planning and Collaboration - MTC Resolution No. 4209

Background

In May and September, a group of MTC Commissioners joined colleagues from our neighboring Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) - the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) and the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) - to discuss issues that are common to the three regions encompassed in the Northern California "Mega-Region." These issues include Goods Movement, Jobs/Housing Imbalances, Regional Passenger Rail Initiatives, a northern California Economic Development Study and each of the region's Regional Transportation Plans/Sustainable Communities Strategies (RTP/SCS). The meetings were productive, and a key outcome of the September meeting in Stockton was that each MPO would appoint two to four elected officials to an advisory council referred to as the Mega-Region Working Group.

This effort was originally suggested through discussions amongst the executive directors of the three MPOs. The three agencies have had a good working relationship throughout the years but the combined efforts have rarely risen to policy-level decision making. Inter-regional collaboration has become more important over time given the growing connectedness of our regions and the importance of ensuring that each region's RTP/SCS is well aligned with those of its neighboring regions.

MTC Resolution No. 4209 would establish and formalize the role of the Mega-Region Working Group. Among the coordination activities identified for the working group are:

- Meet three times annually to identify issues of common interest and recommend joint activities;
- Coordinate RTP/SCS issues of mutual interest; and
- Participate in joint data gathering and analysis.

Both SACOG and SJCOG have approved similar resolutions in the past few months.

The first meeting of the three MPO Board members took place in Sacramento at the offices of SACOG and the second in Stockton at the offices of SJCOG. The next meeting - as a more formal Mega-Region Working Group - will be at MTC in early 2016. MTC Commissioners participating in the September meeting were Commissioners Baker, Haggerty, Mackenzie, and Spring.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Planning Committee refer Resolution No. 4209 to the Commission for approval. Further, staff recommends that the chair appoint up to four Commissioners to the Mega-Region Working Group.



Steve Heminger

Attachment: MTC Resolution No. 4209

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Date: December 16, 2015
W.I.: 1121
Referred by: Planning Committee

ABSTRACT
Resolution No. 4209

This resolution establishes and formalizes the role of MTC in the Mega-Region Working Group comprised of MTC, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) and the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG).

Further discussion of this action is contained in the MTC Executive Director's Memorandum to the Planning Committee dated December 4, 2015.

Date: December 16, 2015
W.I.: 1121
Referred by: Planning Committee

Re: Establish Mega-Region Working Group

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 4209

WHEREAS, there is substantial and increasing evidence that mega-regions, or mega-metropolitan areas, are the functional geographic scale for many natural, transportation, labor, housing, land use, economic and other systems; and

WHEREAS, various recent studies and analyses have identified an existing mega-region geography inclusive of the 9 member counties and 101 cities of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the 6 counties and 22 cities of the Sacramento Council Area of Governments, and the county and 6 cities of the San Joaquin Council of Governments; and

WHEREAS, it is not possible for any one of the regional planning organizations to optimize the provision of services to its residents without considering and addressing the cross-border impacts and influences on and from the residents of the other two regional planning organizations; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and philanthropic programs, policies, regulations and funding are increasingly encouraging coordinated planning and action between organizations functioning within the same mega-region; and

WHEREAS, the governing boards of these three Metropolitan Planning Organizations conclude it is in the interests of their residents and employees to build on and enhance the existing substantial coordination and cooperation between these organizations; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission will participate with the Sacramento Council Area of Governments and the San Joaquin Council of Governments to do the following:

1. Establish a Mega-Region Working Group by designating two to four Board members and senior staff from each Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to meet at least three times each year to identify issues of common interest and recommend joint activities for consideration by the three governing boards;

2. Coordinate the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies of the organizations to optimize the performance of the plans and make efficient the work effort required to produce them, with particular emphasis on jobs-housing balance issues between the three MPOs, improving transportation infrastructure for all modes of transportation, making easier the flow of goods within the mega-region and in and out of the mega-region, and growing in a way that protects essential natural resources such as air, water and farmland.
3. Participate in joint data gathering and analysis, research, planning, service delivery and policy-making activities to enhance the quality of life and economic prosperity of the mega-region and work with private, higher education and civic organizations as appropriate to conduct this work;
4. Continually update and analyze data and research on the geography of the mega-region and recommend any appropriate changes to the Mega-Region Working Group, initially and specifically considering the addition of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments serving Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties, and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Regional Transportation Commission serving Reno and Washoe County, Nevada.
5. Pursue additional ways to integrate the staff-work of the three organizations to improve effectiveness and efficiency;
6. Partner with each other and organizations from other sectors to hold a biennial conference that highlights key shared issues within the mega-region;
7. Conduct other activities to enhance the performance of the mega-region as identified by the mega-region Working Group and, when appropriate, approved by the three governing boards.

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Dave Cortese, Chair

The above resolution was entered into by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission at a regular meeting of the Commission held in Oakland, California, on December 16, 2015.