



TRANSIT RECOVERY TASK FORCE

To: Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force

DATE: June 15, 2020

FR: Steve Kinsey, CivicKnit

RE: Decision Making Process

Responding to COVID-19 impacts on public transit, MTC Commissioners appointed a multi-interest task force to guide recovery and long-term benefit. Each member needs to hold a shared sense of responsibility for a thoughtful, inclusive solution. A consensus process will be used for both incremental actions and ultimate adoption of a recommended *Public Transit Transformation Action Plan*.

Elements of the Task Force's Consensus-building approach include the following:

- 1) A Task Force Purpose statement that identified a common goal of re-building a more connected, more efficient, more user-focused mobility network, with the expectation that all members are willing to actively work together towards a mutually acceptable solution.
- 2) Succinct Meeting Summary statements following each Task Force meeting that identify mutual understandings, remaining concerns, and additional information needed on a given topic.
- 3) Building mutual understanding drawn from a range of data sources and stakeholder input, including online surveys, topical roundtables, knowledgeable guest speakers, public forums, online and mailed comments, public comments during Task Force meetings, and ongoing communication between the facilitator and interested parties, including Task Force members.
- 4) Sufficient time for deliberation regarding information that has been gathered and presented to the Task Force prior to accepting it as a basis for future actions.
- 5) A consensus decision emerges once differing views are carefully listened to, proposed actions reflect mutual interests, further amendments are encouraged to address remaining concerns and build wider support, and final votes allow for a range of agreement to confirm whether an action can be deemed acceptable, and if not, identifies what specific disagreement prevents that. Consensus recognizes that the goal is full acceptance, not unanimous agreement.

When testing for consensus, Task Force members will have the following choices available:

- 1) **Agreement:** I support the proposal and am willing to proceed.
- 2) **Reservations:** I have reservations but am willing to let the proposal pass.
- 3) **Stand aside:** I can't support this proposal because... (be specific), but I don't want to stop the group, so I'll let the decision proceed.
- 4) **Block:** I have a fundamental disagreement with the core of the proposal that has not been resolved and deserves further discussion.

The Task Force will take all of these above steps before final actions are taken on an issue. Following a sincere effort to achieve mutual acceptance, if one or more members vote to "Block" a proposal, the Chair may choose to call for a roll call vote. The results of that vote will be provided to the Commission, along with an explanation of the differences between the majority and minority positions.

Once a decision has been reached on a matter, it will be documented and listed as able to contribute to the understanding of future topics.