

# FOCUS

## Working Group Meeting

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Thursday, February 7, 2008  
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.  
BCDC, McAteer Petris Conference Room  
50 California Street, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Francisco

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### Meeting Summary

#### Introductions and Meeting Overview

Ted Droettboom, Joint Policy Committee (JPC) Regional Planning Program Director, lead introductions and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

#### FOCUS Updates

##### *Station Area Planning Program Call for Applications and January Workshop Highlights*

Doug Johnson, Metropolitan Transportation Committee (MTC) Planner, provided an overview of the Station Area Planning Grant workshops held in late January and a reminder of the call for Station Area Planning Grants currently underway. Three workshops were held throughout the region with approximately 100 people attending. A presentation was provided on the Station Area Planning Grant Program and the planning elements required as part of the proposed plan. Applications should be e-mailed to Doug Johnson by February 29, 2008. For more information on how to apply, visit [www.bayareavision.org](http://www.bayareavision.org). A presentation was also provided by the Center for Creative Land Recycling on the new funding programs available through Proposition 1C.

##### *Priority Conservation Area Schedule*

Jackie Guzman, Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Regional Planner, provided an update on the 2008 schedule for Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs). The PCA process is proceeding to identify near-term conservation opportunities throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Approximately 100 nominations were received during the first call for nominations. A review panel was convened at the end of 2007, which provided feedback to staff on the nominations received. The ABAG Regional Planning Committee has approved the revised timeline for proceeding with the PCA process this year (see Timeline Handout). Highlights for the year include presenting staff recommendations to ABAG's Executive Board in July and making a second call for nominations towards the end of the year.

##### *Regional Transportation Plan*

Ted Droettboom, JPC Regional Planning Program Director, provided an update on the Regional Transportation Plan. Project submissions from CMAs are due to MTC in March. Jurisdictions with Priority Development Areas (PDAs) should talk with their CMA to ensure that their

pressing projects are including on their list to MTC. The MTC Planning Committee and JPC will be receiving a policy brief on focused growth, which speaks to the financial needs of PDAs. Discussions have been underway for the past couple of months to get funding for PDAs through the RTP process. However, the discussion has not been conclusive and is a difficult discussion. Change requires, at times, a higher standard of proof than the status quo even though there may be benefits from change. The discussion will continue and some positive outcomes are expected. Interested individuals are encouraged to participate. MTC has already allocated \$22 million over the next three to four years in planning grant funds to PDAs. For more information on the Regional Transportation Plan, visit the Transportation 2035 Plan website at [www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/2035\\_plan/index.htm](http://www.mtc.ca.gov/planning/2035_plan/index.htm).

### **Transportation for Livable Communities (TLC) Program Overview & Evaluation**

James Corless, MTC Senior Planner, provided an overview of the TLC discussion that staff hopes to have with the Working Group and why their feedback will be helpful. The February Working Group presentation will provide background information about the TLC program, and the March FOCUS Working Group presentation will explore some potential options for improving the TLC Program in the future.

The TLC Program provides incentives to communities for building walkable, transit-accessible communities. Three programs exist under TLC: 1) planning program, 2) capital incentives program, and 3) housing incentives program. The second evaluation of this 10 year program is being wrapped up now. This point in time provides an opportunity to talk about how the TLC program may be improved and if it can be tailored to better support focused growth and PDAs. At the beginning of April, MTC staff will have this discussion with its Planning Committee, but staff would like feedback from the Working Group on options to reorient the TLC program prior to that meeting.

Doug Johnson, MTC Planner, presented the findings and implications of the TLC Evaluation. The presentation is available on the Working Group website for this meeting date: <http://www.bayareavision.org/initiatives/workinggroup.html>. Copies were also provided of “WORKS IN PROGRESS: Transportation for Livable Communities,” which can be downloaded from the following website: <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/library/TLC/index.htm>

A more detailed discussion will follow at the March Working Group meeting. Initial feedback provided by Working Group members included the following comments:

- Accessibility needs to be emphasized as part of TLC funded projects.
- TLC goals might need to be more focused to actually measure their attainment.
- Involve planning and public works staff in the planning process for station area planning grant recipients.
- Walking/transit experience is hard to quantify, but it makes a difference in increasing ridership.
- TLC is an initial investment, so the benefits need to be looked at in the long-term also.

### **Projections 2009: Linking Performance Targets to Policy Assumptions**

Paul Fassinger, ABAG Planning Director, presented an overview of Projections, the San Francisco Bay Area’s policy-based forecast, and Christy Riviere, ABAG Senior Planner,

presented how performance targets and land use policy assumptions can be linked and why this will be helpful. Projections is a long-term forecast of jobs and housing currently out to 2035. ABAG has made Projections forecasts since the 1970s. Since Projections 2003, Projections has included explicit policy assumptions based on regional policy objectives.

MTC developed performance targets for the environment, economy, and equity as part of the RTP update. ABAG helped in the land use sensitivity analysis of reaching different targets. Land use changes play an important role in attaining regional goals which can each have a set target to measure attainment. For instance, the regional goal to protect the environment can have a set target of reducing CO2 emissions to 1990 levels by 2035. Such a performance target can be used to measure the effectiveness of a proposed land use assumption. Thus, ABAG would like to explore various performance targets, which may include the ones MTC adopted or some modifications and/or additions, that can be set to guide the development of land use assumptions to meet regional policy objectives. Meetings are being scheduled in each Bay Area county, with elected officials serving as hosts, to begin an open discussion about this topic.

The staff report and presentation are available on the Working Group website for this meeting date: <http://www.bayareavision.org/initiatives/workinggroup.html>.

Working Group members provided the following feedback on this agenda item:

- The Bay Area needs to have a regional plan that local governments support. The PPIC Blueprint report highlights some of the issues associated with this for the Bay Area.
- Staff should try to coordinate and communicate with CARB to see how efforts to develop performance targets are aligned.
- Staff should work with cities to improve the existing data set.
- Now maybe an opportune time to engage in a serious conversation with locals around the challenges to infill development given the downturn in the economy.
- This discussion is a good opportunity to engage local governments in how land use policies can help address climate change.
- It is important to look at other targets and engage other stakeholders, such as school district planners and health professionals.
- Inviting Commissioners to the county meetings is important, but staff needs to be prepared to listen. It will be helpful to highlight the co-benefits of reducing VMT.

### **FOCUS Next Steps**

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 6, 2008 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at BCDC's McAteer Petris Conference Room on the 26<sup>th</sup> floor, 50 California Street, San Francisco.