



Joint Policy Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of March 17, 2006 Held at 10:00 AM in the MetroCenter Auditorium, Oakland

Attendance:

ABAG Members:

Jane Brunner
Mark Green
Scott Haggerty
Steve Rabinowitsh

BAAQMD Members:

Chris Daly
Jerry Hill
Pamela Torliatt
Gayle Uilkema

MTC Members:

Bill Dodd
Steve Kimsey
Sue Lempert
John McLemore
Jon Rubin, Ch.
Shelia Young

BTH Member:

Sunne Wright McPeak

ABAG Staff:

Gillian Adams
Randy DeShazo
Paul Fassinger
Henry Gardner
Pat Jones
Janet McBride
Christy Rivierre

BAAQMD Staff:

Jack Broadbent
Henry Hilken
Jean Roggenkamp

MTC Staff:

John Albrecht
James Corless
Steve Heminger
Valerie Knepper

Other:

Moira Birss, Housing Leadership Council
Duane DeWitt
Jean Finney, Caltrans, District 4
Frank Gallo, MCAC
Jerry Grace
Ann Hancock, Climate Protection Campaign
Seth Kaplan, Supervisor Nate Miley
Sherman Lewis
Steve Lowe, WOCA Peter Lydon, SPUR
Peter Lydon, SPUR
Bob Planthold
Allison Quaid, Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable
Communities
Bill Sandbrick, Fremont Chamber of Commerce
Mike Sandler, Community Clean Water Initiative
David Schonbrunn, TRANSDEF
Michael Sarzbiz
Leslie Stewart, Bay Area Monitor

JPC Staff:

Ted Droettboom

1. Call to Order

Chair Rubin called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Joint Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2006

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Focusing Our Vision (nee' Regional Blueprint Planning Program)

ABAG Planning Director, Janet McBride, described the basics of the program's approach and summarized progress over the first two months. As the program seeks to negotiate priority development areas and priority conservation areas with local governments, outreach has concentrated on local-government officials. Meetings with elected officials have been held in nearly all the nine Bay Area Counties and are beginning with appointed officials. Other meetings with elected officials are planned, as is a stakeholder conference in early May. Technical work is proceeding with the assembly and mapping of data which will assist in the identification of priority areas.

The JPC sought clarification on the role of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). It is to provide advice to the regional agencies on analysis and process. It is not a decision-making body and is not intended as a substitute for direct collaboration with local governments throughout the region. The size of the TAC has been limited so as to permit full discussion of issues among members and with regional staff.

The JPC also discussed the difficulty of reconciling local and regional objectives. The effect on the region is but one of many concerns that local decision makers need to consider when making land-use decisions and planning public investments, and it is usually not near the top of list. We need to do more work to bring the efficiency and livability of the region to the forefront of local policy and development discussions, and regional efforts need to be communicated more clearly and consistently to local-government colleagues. The region is an agglomeration of local governments, but many local governments feel separated from regional affairs and regard regional agencies as adversaries, rather than as jointly owned agents of the common good. Getting out and engaging local-government officials throughout the region is essential to regional success.

The desirability of complementary development and conservation areas was highlighted. The connection between open-space conservation and development intensity may be key to many local-government collaborations.

Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak joined the meeting during this discussion. She presented a mock check symbolizing the State Government's financial contribution to the *Focusing Our Vision* program and then described the State's objectives for regional planning. These included ensuring a twenty-year housing supply, with each region accommodating its own indigenous demand (i.e., not exporting housing units and commutes to adjacent regions), reducing the number of daily trips, reducing congestion to improve mobility, and conserving environmental and agricultural land. She also acknowledged the uniqueness of each California region and noted that different solutions may be required for different places; the state is built from distinct regions. The Secretary cited economy, environment and equity as touchstones for effective regional planning and emphasized the importance of tangible outcomes and performance measures.

4. Legislative Update

Discussion with the Secretary continued with an emphasis on the infrastructure bond measures which had failed in the legislature a few days earlier. Ms. McPeak emphasized the Administration's continued commitment to strategic investment and noted the links to other initiatives, including public-private partnerships, design-build contracts, and land-use reforms. Again, she highlighted a focus on performance and outcomes. The Administration intended to relate investment to tangible improvements in mobility and reduction in congestion, not to purely political priorities. There was also an intent to incentivize infill and refill development in the right places.

Committee and public comment identified a number of issues for the State's consideration including: the mix between highway and transit funding, the support of goods-movement investments to relieve trucking bottlenecks and reduce localized particulate matter pollution, the need to incentivize (not penalize local self-help transportation investment programs), the possibility and desirability of using gas taxes and other targeted revenues as an alternative to general revenue to retire the infrastructure bonds, the relationship between land-use intensity and the return on transit investment, the need for financial and regulatory help to get housing happening near existing transit stations (e.g., BART replacement parking), and the difficulties cities and counties have in upgrading and replacing their own infrastructure under a broken system of local-government finance. The relationship between transportation/land-use decisions and environmental outcomes, including global warming, was repeatedly mentioned.

Ms. McPeak also noted an effort underway to provide local-governments with relief to environmental challenges through references to regional plans.

5. Climate Protection (local efforts to combat global warming)

Jack Broadbent, Executive Officer of BAAQMD, introduced the Air District's climate protection program, highlighting its relationship to other air quality concerns. Ann Hancock and Mike Sandler described the pilot program in Sonoma County and noted the manner in which the principles could be extended to the region and state. Henry Hilken provided details on nascent Air District program, including the relationship to land-use and transportation planning. The presentation slides are available on the JPC website: www.abag.ca.gov/jointpolicy.

In discussion, the JPC was asked to consider the possibility of establishing greenhouse reduction targets for the region and to include a broader consideration of energy use and pricing (including the concept of peak oil) in a future agenda.

6. Smart Growth and Goods Movement

Due to the shortage of time, this item was deferred to a future agenda.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Public Comment

The JPC was commended for the quality of the items on its agenda and the importance of its mandate.

9. Adjournment