



Joint Policy Committee / Regional Planning Program

ABAG-MTC Joint Policy Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of October 22, 2004
Held at 9:00 a.m. in MetroCenter Room 171

Attendance:

ABAG members:

Jane Brunner
Dave Cortese
Mark Green
Scott Haggerty
Rose Jacobs Gibson
Steve Rabinowitsh
Gwen Regalia

ABAG staff:

Paul Fassinger
Henry Gardner
Patricia Jones
Eugene Leong
Janet McBride
Christy Riviere

MTC members:

Sue Lempert
John McLemore
Jon Rubin (Chair)
Jim Spering
Shelia Young

MTC staff:

James Corless
Doug Kimsey
Lisa Klein
Valerie Knepper
Therese McMillan

JPC staff:

Ted Droettboom

Other:

Dana Cowell, Caltrans
Linda Craig, League of Women Voters
Jerry Hill, San Mateo County
Nashua Kalil, BART
Peter Lydon, SPUR
Andrew Michael, Bay Area Council
Shelley Poticha, Center for Transit-Oriented Development
David Schonbrunn, TRANSDEF
John F. Silva, BAAQMD
Leslie Stewart, Bay Area Monitor

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The chair opened the meeting with a welcome, and members in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Joint Policy Committee Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2004

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Transit Oriented Development—Continued

MTC Senior Planner James Corless introduced Shelley Poticha from the Center for Transit-Oriented Development. Ms. Poticha presented results on research her organization has conducted around the country. This research is summarized in the publication, *Hidden In Plain Sight: Capturing The Demand For Housing Near Transit*, available online at http://www.reconnectingamerica.org/pdfs/Ctod_report.pdf.

Particularly important in Ms. Poticha's view were walkability and the mix of uses at both ends of a typical transit commute, not just at the housing end. TOD was also most effective when combined with a set of incentives for transit use and disincentives for automobile use. Example policy approaches from around the continent and within the Bay Area were explored.

In discussion, the following points were raised:

- Parking policy, particularly the number of spaces required and provided, may be critical. We need better information on this to supplement anecdotal perceptions.
- A universal policy prescription will not work across the diversity of situations in the Bay Area (i.e., one size will not fit all).
- BART policies have a major impact on the ability to achieve development around heavy rail stations. The JPC may want to advocate changes in these.
- Local jurisdictions could benefit from technical assistance in developing appropriate transit-oriented development plans.
- Communities need better information on the mode split actually achieved in TOD communities. Many assume that new residents will drive just like existing residents do, contributing to traffic congestion.
- While it is assumed that TOD community residents will be empty nesters, in the current tight housing market this may not be true. Families are doubling up in high density developments, increasing the demands on schools. This creates another factor in opposition to density.

- The relationship between transit and capital improvements to the road system needs greater emphasis, particularly in communities dependent on bus systems. A bus stuck in traffic is not a viable alternative to the automobile.

4. Recent Housing Legislation

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5. Travel Forecasts

Doug Kimsey, Manager of Planning for MTC, presented an overview of MTC's Travel Model and Current Forecasts. The slides from this presentation can be viewed at <http://www.abag.ca.gov/jointpolicy/>.

In discussion, members noted that an effort was required to raise bike and walk trips and that transit ridership may be increased by administrative and operational changes in the transit system.

6. A Smart Growth Checklist

Members suggested a number of helpful editorial comments on the checklist. Some members offered to forward additional suggestions. These are welcome at any time.

The Committee approved the following recommendations of Regional Planning Program Director:

- A. THAT the Joint Policy Committee approve the attached draft Smart Growth Checklist as an accurate representation and appropriate extension of regional growth policy;
- B. THAT the Joint Policy Committee authorize the Regional Planning Program Director to enter into a discussion with local planning officials on a process for voluntarily employing this checklist or something similar as part of the local project review process, following from local-government confirmation of the regional smart growth policies; and
- C. THAT before actually seeking local government confirmation of the regional smart growth policies and subsequent use of a voluntary checklist or similar device, the Regional Planning Program Director report back to the Joint Policy Committee on the final documents as modified in discussion with local planning officials.

A member of the public suggested that the process of pursuing the checklist and the confirmation of the regional vision would benefit from a short piece identifying the expected benefits of smart growth, including those noted in Mr. Kimsey's presentation. The Regional Planning Program Director agreed and will include such a piece in the material he discusses with planning directors.

7. SB 849

The requirements of SB 849 as they affected the composition and work program of the JPC were discussed. The principal area of contention was the size of the committee. Some members argued for a larger Committee to increase representation across the region and to enhance the level of buy-in. Others worried that the quality and fullness of the debate would suffer were the Committee to become much larger.

It was moved and seconded, and it was the decision of the Committee:

THAT a sub-committee composed of the Chair and Vice Chair of ABAG and the Chair and Vice Chair of MTC meet and report back to the next meeting of the JPC with a recommendation for including representation from BAAQMD and *ex officio* representation from the Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing; the sub-committee's report to include a recommendation on the size and distribution of membership among agencies.

8. Other Business

The Committee agreed to continue meeting through 2005 on the third Friday of each month. This creates a conflict once a quarter with RAPC. Staff will pursue a resolution of this conflict.

9. Public Comment

Mr. Schonbrunn reminded the Committee that MTC would be releasing the Regional Transportation Plan next month. The plan includes an exploration of the TRANSDEF alternative.