

SUMMARY MINUTES

Joint Meeting - ABAG Members & MTC Commission
June 12, 2002 ● MetroCenter Auditorium

ABAG MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Gwen Regalia, City of Walnut Creek
Mayor Irma Anderson, City of Richmond
Ms. Alicia Bert, City of San Francisco
Councilmember David Cortese, City of San Jose
Supervisor Mark DeSaulnier, County of Contra Costa
Mayor Mark Green, City of Union City
Councilmember Millie Greenberg, Town of Danville
Councilmember Carol Klatt, City of Daly City
Councilmember Steve Rabinowitsh, City of Santa Rosa

MTC COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Councilmember Sharon Brown, City of San Pablo
Mayor Ralph Appezzato, City of Alameda
Bill Dodd, County of Napa
Ms. Dorene Giacomini, Department of Transportation
Supervisor Steve Kinsey, County of Marin
Supervisor Michael Nevin, County of San Mateo
Mr. Jon Rubin, City of San Francisco
Mayor James Spring, City of Suisun City
Councilmember Sharon Wright, City of Santa Rosa

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting convened at 12:07 p.m. Senator Tom Torlakson gave an overview of his eighteen-year history with ABAG and MTC and shared his desire for legislation that would benefit the entire Bay Area by managing the challenges of growth and integrate transportation and planning functions into one agency. Nick Bollman, California Center for Regional Leadership, asked each attendee to introduce him/herself. Robert Oakes, Senator Torlakson's Chief of Staff, will represent the Senator at each meeting. Senator Torlakson answered questions before leaving.

2. BACKGROUND AND GROUND RULES

Nick Bollman, California Center for Regional Leadership, explained his function as moderator. Bollman noted that the ground rules assumed that both ABAG and MTC would make a good faith effort to reach an agreement on the proposed merger and when agreement has been reached, the agreement would be presented to both governing bodies for support before being passed on to Senator Torlakson. (ABAG Executive Board will meet on July 18 and MTC Commissioners will meet on July 24.) Three additional public joint meetings will be held on June 26, July 3 and July 10 – beginning at 11:30 a.m. It was hoped that ABAG and MTC would have meaningful discussion at the table. Bollman requested that the function of the merger should be discussed first and the discussion of structure would be held at the final meeting. Steve Heminger, MTC Executive Director, announced that Commissioners Brown, Kinsey, Beall, Nevin, Rubin and Spring would represent MTC at subsequent meetings.

3. ROLES AND FUNCTION OF MTC & ABAG

Steve Heminger, MTC Executive Director, and Eugene Leong, ABAG Executive Director, gave brief overviews of their respective agencies. Heminger introduced senior staff sitting at the table – Chin, Flemer and McMillan. Heminger noted that MTC was responsible for 1) regional transportation planning and corridor planning; 2) distributing funds of one billion dollars and administration of the Bay Area Toll Authority; 3) serving as an advocate for the Bay Area with federal legislators; and 4) operating transportation programs and services. Leong stated that ABAG was a joint powers agency of local governments and that in effect the local governments represented here, whether sitting formally as MTC or ABAG representatives, are all members of ABAG. Each of the cities and counties, as part of ABAG, are jointly responsible for 1) regional planning and services implementation programs; 2) collaboratively working toward intelligent growth through the Smart Growth program; 3) environmental programs dealing with air and water quality, such as San Francisco Bay runoff and stormwater pollution; 4) social equity and environmental justice issues; 5) Regional Housing Needs Determination process as mandated by the state; 6) Finance Authority for Nonprofits, a pooled financing program to assist nonprofits - \$720M in last few years; and 7) analyzing for Caltrans potential impacts on transportation facilities resulting from major earthquakes.

4. SMART GROWTH UPDATE

ABAG Chair, Gwen Regalia, reported on the Smart Growth Strategy Regional Livability Footprint Project to develop an alternative plan for growth in housing and jobs that is expected to occur during the next twenty years. The Preferred Land Use Alternative would not be mandated; but intended to be used as a guide to assist cities and

counties as they grow. After analysis of the Alternative in terms of its impact on regional housing, job growth and environmental factors such as air quality, water usage, and open space, ABAG will prepare a final report on the process and Alternative. ABAG's Research staff will prepare a new set of growth projections based on the Alternative, and if adopted by the Executive Board in January 2003, they will form the basis for transportation and other funding decisions and revisions to the general plans of local governments. Regalia noted that Contra Costa County was involved in its own countywide planning process called Shaping Our Future. MTC Vice Chair, Steve Kinsey, reported that we are two years and regionally \$1.5M into the project. The key tools needed to implement the Alternative are regulatory and legislative. Kinsey thanked the Steering Committee, particularly Millie Greenberg and Jim Sperring, and the community partners and agency partners' various staff members. A debt of gratitude is owed to Victoria Eisen, ABAG Principal Planner, for her keen leadership throughout the process.

5. ROUNDTABLE DIALOGUE

Nick Bollman encouraged each person at the table to tell what was on their mind, including their personal pros and cons regarding SB1243 and a possible merger. Issues and questions that were raised included the following:

- composition of representation for the proposed new agency;
- how do we implement the Smart Growth Alternative and have a shared legislative agenda and still retain local control without being at cross purposes;
- need real-time information gathering that can distribute the information back to each jurisdiction in real-time – how would a merger create this environment;
- although agencies are similar, one agency would need to be balanced by local control;
- establish guiding principles that are important for land use and transportation and meld both in strategies for development and funding incentives that will strengthen local government (proposed name for new regional planning agency; Bay Area Council of Governments);
- what is the problem that we are trying to solve and which agency or combination of agencies can best solve the problem;
- issues can not be appropriately addressed unless we form a single coordinated body that would come together to work with local governments;
- hate the bill, but believe in the merger and regional cooperation – current wording of bill further fragments instead of consolidating the agencies;
- okay to tell us to merge, but give the two agencies the opportunity to work out the details;
- Contra Costa County does the collaboration process very well;
- currently the bill defines too much – let the agencies come together and work it out;
- would like to see a bill that the author is happy with and that is successful for the agencies while better meeting the needs of local governments in the region;
- why doesn't ABAG provide projections and a land use plan which MTC's regional transportation plan can conform to; and
- use ABAG's 1992 Adopted Platform on Growth Management as a foundation for future discussion.

6. AGENDA FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

This item was not discussed, although representatives were reminded to review ABAG's 1992 Adopted Platform on Growth Management.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Due to time constraints, comments from the public were limited to two minutes each. The following six people spoke: Ken Bukowski, Paul Cohen, comments from Irwin Dawid, Carole Dillon-Knutson, Nancy Jewell Cross, David Schonbrunn and Norman Rolfe.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Eugene Y. Leong, Secretary-Treasurer