Agenda Item 3b

METROPOLITAN
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COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: MTC Planning Committee
ABAG Administrative Committee

DATE: May 6, 2011

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Policy, MTC
Executive Director, ABAG

RE: Plan Bay Area: Defining Alternative Scenarios

Phase 2 of the Plan Bay Area process focuses largely on conducting an analysis of alternative scenarios to demonstrate how the Bay Area can achieve its 15 percent per-capita greenhouse gas emission reduction target, stipulated by CARB, and other ABAG/MTC adopted performance targets. While both the Current Regional Plans and Initial Vision Scenario get us closer to the greenhouse gas targets, they still fall short. We must now find alternative ways to achieve this target as required by SB 375. This means identifying and testing a range of alternative scenarios that feature different combinations of land use, transportation investments, and policy strategies.

MTC and ABAG staff have conducted initial brainstorming on alternative scenario concepts with the Regional Advisory Working Group and Partnership Technical Advisory Committee in April and May 2011. We are also receiving feedback through the Plan Bay Area/You Choose Bay Area workshops that are now underway. The following points have been raised thus far:

- Create distinct scenarios, including a historical land use "trend" option for comparative purposes.
- Focus more growth in the urbanized areas of the region to preserve agricultural lands and open space.
- Consider refocusing development along transportation corridors (not just transit lines).
- Increase growth in Priority Development Areas (PDAs) but realize that they have limits on their carrying capacities.
- Increase existing transit service and improve pedestrian access to transit
- Create a strategy that places importance on supporting growth in rural/suburban communities, but recognize that the growth will not be at the same density and intensity as growth in the more urbanized areas of the region.
- Emphasize the importance of the "fix-it first" policy (i.e., maintain existing system)
- Consider policy initiatives such as Transportation Demand Management and road and parking pricing

The attached PowerPoint presentation outlines initial concepts for the alternative scenario analyses. We look forward to your ideas to help us further refine these alternatives. Staff will present draft alternative scenarios for your review and approval in June. The analysis of the scenarios will begin immediately thereafter.

Ann Flemer

Ann Flemer

Ezra Rapport

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