

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter Auditorium

101 8th Street, Oakland, California

December 5, 2007

Members Present

Susan Adams, Supervisor, County of Marin
Diane Dillon, Supervisor, County of Napa
Pat Eklund, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Novato
Daniel Furtado, Mayor, City of Campbell
Rose Jacobs Gibson, Supervisor, County of San Mateo
Mark Green, Mayor, Chair of RPC, City of Union City
Scott Haggerty, Supervisor, County of Alameda
John Holtzclaw, Sierra Club
Nate Miley, Supervisor, County of Alameda
Nancy Nadel, Councilmember, City of Oakland
Joseph Perkins, CEO, Home Builders Association of Northern California
Julie Pierce, Councilmember, City of Clayton
Mark Ross, Councilmember, City of Martinez
Pixie Hayward Schickele, California Teachers Association
Jim Spering, Supervisor, County of Solano
A. Sepi Richardson, Councilmember, City of Brisbane

Members Absent

Andy Barnes, Policy Chair, Urban Land Institute
David Cortese, Vice Mayor, City of San Jose
Juliet Ellis, Executive Director, Urban Habitat
Jean Hart, Deputy Director, Alameda County CMA
Stana Hearne, Bay Area League of Women Voters
Kasie Hildenbrand, Councilmember, City of Dublin
Jennifer Hosterman, Mayor, City of Pleasanton
Janet Kennedy, Vice Mayor, City of Martinez
Jake Mackenzie, Councilmember, City of Rohnert Park
Andrew Michael, Vice President, Bay Area Council
Mike Moore, Community Dev. Director, BAPDA
Dena Mossar, Councilmember, City of Palo Alto
Carol Severin, Director, East Bay Regional Park District
Dianne Spaulding, (Geeta Rao) Executive Director, Nonprofit Housing of Northern California
Tom Steinbach, Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance
Mary Warren, Board Member, Regional Water Quality Control Board

Staff Present

Henry Gardner, Executive Director
Ken Kirkey, Planning Director
Doug Kimsey, Planning Director, MTC
Michelle Williams

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Mark Green called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. A quorum was not present.

2. Public Comment

Representative from Marin Conservation League.

Attended to address the Marin Conservation League's concerns over Priority Conservation areas and that the process seems to have come to a standstill and that things are going on out of public purview. They would like to see this process come back into the public purview so that they can feel confident that they have ample opportunity to continue supporting the recommendations made by the county.

Mr. Kirkey commented that letters have been sent to Planning Directors, City Managers and City Clerks of the City Clerks of the jurisdictions in which nominations had been made for distribution to elected officials. We've heard back from many jurisdictions, most were supportive of the nominations that had been made within their jurisdictions. We've taken that information and combined it with the staff assessments related to Regional Significance, which along with urgency is one of the three PCA criteria. Those initial staff assessments were reviewed by a review panel of land conservation experts and stakeholder representatives. Mr. Kirkey indicated that staff would be factoring the review panel input into staff recommendations that would be brought back to the Regional Planning Committee and ultimately the Executive Board for adoption. He indicated that staff would also letting the nominating entities, in the case that they are different from the jurisdictions, know what the staff recommendations are going to the RPC in February before going to the Executive Board in March.

Mr. Kirkey stated that he believed that there had been a very good dialog with local jurisdictions.

3. Approval of Minutes for October 3, 2007

It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved.

Pat Eklund raised a correction to the minutes. Committee member Eklund indicated that Page 3, last paragraph should also mention that, several members raised questions regarding opportunities for local jurisdictions to provide feedback on PCA nominations, and there was also discussion about the process and making sure that the elected officials be notified of the nominations and that there was an opportunity for them to try to reach consensus.

The minutes were approved as corrected.

4. Oral Reports/Comments

A. Committee Members

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

No reports from committee members.

B. Staff

Mr. Kirkey, Planning Director reported that the Executive Board accepted the RPC's recommendation and the Priority Development Areas were unanimously adopted by the Executive Board in November, unanimously. He said that he was pleased to report that an initial round of station area planning grants, totaling \$7.5 million, had been released by the MTC. All of the PDAs will be eligible for funding and the grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. Detailed information was slated to be posted on MTC and ABAG websites within the next few weeks. In addition, MTC has also made an initial commitment to provide \$20 million in planning grant funds for these priority development areas beginning in FY08-09.

The Planning Director Kirkey also reported that prior to this meeting several RPC members and other elected officials and staff participated in an initial discussion regarding regional disaster recovery planning. A number of issues were identified as priorities relative to a coordinating role that ABAG can provide. Details on the outcome of the meeting will be provided to the RPC.

COMMENTS:

Suzan Adams, Supervisor, County of Marin, was not available to attend the meeting on Disaster Recovery Planning and asked if the recent oil spill in the bay had been addressed. Ms. Adams had two announcements:

- ABAG Homeless Taskforce convened a meeting. They are planning a trip to Sacramento to address concerns around the state budget and 10 billion dollar deficit and cuts which will affect the homeless healthcare mentally ill services. They are trying to take a more proactive role in helping the state government protect/preserve those areas. Discussion around HMIS having a region way to collect and track data.
- Marin County is hosting its first Homeless Connect today. This is homelessness fair where homeless people can go to find resources and services. Ms. Adams expressed a willingness to share information on how Marin was able to coordinate this effort among multiple cities & towns.

Pat Eklund, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Novato, added to Ms. Adam's comments on homelessness in Marin. Novato was the first city to build a Homeless shelter. They have a lot of services available as well. Ms. Eklund also expressed her concerns over PCAs. She is concerned about the process. Ms. Eklund

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

described that at the last ABAG meeting she had expressed concerns about the process for the PCAs and making sure the elected officials in each community were made aware of the nominations. She described that she did not receive notice from ABAG regarding the PCA nominations until November 5 by a letter from ABAG dated October 22. The letter was sent to the Community Development Director. It was copied to the City Manager and the City Clerk. It was not sent nor copied to any elected official. The letter included lists of proposed nominations and indicated whether staff at ABAG believed there was a consensus or not relative to each nominated PCA. One of the PCAs nominated in Novato was listed as not having consensus. She is concerned about how the determination was made and whether there is a public process which is part of that determination. She didn't have time to put this on a City Council agenda for consideration by the Council. The City Clerk did transmit a copy of a letter from the property owner, dated September 28, opposing the nomination. She asked how consensus for the PCAs is being determined.

Mr. Kirkey addressed the issue by explaining the process. He stated that it was ABAG staff's expectation that the City Clerk and City Manager would distribute the recommendations to elected officials for the official's consideration. He, that agency staff is seeking feedback and that perhaps this process needs to be revisited and revised. Ms. Eklund suggested adding a cc: notation to the letter so that it is apparent to the City Clerk and City Manager that the letter should be distributed to the City Council.

Ms. Pierce, Councilmember, City of Clayton commented that adding the City Council to a distribution list doesn't guarantee that the distribution will happen and she would prefer to have the copy sent directly to her office and getting two copies rather than not getting any. Supervisor Haggerty, County of Alameda, stated that he agreed with Ms. Eklund on the distribution issue.

Ms. Jacobs Gibson, Supervisor, County of San Mateo inquired about the timing on this and if the cities have an opportunity to discuss this to obtain a better notion of where there is consensus so that they can build a better list. Mr. Kirkey responded that there is no set timeline and that he would be happy to follow-up with those concerned to discuss the process. He also indicated that staff would consider what additional outreach might be needed to ensure that local jurisdictions have had an opportunity to weigh in on the PCA nominations within their jurisdictional boundaries.

Ms. Adams stated that perhaps there's a need to withhold some percentage of funding for areas that have not been nominated or are not ready for nomination at this point in time.

Mr. Kirkey replied that funding entities, including the Coastal Conservancy, will utilize the PCAs as an indicator of where to potentially direct their funds. The Conservancy, is responsible for distributing most of the Prop 84 funds in this region. He further indicated that going forward in 2008, there be another call

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

for PCA nominations. It will also be our second FOCUS PCA call and will provide an opportunity to fine tune the process relative to some of the issues discussed.

5. RTP Update (Doug Kimsey, MTC Planning Director).

Mr. Kimsey referred to the handout he distributed. He described what MTC is doing for Phase 2, as they're heading into the part of the plan where they are developing investment policies and defining how they will assess projects and ultimately which projects will go into the regional transportation plan. He highlighted the second slide in the handout, which shows the policy questions they are asking stakeholders, partner agencies, etc. about how they want to address projects that ultimately get in the RTP. The questions were distributed to the Commission in November as well as the Partnership Board and received some responses. He stated the responses received. He solicited feedback from the RPC members on performance targets.

Comments were received from Ms. Adams, Ms. Pierce, and Mr. Holtzclaw.

Mr. Kimsey highlighted key sections of the report including "Hot Lanes" and the HOV system relative to pricing and whether they should support this as part of the RTP. There was debate related to the donor counties and how they would benefit from providing the funds from their hot lanes to the other counties expense of creating hot lanes.

Mr. Green had a question about the reconsideration of the 3434 resolution and where it stands. Mr. Kimsey responded with information about the adjustment of 3434 to change the thresholds for ferry services and that MTC is working on a strategic plan to address which projects are fully funded and which are not and how they will obtain full funding.

Ms. Nadel suggested investing in BART noise mitigations or under grounding where it is above ground and setting up mitigation fund to provide special systems for affordable housing near freeways, such as air filters or double paned windows.

Additional comments were received on the hot lanes issue.

Ms. Pierce requested that it not be reflected that the RPC came to any consensus on this information.

6. San Francisco Bay Trail links to FOCUS and the Regional Transportation Plan (Laura Thompson and Maureen Gaffney, ABAG Bay Trail)

Ms. Thompson and Ms. Gaffney presented a brief overview of the project and talk about how it fits into the regional goals of the "FOCUS" project which ABAG is spear-heading and MTC's regional transportation plan. Ms. Gaffney presented a background of the Bay Trail Project with slides. She highlighted that it is a 500 mile non-motorized transportation commute corridor providing access to

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

schools, shopping and transit. The Bay Trail provides a viable commute alternative resulting in improved air quality and reduced congestion. She also presented the status and the forecast cost and timeline.

Ms. Thompson presented an overview of “FOCUS or Focusing Our Vision ” and the Bay Trail and how the Bay Trail fits into the FOCUS goals. Laura also walked through a few examples of the Bay Trail currently operating as a transportation corridor. Note: Marin County is underway with the “Marin County Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Program”. With a 20 million dollar federal grant the county is investing in their infrastructure and expanding their bicycle and pedestrian network. She highlighted many examples of areas where the Bay Trail is currently available and in use which are in close proximity to residential and business districts. Also discussed were how the toll bridges are or will be key components to the project. She explained which bridges are involved and how they will be used.

Laura then requested feedback to the following questions:

1. How can the bay trail be promoted more effectively as a solution to reducing traffic congestion, carbon emissions and vehicle miles traveled?
2. What efforts, at the local level, are underway to elevate the importance of trails as a transportation option?
3. How can the Bay Trail be featured more prominently in local transit oriented development projects?

There was input from Mr. Green, Ms. Adams, Ms. Nadel, Mr. Holtzclaw, Mr. Spring, and Ms. Dillon.

7. Smart Growth Video (Allison Quaid, Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities)

Ms. Quaid thanked the RPC for the opportunity to present this video. Introduced their organization and the video “Building Communities that We Care About”. The video is posted on their website. The video was presented.

Ms. Quaid provided an overview of the video, examples of how the video can be utilized at the local level as part of discussions about smart or “focused” growth. RPC members expressed appreciation for the high quality and the potential usefulness of the video.

Chairman Green solicited questions for Ms. Quaid.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM. The next meeting is on February 6, 2008.

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Submitted by:
Dayle Farina
Administrative Assistant