

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter – Auditorium

101 8th Street, Oakland, California

February 2, 2011

Members Present:

Susan Adams, Supervisor, County of Marin, ABAG Vice President
Ronit Bryant, Mayor, City of Mountain View
Dave Cortese, Supervisor, County of Santa Clara/RPC Chair
Diane Dillon, Supervisor, County of Napa
Pat Eklund, Councilmember, City of Novato
Mark Green, Mayor, City of Union City/ABAG President
Scott Haggerty, Supervisor, County of Alameda
John Holtzclaw, Sierra Club
Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, City of Martinez
Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez, Director of Government Affairs, City of San Francisco
Jeremy Madsen, Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance
Connie Galambos Malloy, Director of Programs, Urban Habitat Program
Nate Miley, Supervisor, County of Alameda
Ross Mirkarimi, Supervisor, City and County of San Francisco
Nancy Nadel, Councilmember, City of Oakland
Cheryl O'Connor, Acting CEO, Home Builders Association of Northern California
Julie Pierce, Vice Mayor, City of Clayton
Harry Price, Mayor, City of Fairfield
A. Sepi Richardson, Councilmember, City of Brisbane/RPC Vice Chair
Mark Ross, Councilmember, City of Martinez
Linda Seifert, Supervisor, County of Solano
Jim Spering, Supervisor, Solano County
Egon Terplan, Regional Planning Director, SPUR
Gayle Uilkema, Supervisor, Contra Costa County
Beth Walukas, Alameda County Transportation Commission

Members Absent:

Shiloh Ballard, Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Andy Barnes, Policy Chair, Urban Land Institute
Patricia Boyle, Bay Area League of Women Voters
Valerie Brown, Supervisor, County of Sonoma
Rose Jacobs Gibson, Supervisor, County of San Mateo/ABAG Immediate Past President
Kasie Hildenbrand, Councilmember, City of Dublin
Jennifer Hosterman, Mayor, City of Pleasanton
Charlie Knox, Director of Public Works & Community Development, City of Benicia
Andrew Michael, Bay Area Council
Pixie Hayward Schickele, California Teachers Association
Carol Severin, EBRPD Board of Directors

Staff Present:

Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director

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Miriam Chion, ABAG Principal Planner
Justin Fried, ABAG Regional Planner
Danielle Hutchings, ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Program Coordinator
Dayle Farina, ABAG Administrative Assistant

1. Call to Order/Introductions

- Committee Member Green, ABAG President, called the meeting to order at 1:12 PM.
- Committee Member Green noted that this is the last meeting for Committee Member O'Connor and thanked her for her service.

2. Public Comment

Duane DeWitt, Respiratory Therapist from Roseland, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, made comment on the Santa Rosa Corridor PDA and would like to comment again after the presentation of Item 5 on the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes for December 1, 2010 Meeting.

Approval of the minutes was moved by Committee Member Ross and seconded by Committee Member Eklund.

Minutes of December 1, 2010, were approved as submitted.

4. Oral Reports/Comments

A. Committee Members

Committee Member Pierce reported that Central Contra Costa County held a successful meeting on the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).

Committee Member Eklund reported that on Tuesday night, City of Novato held a community meeting. The community of Novato continues to express concern over the State of California's & ABAG's "mandates". Committee Member Eklund expressed interest in an ABAG representative making a presentation on the SCS to the community in Novato.

Committee Member Terplan announced the release of a publication on High Speed Rail and land use entitled "Beyond the Tracks". Publications and information are available on the SPUR website.

Committee Member Adams noted, in response to Committee Member Eklund's comments, that in Marin County at the Transportation Authority meeting they are carving out time for an SCS presentation as a kick-off.

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Ms. Adams also noted that the first meeting of the regional Housing Methodology Committee (HMC) meeting was recently held.

Committee Member Kirshner-Rodriguez reported that she has had several opportunities to be in discussions about Redevelopment Agencies at the State level. She has repeatedly asked State agencies how the Regional Housing Requirements are going to proceed if Redevelopment is cut out.

Committee Member Green welcomed both Committee Member Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez and Committee Member Gayle Uilkema to their first meetings of the RPC.

Committee Member Green reported that the ABAG 50th Anniversary/MTC 40th Anniversary Gala was very successful with 300 in attendance. He thanked ABAG Staff for their work in coordinating the event.

Committee Member Green reported SCS presentations to both the Union City Planning Commission and City Council were well received.

Committee Member Green also reported attending a successful SCS Seminar in Committee Member Haggerty's district on Saturday.

Committee Chair Cortese assumed charge and apologized for his tardiness.

B. Staff

Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director, gave the committee a brief update on the progress of the Initial Vision Scenario.

Committee Member Eklund referred to a January 7 memo, written by Mr. Kirkey, which indicated that 90% of the cities provided initial information on growth potential. The Planning Director in Novato has told Ms. Eklund that he did not receive a request for information. Committee Member Eklund requested information on which jurisdictions responded and which did not respond to the request.

Mr. Kirkey responded that many of the Marin County jurisdictions responded relative to their PDA by confirming that the place type noted was correct. In many jurisdictions, no new opportunity areas were identified for the communities. Therefore there was not much to which they could respond.

1. ACTION: Priority Development Area Assessment - Schools

Miriam Chion, ABAG Principal Planner; Deborah McCoy, Executive Director, Center for Cities and Schools; and Ariel Bierbaum, Program Director, Center for Cities and Schools, presented the assessment of schools in the Priority Development Areas.

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Committee Member Uilkema asked, relative to the community use of school facilities, if this includes joint use libraries.

Ms. Chion responded that this only includes school facilities at this time.

Committee Member Madsen asked how the school to city collaboration ratio compares to schools outside of the PDAs.

Ms. Chion clarified that this is based on the survey, which was sent to Planning Directors and Community Development Directors in cities where there were PDAs.

Ms. McCoy commented that the assumption is that there is very little collaboration between cities and schools.

Committee Member Bryant asked if there is a difference in collaboration where there is a unified school district per city compared to districts that reign over multiple cities.

Ms. Bierbaum responded that relationships vary.

Ms. McCoy added that this can also vary based on school level.

Committee Member Richardson asked what number of responses came from the county offices.

Ms. Chion responded that the outreach only targeted the cities with planned PDAs.

Chair Cortese clarified that at some time it would be helpful to reach out to the counties for their input on this subject.

Committee Member Richardson further clarified that it would be helpful to work with the County Education offices, but also reach out to the counties in general.

Committee Member Adams asked if development of PDAs will prohibit poor schools or will the development of sustainable communities help provide resources to improve the schools? She asked for the direction on this issue.

Ms. Chion responded that it needs to be determined what the mechanisms are that can be put in place so when development and growth does happen in those areas they can strengthen the quality of the schools and open new possibilities for the communities.

Committee Member Spring commented that criteria need to be set about what we want to see in the schools within a PDA. For example; multifunctional facilities. People will accept higher density of facilities if resources are provided. We need to set the criteria about what is needed in the PDA areas.

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Committee Member Eklund asked whether Charter Schools were included as public or private schools, since they function with their own Board of Directors.

Ms. Bierbaum responded that they are Public Schools. However, only 10% of our schools are Charter Schools.

Committee Member Eklund thinks we need to look at how to get more discretionary funds for the lower income schools.

Committee Member Terplan asked if information is available on the percentage of students taking transit to schools as well as walking and biking to schools; how the numbers vary between schools in PDAs and schools outside PDAs.

Ms. Bierbaum responded that 12% of all regional trips are to and from school. This includes faculty and staff. They do not have the data on transit travel related to schools.

Committee Member Richardson expressed interest in the responses received from the County offices.

Ms. Chion responded that the outreach had been targeted to the cities and no comment had been sought from the county offices.

Ms. Chion shared input submitted by Committee Member Jacobs Gibson, who asked if there could be an Outreach and Planning Committee, which would focus on education and outreach to school districts. This committee could solicit input from neighborhood groups and parent community groups.

Chair Cortese recommended touching base with the RPC education representative, Pixie Hayward Schikele, who was not at the meeting.

Committee Member Green suggested changing the language in the last question of the Staff Report to read “Can PDAs attract the majority of the region’s units...” rather than the current language of ...’the region’s growth...”

Committee Member Madsen commented that we need to clarify the goal of the PDAs in the Sustainable Communities Strategy: Is the goal of the PDA to accommodate growth or to make great neighborhoods? What are the action next steps?

Committee Member Seifert suggested, when looking at value or opportunities, look at creating environments where campuses which accommodate K-12 can meet the multi-functional facilities model. It also would be worth looking at adding preschool to such a campus, which would reduce the amount of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) on trips to school.

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Committee Member Ross asked how this will be financed. He raised the subject of transfer taxes. If we don't have the money – ideas won't happen. Mr. Ross recommended a utilitarian infrastructure.

Committee Member Miley represents 5 school districts and feels they should be here at RPC. Jurisdictions' General Plans are another potential source of education.

Chair Cortese interjected that we do have an Education representative on the RPC, but that a call to action for a subcommittee might be in order.

Committee Member Pierce commented that if we are going to build schools to accommodate growth, we will need to build them in PDAs; we will have to establish a separate finance system to accommodate those plans.

Committee Member Bryant suggested providing infrastructure for sidewalks and bike paths for smaller PDAs where schools will not be built that have to fit into the existing environment.

Chair Cortese called for public comment on this subject and announced the two-minute limit for comments.

Mr. Duane DeWitt commented. Mr. DeWitt would like to encourage the committee to follow up by taking up a specific project. As a member of the community of Roseland, a community of southwest Santa Rosa, Mr. DeWitt volunteered Roseland School, which is along a PDA; they've started a charter school and have planned ahead for growth. They have funding through the PDA designation granted to them. He is asking for regional support on this project.

6. ACTION: Priority Development Area submitted by the City of Fremont

Justin Fried, ABAG Regional Planner, was available to answer questions on and sought Committee approval of a new Priority Development Area (PDA) submitted by the City of Fremont.

It was moved by Committee Member Haggerty and seconded by Committee Member Pierce that the Committee approve the submitted Potential PDA.

Committee Member Terplan commented that putting housing on this site may do harm to its future competitiveness. He proposed, that from a regional standpoint, this is a particularly unique place.

Chair Cortese suggested that these comments be brought to the Executive Board and that he and ABAG President Mayor Green would be open to discussing this further with him.

Committee Member Haggerty suggested that we entrust the City to move forward in pursuing the PDA recognition.

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Committee Member Green commented that the committee should take note that this is a *potential* PDA.

The language in the recommendation must be changed from in “the City of Livermore” to “the City of Fremont”.

The motion passed.

7. INFORMATION: Next Steps in the Recovery Planning Process

Danielle Hutchings, ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Program Coordinator, and Laurie Johnson, an expert on disaster recovery, provided an update on ABAG’s ongoing and potential regional recovery planning efforts.

Ms. Hutchings announced the outcome of efforts on SB1205. It was passed by the House and the Senate and vetoed by the Governor. She thanked both Mayor Mark Green (Union City) and Supervisor Mark Luce (Napa County) for going to Sacramento to support the Bill.

Ms. Hutchings then outlined the coming year and plans to build on the outcomes of SB1205 and to define how the RPC can move forward in the planning efforts. A grant from Bay Area UASI (Urban Areas Security Initiative) will allow development of a regional recovery plan with RPC as the advisory body.

Ms. Hutchings announced the launch of a new Recovery website which includes a recovery page, which highlights the work of the RPC in 2008 and presentations. She is available to make these presentations to Board of Supervisor or City Council meetings.

Ms. Hutchings introduced Laurie Johnson who then made a brief presentation on regional organizations and recovery planning, both pre- and post-disaster.

Committee Member Adams asked what the low hanging fruit is that local agencies can do to have these plans ready?

Ms. Johnson responded that Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs) are key in securing full reimbursement under the Stafford Act. AB2140, which requires consistency between the HMP and the Safety Element documents, provides for reimbursement by the state.

Mr. Kirkey added that the presentations referred to by Danielle, which she has offered to do, identify this “low hanging fruit”. These presentations derived from work the RPC has done. Mr. Kirkey encouraged the Committee Members to take advantage of this offer.

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Committee Member Pierce asked where we are in getting plans together – template plans, etc.? Where are we on SB1205? Will we re-introduce with the new governor?

Ezra Rapport, ABAG Executive Director responded that we were opposed on SB1205 by CalEMA. ABAG is currently working with CalEMA to strengthen the partnership with them. In exchange for that partnership, ABAG has agreed to suspend the work on SB1205, but we plan to move forward with plans to develop a recovery planning body in the region and hope to have CalEMA support in the process.

ADJOURN:

Chair Cortese adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on April 6, 2011

Submitted by:

Dayle Farina

Administrative Assistant