SUMMARY MINUTES (DRAFT)

ABAG Regional Planning Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 5, 2014
Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 8th Street, Oakland, California

1. CALL TO ORDER

Dave Cortese, Chair and Supervisor, County of Santa Clara, called the meeting of the Regional Planning Committee of the Association of Bay Area Governments to order at 1:05 pm. Dave Cortese assigns Anu Natarajan, Vice Chair and Vice Mayor of Fremont, to take over the meeting in one hour. (2:10 PM)

A quorum of the committee was present.

Members Present	Jurisdiction
Susan L. Adams, Supervisor	County of Marin (Public Health)
Desley Brooks, Councilmember	City of Oakland
Ronit Bryant, Councilmember	City of Mountain View
Paul Campos	Building Industry of America--Bay Area
Julie Combs, Councilmember	City of Santa Rosa
Dave Cortese, Supervisor	County of Santa Clara (Chair)
Linda Craig	League of Women Voters--Bay Area
Pat Eklund, Councilmember	City of Novato
Scott Haggerty, Supervisor	County of Alameda
Erin Hannigan, Supervisor	County of Solano
John Holtzclaw	Sierra Club (Environment)
Linda Jackson, Planning Manager	Transportation Authority of Marin (Congestion Management Agency)
Jeremy Madsen, Executive Director	Greenbelt Alliance (Smart Growth)
Nate Miley, Supervisor	County of Alameda
Karen Mitchoff, Supervisor	County of Contra Costa
Anu Natarajan, Vice Mayor	City of Fremont (Vice Chair)
Julie Pierce, Councilmember	City of Clayton (ABAG Vice President)
Harry Price, Mayor	City of Fairfield
Mark Ross, Councilmember	City of Martinez
Pixie Hayward Schickele	California Teachers Association
Carol Severin, Associate Director	East Bay Regional Park District (Parks and Recreation)
James P. Spering, Supervisor	County of Solano
Egon Terplan, Regional Planning Director	SPUR (Urban Development)

Members Absent	Jurisdiction
Shiloh Ballard	Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Andy Barnes, Policy Chair	Urban Land Institute
Diane Dillon, Supervisor	County of Napa
Michael Lane, Policy Director	Non-Profit Housing Association of Northern California
Kristina Lawson, Councilmember	City of Walnut Creek

Mark Luce, Supervisor	County of Napa (ABAG President)
Laurel Prevetti, Assistant Planning Director	City of San Jose (BAPDA)
David Rabbitt, Supervisor	County of Sonoma
Tim Sbranti, Mayor	City of Dublin

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

A quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL OF REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2013

Chair Cortese recognized a motion by Julie Pierce, Mayor, City of Clayton, and seconded by Desley Brooks, Councilmember, of City of Oakland, to approve the committee minutes of December 4, 2013. The motion passed unanimously.

4. ORAL REPORTS/COMMENTS

A. Committee Members

None

B. Staff

None

5. SESSION OVERVIEW BYMIRIAM CHION

ABAG Planning and Research Director

Miriam Chion highlighted agenda items in the packet.

In the interest of time, Dave Cortese requested to move agenda item 8 after item 9 The Committee agreed.

6. OVERVIEW OF STATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION EFFORTS (1:15 PM)

Information
Kish Rajan, Director of Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

Mr. Rajan discussed issues impacting the business climate in California.

a) Improving Business Climate: The Governor is focused on budget discipline and streamlining regulations in California to foster a more efficient and predictable environment for business in the State. The State is aware of regional issues and is seeking a better alignment of regional leadership, assets and plans. The State is developing tools to encourage economic development such as AB93/SB90 to enhance Enterprise Zones and provide new tax incentives

b) Focus on International Trade: To enhance California's economic ties with our major trading partners and growing economies, the Governor visited China in 2013 and plans to visit Mexico in 2014. Growth in these countries will increase demand for California products.

c) Connection between Workforce and Economic Development: Mr. Rajan closed by discussing the connection between workforce and economic development, the increasing need to be smarter and more strategic in the future and that the State looks forward to greater collaboration with the Bay Area to achieve our economic goals.

Member Eklund asked if the State has a 5 year Economic Development Plan.

Mr. Rajan responded no, but said the State had a strong desire to support regional economic development and planning efforts and increase international trade.

Member Adams asked how funding could address important regional issues such as climate change, drought, agriculture needs, water among others. She also asked how the State would use Cap & Trade funds and highlighted a study by UC Davis called Marin Carbon Project.

Mr. Rajan responded that the Governor is seeking to stake out not only national but a global leadership position on climate change for the State.

Member Combs highlighted the need for State funding to help homeless households. In Sonoma County there are three to five thousand homeless people, shelters are full, and there is a 5-7 year waiting list for rental assistance.

Mr. Rajan acknowledged similar problems in communities throughout the State and that many continue to experience economic challenges. He indicated that the Governor is more than aware that local jurisdictions face urgent challenges that need to be addressed and that when redevelopment was eliminated that a major local financing and affordable housing tool was lost. The Governor has started to address this by putting forward a proposal to use Infrastructure Financing Districts (IFD's) to fund affordable housing. Mr. Rajan also acknowledged that 25% of Californians live in poverty and that this will be a long term effort, but that there are no easy short term solutions.
Vice Chair Natarajan asked what the Bay Area and local jurisdictions can do to help.

Mr. Rajan requested ongoing feedback on the Governor's proposals to date, but also on the broader challenges that many jurisdictions face to build an economic case for action.

Member Mitchoff said we were fortunate to have Kish Rajan here with us at this meeting and now at the State level as he is very knowledgeable about Bay Area challenges and economic development.

Member Price indicated concern about the continued reduction in the DOD Department of Defense (DOD) budget and asked if the Governor was committed to public private partnerships that are available for military bases.

Mr. Rajan: Said he understood the concern and that the State was pushing Washington DC to investment more in California, and that he would welcome continued feedback on the situation at Travis Air Force Base.

Chair Cortese thanked Mr. Rajan for his presentation and said that he looked forward to continued collaboration with the State to address Bay Area issues.

7. REGIONAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Information

Cynthia Kroll, ABAG Chief Economist, provided an overview of recent economic, employment, income and poverty trends in the Bay Area.

Member Campos requested additional information on housing production and employment growth compared to other regions.

Member Ross asked for additional detail on jobs being lost.

Ms. Kroll indicated that she could provide this information after the meeting.

Vice Chair Natarajan: Said that if time permits we will come back to Item 8 moving on to Item 9.

9. JOB MOBILITY IN THE BAY AREA AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROSPERITY STRATEGIES (2:15 PM)

Information

Steve Levy, Director of the Center for the Continuing Study of the California Economy, and Egon Terplan, SPUR Regional Planning Director.

Mr. Terplan reported on the three goals of the draft Economic Prosperity Strategy (EPS) funded by the HUD Regional Prosperity Grant: 1) mobility and creating career pathways for lower income workers to better jobs; 2) growing the overall economy; and 3) upgrading conditions for lower income workers. The EPS analyzed jobs paying $18/hour or less, which constitute a substantial share of current and projected jobs in the region.

Mr. Levy reported that there will be 200,000 more people in low wage jobs in the Bay Area in the next 10 years. He also indicated that there are an estimated 1.5 million unauthorized immigrants in California and 300,000 in the Bay Area that contribute to the regional economy. However these workers face major challenges, due to their immigration status, in moving up the economic ladder into better jobs. One way to address the Bay Area's major economic challenges in the future is to make it easier for unauthorized immigrants to use their existing skills and develop new ones through training and education.

Committee Member Ross stated that many new internet businesses are million dollar companies, but often have very few employees and that young people should receive more training opportunities at a younger age.

Member Eklund asked for clarification about how a growing economy is supported by connecting new housing with existing or planned transit and transportation options.

Mr. **Levy** responded that doing so creates better places for people to work and live.

Mr. **Terplan** responded that if people have the opportunity to use public transportation they will.

Mr. Levy reported that BART ridership has greatly improved and reduced freeway traffic.

Vice Chair Natarajan indicated the need to hold off on Item 8 due to time constraints, and asked for any closing questions.

Member Pierce stated that not all workers need to obtain a four year college degree and that better vocational training programs could lead to better jobs.

Member Combs said that a lot of people are taking advantage of new laws that let them operate businesses out of their own homes including food preparation.

Mr. **Terplan** mentioned that there is a HUD Economic Prosperity Working Group pilot project that encourages entrepreneur opportunities.

Vice Chair Natrajan adjourned the Regional Planning Committee at 3:05 PM

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the Regional Planning Committee will be on April 2, 2014.

Submitted:

Wally Charles

Date: February 19, 2014

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