

Regional Planning Committee Summary Minutes

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter – Auditorium

101 8th Street, Oakland, California

October 6, 2010

Members Present:

Shiloh Ballard, Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Andy Barnes, Policy Chair, Urban Land Institute
Patricia Boyle, Bay Area League of Women Voters
Dave Cortese, Supervisor, County of Santa Clara/RPC Chair
Pat Eklund, Councilmember, City of Novato
Juliet Ellis, Urban Habitat Program
Rose Jacobs Gibson, Supervisor, County of San Mateo/ABAG Immediate Past President
Mark Green, Mayor, City of Union City/ABAG President
Scott Haggerty, Supervisor, County of Alameda
John Holtzclaw, Sierra Club
Jennifer Hosterman, Mayor, City of Pleasanton
Janet Kennedy, Councilmember, City of Martinez
Charlie Knox, Director of Public Works & Community Development, City of Benicia
Jeremy Madsen, Executive Director, Greenbelt Alliance
Andrew Michael, Bay Area Council
Nate Miley, Supervisor, County of Alameda
Ross Mirkarimi, Supervisor, City and County of San Francisco
Nancy Nadel, Councilmember, City of Oakland
Julie Pierce, Vice Mayor, City of Clayton
Mark Ross, Councilmember, City of Martinez
Pixie Hayward Schickele, California Teachers Association
Linda Seifert, Supervisor, County of Solano
Egon Terplan, Regional Planning Director, SPUR
Beth Walukas, Manager of Planning, Alameda County Congestion Management Agency

Members Absent:

Susan Adams, Supervisor, County of Marin, ABAG Vice President
Susan Bonilla, Supervisor, Contra Costa County
Valerie Brown, Supervisor, County of Sonoma
Diane Dillon, Supervisor, County of Napa
Dan Furtado, Councilmember, City of Campbell
Kasie Hildenbrand, Councilmember, City of Dublin
Veronica Jacobi, Councilmember, City of Santa Rosa
Cheryl O'Connor, Acting CEO, Home Builders Association of Northern California
Harry Price, Mayor, City of Fairfield
A. Sepi Richardson, Councilmember, City of Brisbane/RPC Vice Chair
Carol Severin, Board of Directors, East Bay Regional Park District
Jim Spering, Supervisor, Solano County

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Staff Present:

Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director
Miriam Chion, ABAG Principal Planner
Marisa Raya, ABAG Regional Planner
Sailaja Kurella, ABAG Regional Planner
Justin Fried, ABAG Regional Planner
Dayle Farina, ABAG Administrative Assistant
Lisa Klein, MTC Senior Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order/Introductions

- Committee Chair Cortese called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes for August 4, 2010 Meeting

Approval of the minutes was moved by Committee Member Hayward Schickele and seconded by Committee Member Pierce.

Minutes of August 4, 2010, were approved as submitted.

4. Oral Reports/Comments

A. Committee Members

Committee Member Green reported that he recently attended the California Council of Governments (CALCOG). The roles of Executive Directors of CALCOG have changed and they will be taking a lower profile approach to advocacy.

Chair Cortese will take responsibility for getting discussion of this item onto the committee agenda or with the Executive Board relatively soon.

Committee Member Ellis announced that she will be transitioning out of the role of Executive Director of Urban Habitat and will be moving to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

Chair Cortese thanked Ms. Ellis for her service to the Regional Planning Committee and to regional government and wished her well in her new position.

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B. Staff

Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director, announced that the meeting agenda included three fairly hefty agenda items related to SB 375. Mr. Kirkey noted that it may not be possible to get to all of the agenda items.

Chair Cortese commented that much thought and discussion had been given to the agenda items. He would like us to get well into Item 6 along with Q & A.

5. INFORMATION: Sustainable Communities Strategy Performance Targets and Indicators

The regional agencies are taking a performance-based approach to developing the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Our goal is to build on and enhance the performance framework established in Transportation 2035 and Projections 2009, merging it with the Complete Communities and PDA Assessment framework of the FOCUS Program. Lisa Klein, MTC Senior Transportation Planner, and Marisa Raya, ABAG Regional Planner, outlined and then sought feedback on the proposed Targets and Indicators framework.

Committee Member Madsen commented that he doesn't think the alternative goal relating to the amount of development in the PDAs is a replacement for the preservation goal. He feels that it is a separate value, given the critical lands that are currently undeveloped.

Mr. Madsen also commented on the Indicators --*Health & Safety, Livability, and Quality of the Public Realm Indicators*. He would like the thoughts about quality to be applied to the environmental research and greenfield preservation indicators too. He indicated that agriculture also needs to be looked at as well as examining what is being produced on the land to ensure a thriving local food system.

Mr. Madsen further stated that the *Acres of Permanently Protected Conservation Land* indicator should track more closely to the goal.

Mr. Madsen asked if there is a designated contact to which future questions and comments on this topic may be directed.

Mr. Kirkey answered that either Ms. Raya or Ms. Klein may be contacted for information going forward.

Chair Cortese interjected that the County Leadership Roundtable meetings are underway and that dialog on any issues related to this topic are welcome in those meetings.

Committee Member Haggerty commented that he had a discussion with the new Executive Director Karen Engel of East Bay EDA (formerly known as EDAB) who mentioned to him that the East Bay Economic Development Alliance members don't feel included in the process. He emphasized that business groups need to be engaged in this process.

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Mr. Haggerty also commented on the Open Space component – he agrees with it. Cash Crops he supports too. He added that not every piece of land is productive. We also need to keep in mind that individuals own that land and that it needs to be economically viable for the owner.

Chair Cortese agreed with Committee Member Haggerty that his point on the agriculture piece and the viability for the owner is excellent and one that needs to be kept in the forefront as we move forward.

Committee Member Eklund asked if there is a list of members of the Ad Hoc Committee. She would like to see the list with the names of those on the committee and who has been attending the meetings.

Ms. Klein responded that the Ad Hoc Committee is a volunteer committee and that it is open to anyone interested in serving. She will make the distribution list available. The distribution is drawn from the Regional Advisory Working Group (RAWG), MTC's Policy Advisory Council and several organizations represented on the RPC involved as well.

Committee Member Eklund read that on August 18th staff had responded to the question, "What is the role of Local Governments?" and that Requirement #2 had been updated. She asked for explanation of Requirement #2.

Ms. Klein responded that the initial criteria for selecting targets stated that targets should be able to be influenced by the regional agencies. After some feedback it was more appropriate to modify the criteria so that it included the local agencies.

Committee Member Eklund noted that the issue of compliance as related to the SCS was not going to be a factor for SB 375. Ms. Eklund voiced concern on behalf of her community over the possibility of ABAG going in that direction and feels the need for further discussion on the matter prior to agreeing to any Targets or Indicators.

Ms. Eklund noted that in Marin County the cities do not feel it is appropriate for the CMAs to take a lead role in the development of the SCS. She also stated that there was not sufficient elected official buy-in from that County.

Ms. Eklund requested that someone at a regional level look at the individual communities' climate action plans to gain insight on steps they have proposed/taken that will contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Committee Member Eklund commented that the City of Novato supports affordable housing but does not support higher density and noted that not all communities have higher density in their vision.

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Ms. Eklund thinks we need to look at getting higher paying jobs in the communities where there is housing to reduce VMT. We should not be focusing on fiscalization of land use.

Ms. Eklund commented that a chart that shows the proposed targets to the indicators would be helpful.

Mr. Kirkey responded to Committee Member Eklund's points:

In response to the compliance issue, the law of SB 375 very specifically states that it does not require compliance from the local jurisdictions and there is nothing in the regional direction to change that. He stated that regional agencies will be working with local jurisdictions to look at the best places to take on growth, as well as what is needed to support compact growth that reduces vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

He stated that the original blueprint project was not successful in part because local jurisdictions did not believe they were a part of the process. The FOCUS process was different; all of the PDAs & PCAs were nominated by local government, so it's a very different approach.

Funding is being sought through two very large grant applications, which are pending. These funds would help the local jurisdictions in this process.

We will be looking at what local jurisdictions are doing around climate, generally. Many of the local Climate Action Plans don't deal with land use & transportation issues.

The employment issues will be covered in Item 7 of the Meeting Agenda.

Committee Member Nadel commented on the Equitable and Social Justice items. She voiced concern over the perpetuation of poverty and the lack of affordable housing. Ms. Nadel also thinks that input from local businesses and potential business owners is important about how to attract them to areas where there is already space developed. She also asked:

How do we measure increased bicycle ridership (for example)?

How do the people who live in the urban, higher density areas, which have the affordable housing, get to the open space in the suburban areas?

Committee Member Ballard commented on the RAWG meetings and thinks they are being handled very well.

Ms. Ballard supported Committee Member Madsen's comments on park space and quality, usable park space.

Ms. Ballard asked if the Subcommittee that has been meeting on this, has raised issues, indicators, targets which have been discussed that haven't made it onto the list. What made it or didn't make it onto the list and why?

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Ms. Raya responded that there hasn't been much consensus on any of the targets and they've only dropped, possibly one, from the list. Some of the targets have been moved over as indicators because they couldn't do a realistic job of modeling them. They expect to have a very lively meeting in a few weeks where they will attempt to come up with only ten targets. They have taken the discussion on the road, a bit, in order to get local government input on the process.

Ms. Klein added that what was presented today is a simplified list of a large range of targets which have been suggested to date. The goal is to reduce this to ten.

Committee Member Mirkarimi stated that San Francisco takes the SCS seriously. They took a look at the Leadership Roundtable attendees and decided who else should be included.

He also commented that the new poverty that is emerging, needs to be reflected in what it means to have housing and the expectation of job growth. He also said that enforcement and compliance for the SCS needs to be spelled out.

Committee Member Hosterman agrees that we need to have the discussion about compliance and what it means. Ms. Hosterman is also trying to understand the relationship between the Ad Hoc Committee and the County CMA-led SCS discussions. She'd like to hear more about the process.

Chair Cortese asked that staff inform the committee on how the SCS Leadership Roundtables are going.

Mr. Kirkey clarified the compliance piece. SB 375 requires that the SCS be adopted as part of the RTP. He explained the County Corridor Meetings and their purpose, as well as the purpose and make up of the RAWG.

Committee Member Ellis thinks the compliance and enforcement issues are very important. One of the issues is the lack of enforcement and compliance and buy-in from local jurisdictions. Ms. Ellis asked how we deal with the contradiction between the communities who support affordable housing yet show discontent when thinking of their communities with a higher density level. Ms. Ellis added that the Housing/Jobs balance needs to be looked at and asked where ABAG is as far as looking at an Equity Analysis tool.

Ms. Klein responded that they haven't really looked at equity analysis but have identified it as an issue that needs to be dealt with sooner than later.

Committee Member Green noted the following things which need to be measured:
Economic Health: Increase in the gross regional product; percentage of unemployment; percentage of poverty reduction.

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Land Preservation: It would be valuable for the Greenbelt Alliance and the Sierra Club to collaborate on compiling a list of what (in order) should be preserved or enhanced in both the urban as well as suburban/rural areas.

Committee Member Ross asked if the carbon fee or tax was still being considered.

Ms. Klein responded that the carbon fee is not related to the Targets discussion. However, when they look at scenarios they might test, it has not been determined if the carbon fee will be one of them.

Committee Member Holtzclaw commented on measuring walking and biking. There is not only the issue of measuring how you count it. It's a health benefit. How you measure and credit it is important.

Mr. Holtzclaw noted that there has been a lot of development of jobs in suburban areas since WWII. MTC should have measures determining how long the commutes are to those areas.

Committee Member Michael commented that under Economic Health there should be a target for the jobs/housing balance. This should be a continual measure and jobs/housing balance by community would be an important indicator for the SCS.

Chair Cortese thinks that the employment presentation needs to be brought in no later than December and before, if possible, without violating the Brown Act. He addressed Ken Moy, ABAG General Counsel on this issue.

6. INFORMATION: Priority Development Areas Assessment

Sailaja Kurella, ABAG Regional Planner, presented and sought RPC feedback on the preliminary findings on housing and job growth as well as the infrastructure needs estimated by local jurisdictions at Planned Priority Development Areas.

Chair Cortese interrupted the presentation to take immediate questions and comments and mentioned that additional questions and comments could be handled on a case-by-case basis after the meeting. However, due to Brown Act restrictions, they could not actually be discussed.

Chair Cortese commented that the citizens of San Jose appreciate that the infrastructure needs will be proportional to what was shown in the presentation.

Committee Member Pierce expressed her frustration on the limited discussion and no resolution to either subject brought to the table. She asked would it be reasonable to have a meeting in November. Ms. Pierce has CMA sub-committees who will begin meeting in December regarding SB 375 and she has no idea how to help them start their process.

Ms. Pierce asked if the FOCUS forum on jobs scheduled for the following morning would include the same information as the jobs piece which was scheduled for the meeting.

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Mr. Kirkey responded that it is similar. The presentation is a bit different and includes Committee Member Egon Terplan as a speaker.

Mr. Kirkey continued that the every-other-month structure of this committee presents some challenges and defers to leadership to make the appropriate changes in scheduling more meetings if they feel it is appropriate.

Committee Member Green stated that he believed that another meeting is warranted. Two things he would like brought out as a result of this meeting are: Define the value of one unit of housing to one job, and define the value of infrastructure needs to how many jobs it will create.

Chair Cortese suggested to Committee Member Green that he talk with Ezra Rapport, ABAG Executive Director, about getting the Administrative Committee together to discuss the RPC Schedule and adding additional meetings.

Committee Member Mirkarimi commented that he believes it is the job of this Committee to equip the jurisdictional bodies with the tools they need to do their job.

Chair Cortese: Reminded everyone to attend the GA October 21 at the San Jose Hilton.

7. INFORMATION: Regional Employment Framework for the Sustainable Communities Strategy

This item was deferred to a future meeting of the Regional Planning Committee.

ADJOURN:

Chair Cortese adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled on December 1, 2010.

Submitted by:

Dayle Farina

Administrative Assistant