

ABAG/MTC TASK FORCE MEETING  
NOTES JUNE 25, 2003

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**PROBLEMS**

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- Need to move to real issues - not fiscal policy, not governance structure
- Need a model for a regional plan - not local land use
- Need money - Feds?
- Look for ways to be more responsive to our regional constituents
- Must look at jobs, transportation, and housing to create a regional vision
- Must overcome bidding wars over commercial development
- Lack of affordable housing near jobs
- Lack of regional planning
- Need comprehensive regional planning beyond just transportation & land use
- MTC proportional representation is a problem
- Lack of local incentives to implement a regional vision
- Lack impact on the local level in the land use arena
- Must clearly define "transportation and land use link"
- Reduce or eliminate animosity & distrust
- Do a better job of educating our colleagues
- Provide incentives to local agencies for implementing regional action
- Need more effective regional governance (fragmentation of functions is inefficient - there is not a single voice & common purpose)
- ABAG should create a regional plan & and MTC's RTP should conform to it
- ABAG funding is an issue

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- Use collective Vision for the Bay Region to advise local agencies on implications of local decisions

- Improve internal communication between MTC and ABAG at both the staff and policy level
- Improve communication to the public by sharing what land use and transportation decisions are being made and by hearing what the public has to say
- Bay Region boasts the second worst commute in the U.S.
- Need a better comprehensive regional planning effort - housing, transportation, economy, land use, environment
- Cooperation is better than coercion - use incentives
- Respect local land use authority instead of overriding local decisions
- Be clear about the goals of a Vision
- Invite and engage local elected officials and the public on this Vision
- Look for ways to engage the public even more in the creation of the Vision
- Make sure there is a real commitment to change instead of stalling hoping this all will go away
- Consider who is sitting at the table - MTC board is not representative of the Bay Region
- Make government more efficient by avoiding duplication
- Make and enforce land use/transportation decisions from regional perspective without surrendering local land use authority - use incentives or punishments to achieve this
- Become a resource for local governments to provide a regional context for local land use decisions

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Lack of institutional connection between land use policy makers and transportation policy makers
- RTP could be used as an incentive to better land use decisions - ABAG could be the forum through which a consensus is be developed
- No need to combine agencies
- Don't get too involved with representation issues
- Failure of state fiscal relationship
- No forum for this region to deal with regional issues
- Not enough money for transportation funding MTC should do more
- Regional concurrence on projects like to BART to San Jose
- Impoverished discussions about regional & issues in the Bay Area

## PLUSSES and MINUSES

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### MTC

Tremendous capacity to fund infrastructure  
 One topic - single focus agency rec by Feds  
 Work to local level of CMA  
 Getting better at social equity issues  
 Managing transportation bureaucracy  
 Good coord with CMA's  
 It's a "bottoms up" organization  
 Administer transportation funds very effectively  
 Strong & success advocate for transportation funding

Bay Area Partnership - head role  
 Allocate funds in fair & equitable manner  
 Act decisively  
 Innovate Policies Rec Nationally

Big Project - Takes attention from other focus  
 Better relations with sister agencies  
 Too much bureaucracy  
 Need to listen to all - not just the "squeaky wheel"  
 Can be overly doctrinaire  
 Promote change in state fiscal policies  
 Need to do more to publicize what MTC does outreach  
 More public outreach & sensitivity to public concerns  
 Can be overly bureaucratic ... Do more innovative partnerships with government and business

### ABAG

Housing  
 Jobs  
 Projections  
 (Accurate) trend analysis  
 Regional projects done well  
 Excellent Services to local government  
 Many, many cities included with lots of dialogue  
 The tension of this effort is very healthy!  
 ABAG represents diversity of region  
 We discuss issues regionally  
 Asserts itself on regional policy issues  
 Proportional representation  
 Interregional planning effort  
 Staff open to new ideas

Don't promote well the work we do  
 Be more proactive with other Regional agencies  
 Housing Numbers have no "teeth"  
 Powerless  
 Hard to implement Regional ideas  
 Resource to local agencies for planning of Regional import  
 ABAG could do more of explaining its role on housing