



November 2, 2011

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Kathi Wiederhold

Subject: Item 5.a: Report from the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

Action Recommended: Re-appoint five CAC members whose terms expire at the end of the calendar year—Dick Beers, Gary Gillespie, Alexandre Lockfeld, Sarah Strand, and Edward Winter. Provide feedback and direction to staff regarding the CAC motion addressing intercity rail and transit.

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) held their regular meeting on October 20, 2011, with 12 voting members and the MPC liaison present. The main agenda item was to continue review and discussion, and make recommendations to the MPC, on the Draft Regional Transportation Plan. The committee also made recommendations to the MPC regarding re-appointment of five members whose terms expire at the end of the calendar year, and regarding the importance of intercity passenger rail and transit.

This memo includes two action items in addition to the information only report.

Re-Appointment of CAC Members

The CAC requests that the MPC reappoint Dick Beers, Gary Gillespie, Alexandre Lockfeld, Sarah Strand, and Edward Winter as members of the CAC, for a total of 14 voting members on the CAC. The current terms of these five members will expire on December 31, 2011. All five have indicated they are willing to serve another term. The bylaws allow reappointment: *“Members shall serve no more than two consecutive terms, unless so requested by the Metropolitan Policy Committee.”*

The CAC bylaws direct that the committee consist of at least 10 and not more than 15 members and allow appointment of an *ex officio* nonvoting member to serve as a liaison to MPC. Ron Kilcoyne is serving as liaison. Please refer to the attached list of members, which indicates the date of appointment and the date the term expires for each member.

Next month it will be seven years since the MPC appointed the initial members of the CAC. Turnover among the members was more common in the first three years of the

committee, but has slowed considerably in the last few years. A lot of maturing and seasoning has happened over the years, for both the committee as a whole and for staff serving the committee. Most members now serve out their terms. Some members have sought reappointment and these have been reappointed and continued to serve. The staggered terms allow for continuity, which is especially important given the steep learning curve for the complexities of transportation planning.

Although technically a vacancy occurs when the voting membership drops below 15 voting members, the practice has been to recruit periodically as needed to avoid dropping below the minimum of 10 members directed by the bylaws. This practical approach has worked well for several reasons. Recruiting periodically in an extensive way for a larger number of openings has been effective and efficient in terms of staff and committee resources, and in getting the word out to attract a good number of applicants. Extensive recruitments require significant staffing and funding resources. Bringing on several new members at once allows for efficient orientation in sessions with staff and also on the part of the committee at regular meetings.

CAC Recommendation

The committee discussed the pros and cons of re-appointing current members versus recruiting for new members. Members agreed on the value of a fresh perspective that a new member might bring. But, they felt more strongly about the value of members that have spent several years coming up to speed on the subject matter. The CAC unanimously recommended at their October 20, 2011 meeting that the Metropolitan Policy Committee reappoint Dick Beers, Gary Gillespie, Alexandre Lockfeld, Sarah Strand, and Edward Winter, each to serve another 3-year term.

Draft Regional Transportation Plan

Paul Thompson, Senior Planner, Lane Council of Governments, continued the review of the draft RTP that the CAC began at their September meeting. He started by reporting back on MPC's reaction to the CAC recommendation regarding the preference to physically separate pedestrians and bicycles from the flow of traffic. After considerable discussion, the CAC made another recommendation in response to the MPC's concern about the word "preferred" in the previous recommendation – refer to the attached draft minutes for the CAC recommendation. The RTP memo in this agenda packet carries forth this recommendation, includes further discussion on the topic, and asks for MPC direction.

The CAC moved on in their discussion to bring up more issues and pose more questions regarding the draft RTP. What is new in the draft and what had been carried over from the previous RTP? Will the next RTP update start four years after the Transportation System Plans are done? How soon will RTP policies would be updated once the local TSPs are adopted? What should the general public comment on that they can influence? Could comments from the CAC and others be useful to local jurisdictions as they develop their Transportation System Plans? We need to build a fire saying how important it is to fund passenger rail.

Several members questioned whether it was reasonable to release the draft RTP for public review and input when not all the current data was available. There was intense discussion and divergent sentiment about this issue, raising the question of whether the adoption of the RTP should be delayed. Refer to attached draft CAC minutes and the RTP memo in this agenda packet for discussion of this topic.

Comment on Draft RTP Objective #10: Rapid Passenger Rail

The CAC discussed the importance of drawing attention to the issue of passenger rail and the need for funding for passenger rail planning and service. Staff let them know that MPC had made rail a standing item on its monthly agenda and the draft RTP included a new objective related to rapid passenger rail and that the CAC could recommend modification of the language. The CAC unanimously supported a motion that stated "The CAC strongly endorses the importance of access to intercity passenger rail and bus transit for the Central Lane MPO area and encourages prioritizing of state and federal funding for those purposes." Staff requests feedback and direction from MPC regarding this motion.

Recommendation

Reappoint the five members whose current terms expire on December 31, 2011.
Provide feedback to staff regarding the CAC motion about intercity rail and transit.

Attachments

1. List of CAC Members
2. Minutes for the October 20, 2011, CAC Meeting