

Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting 3 - Summary
March 15, 2011

Welcome

Public Comment

- None.

Co-Chair Report

- Follow-up discussion about timeline and possible ballot measure
 - Several committee members asked that the CTAC 3 committee preserve the option for going to the ballot in August, they could recommend a smaller proposal to help “bridge the funding gap” between declining revenues in Bridging the Gap (BTG) and the General Fund
 - Additional work on a larger package at a later date would still occur
 - The goal is not to impact long-term BTG goals and its renewal, but rather sustain operations and maintenance at current levels and perhaps address some of the various master plan needs
 - Committee would need to make a recommendation to the Council by April, Council would need to act by early/mid May for the August ballot
 - Some committee members noted they weren't ready to go there yet, seemed like an aggressive timeline.
 - Would we look to BTG to help craft the measure? Or look at something new?
 - It was noted that a recommendation would focus on short-term needs and provide guidance to Council based on the committee's priorities
 - The committee starts making recommendations on the \$20 Vehicle Licensing Fee April 7, which could help inform a recommendation
 - Would like to see the discussion continued at the next meeting. If the group proposes something small in the near-term do we create confusion? Would like to preserve our options
 - Concerns were acknowledged that the Transit Master Plan would not be complete to inform recommendations for an August ballot measure
 - Many exciting things have happened since BTG was passed in 2006 – Bike and Pedestrian Master Plans – and people's transportation values may have shifted. Need to craft something that is flexible. The Parks Levy Opportunity Fund model was suggested. This would help ensure some funding was available for recommendations coming out of the Transit Master Plan process.
 - Do we give up our charge if don't provide firm direction to the Council? It feels like the committee is shirking our duty and sending the decision-making back to Council

- Question was asked of the committee – what do you need to make this decision?
Committee members asked for some guidance from Mayor and Council Staff – if the committee made a recommendation, would it go forward?
- Would like to have a better understanding of path forward/what is needed by the March 29th meeting?
- 2011 VLF handout distributed
- Revenue Options handout distributed
- Both documents were informational and will be discussed at future meetings

Community Engagement Plan Update

Prior to the meeting the committee commented on Survey themes. A revised version was presented to CTAC 3.

- There is some concern that people are going to get the survey call and automatically think it has something to do with the Alaskan Way Viaduct/Tunnel project. If we can emphasize in the intro that this work is focused on ‘The street, sidewalks, etc. in front of your house, work place, school, neighborhood’, not a big downtown capital project that would be wise.
- There was also concern about pitting one mode against another when asking about priorities and values. The example given was that by improving safety for the most vulnerable users (peds and bicyclists) then often safety of all modes is improved (this has happened in Portland with their Greenways—add a bike lane, landscaping, improve crossings and lower vehicle speeds—and all types of collisions decreased). This means that improving ‘safety’ is enough, it doesn’t have to be focused on ped, bike, transit, etc.
- Finally, folks generally thought that having a question based on geographical priorities would be advantageous. For various reasons, it helps them personalize the work, it could support the transit communities framework and would steer them away from thinking about mega projects that are always in the news.

The draft community engagement plan was also distributed for review and comment.

Bike, Pedestrian and Freight Plans

- Bicycle Master Plan
 - 5 year update is in the works
 - How far along are we in accomplishing our goals? Are we making realistic progress?
 - In regards to “facilities”, what are they exactly and how do they help support the population in general?
 - Point was made that we need to address arterial crossings.
- Pedestrian Master Plan
 - As a committee are we looking to fund the plans or make recommendations for specific projects?
 - Does the department have a prioritization system established? Do we need to second guess SDOT or can we trust that they have a system in place?
 - SDOT has worked hard to establish a fair system and get away from the “pick and choose” method.
- Freight Plan

- Suggestion was made that we should attend their next meeting and hear from them about priorities
- Question was asked about the ADA Audit
 - Where are we? Are we making progress?
 - We have catch up work to do, but setting up a time frame to complete that work
 - The ADA Audit/Work should be at the same level as other modal plans
- Questions about prioritization
 - What is the prioritization process? Are we meeting our carbon neutral goals? What are the tools to measure? How do we prioritize maintenance?

Other/Next Steps

- Follow-up question about the survey – how do we plan to test the question about taxing mechanisms? Can we ask this question?
- Confirm what percentage of the Bicycle Master Plan has been completed to date with \$15M expenditure
- Distribute survey questions for committee review and comment
- Email link to Transit Master Plan Briefing Book

Next meeting: March 29, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., Boards and Commissions Room (L-280), City Hall