

Meeting Minutes – Draft

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority
POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Tuesday, February 6, 2018; 1:30PM

1. PAC Business and Minutes

Attendance

Roll call. Mark Christoffells motioned and January meetings were approved.

March 13th Meeting Reminder

A reminder was made that the next PAC meeting is scheduled for March 13th in the Metro Board room. Given new members were added or replaced by alternates, attendance sheets will be provided with PAC Meeting materials. Metro will do its best to update materials every month. The PAC, however, should send changes in PAC attendees to Mero.

2. Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) Working Committee Updates

Jenna Hornstock, Executive Officer for TOC, reported that the TOC group now has two successful working group meetings that occur every other week. Materials for those meetings are distributed a week and a half in advance to allow meeting participants to review and share with other stakeholders. An initial draft of the policy is scheduled to be completed in April and updates will occur by May. The final policy will be completed by June.

3. Equity Platform

Overview and presentation

Therese McMillan introduced the importance of having equity at the forefront of the planning processes. The facts of the disparities are really undisputed. Transportation is a huge lever in providing access to jobs, housing, education, health, and safety; transportation is an essential component in allowing equitable outcomes. Measure M had an performance measures that looked at equity; the Long Range Transportation Planning (LRTP) committed very early to equity.

The Equity Platform has four pillars:

1. Define and measure
 - Need for common basis to build an equity agenda for Metro. Equity, then, may include race, class, age, gender, disability, and more and needs to be defined. Once defined, establish meaningful goals and shared commitment to action.
 - Need to define metric to evaluate outcomes including investment decisions. Equity metrics need to be at the forefront of decisions.
 - Important to allow opportunities for multi-sector perspectives to be part of the conversations
2. Listen and learn
 - Need to establish different forums to engage communities. LA is large in geographic size and some communities feel at the margins of equity conversations. What we need to do now is to create a way to reconcile these experiences.

- Community driven conversations are essential. There are good models that may be looked at. Equity board needs to be established to build the foundation for the forums.
 - Engage community-based organizations (CBO's) and local jurisdictions that serve the communities at the forefront
3. Focus and deliver
 - Metro is the transportation operator, planner, builder, and funder of transportation in LA and operations and maintenance can affect equity just as much as new construction
 - Transportation and land use affect neighborhoods through displacement and gentrification and this demands guided conversations with communities
 4. Train and grow
 - Need to establish methods to evaluate equity including data collection, measurement, and analysis
 - Metro needs to train its staff to approach equity conversations effectively through existing programs

Metro hopes to use the equity platform as a way to develop policies and practices moving forward. Metro PAC is essential in providing input to shape equity conversations.

Questions and Answers

Steve Lantz questioned about capacity increase regarding the slides Ms. McMillan shared. Ms. McMillan answered "technical capacity" rather than "funding capacity" was the point. Ms. Sotelo compliments Metro for inclusion of equity and community engagement. The equity platform will help shape policies in the future.

Ms. Ramirez lauded Metro for being proactive about equity. Nancy also expressed support, as well as support for building local government capacity and connecting CBO's to different organizations. Ms. Dodds echoed comments previously shared. Mr. Ramirez added that an analysis of economic impacts should be considered with gentrification conversation.

Mr. Cisneros questioned who would provide capacity augmentation for local governments. Ms. McMillan added that Metro wants to and is looking to work with all aspects of the private sector.

Mr. Behen asked whether video conferencing was available and Metro stated that may be a possibility.

Breakout Sessions

The PAC then moved into the breakout sessions. Four groups were created that answered the questions below:

1. To build an equity agenda, what are the different perspectives and priorities?
2. How can metro ensure equity considerations at the front end of planning?
3. Share ideas to seek out and involve a diverse range of voices.
4. How should PAC engage the equity platform?

Reports Back

All four groups reported back. Some groups felt it was difficult to stay within parameters of the conversation due to the weight of the conversation and others felt otherwise. Common themes discussed included the need to define equity, identifying socioeconomic statuses, improving

transparency, involving different voices, and working with CBO's to obtain community input.

Transcribed notes are attached to the end of this document.

4. PAC Announcements

Ms. Meaney discussed the PAC academy, classes where PAC members dive deeper into issues regarding the PAC. This program is scheduled to start in February. Ms. Honish also presented on a workshop regarding how transportation funding works to level the playing field for the discourse. Each session will take up to two hours accordingly.

Ms. Honish provided updates on Measure M Administrative Procedures—they were signed by CEO Phil Washington in February. They are a series of administrative procedures that are located online at theplan.metro.net. Fanny Pan is the coordinator who can field questions regarding the procedures. Ms. Honish also presented about a potential workshop regarding MSP procedures, tentatively scheduled for the beginning of March.

5. Public Comments

Ron Mila, coordinator of LA Funders collaborative interested in the intersection of building equitable communities, presented on a paper the LA funders commissioned. Their report helps define equity and is available online.

Meeting adjourned at 3:23PM.

PAC Break-Out Session for Equity Platform –

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1. To build an equity agenda, what are the different perspectives and priorities?

- Learn more about Metro Customers
 - Understand where riders are in LA County and the changing demographics
 - Define their priorities
 - Is it access, frequency, customer service, etc.?
 - Provide access to riders (hospitals, parks, etc.), not just mobility.
 - Always involve communities voices; be mindful of them even if they are not present
- Define equity and apply definition across the entire agency
 - King County's equity plan across the agency is a good example on how to involve community
 - Ensure meetings and materials are available in various languages
 - Recognize equity priorities might change based on geographic region
- Increase information sharing
 - Planning processes are unclear and do not discuss equity
 - Take explicit steps to mitigate racial profiling
 - Demonstrate how big money is influencing politics and projects.
- Learn and share history of Metro projects and identify which communities were excluded from the conversations and involve those voices.
 - Use CBO's to converse with the previously excluded communities and incorporate input
 - Involve various organizations to converse, such as disability-rights focused organizations
- Safety and policing processes need to be included in this process
 - Reach out to CBO's that advocate for civil rights and consult their expertise
- Continue input of multi-sector perspectives

2. How can Metro ensure equity considerations at the front end of the planning process?

- Improve transparency and clarity of projects and procedures
 - Create a Metro one-stop shop to disseminate information via COG's
 - Explicitly discuss how big picture thinking relates to smaller steps
 - Communicate timeline and processes during conversations and outreach
 - Create performance metric outputs with community input
 - Assessment tools for projects must explicitly consider race
 - Develop countywide assessment for transportation needs
- Develop strong and effective partnership with CBO's
 - CBO's need to be part of the conversation early on
 - Make these conversations accessible to other languages via CBO's
 - Allow CBO contracts and deliverables to be defined by CBO's

- Use CBO's to get front-line perspectives and opinions and to share information such as service changes, updates, and policies
- Recognize the difference between equity and equality and use equity as criterion for projects
 - Increase diversified communication
 - Ensure people in the conversation align with the mission and goals of project
 - Decision-making process must include equity as well as geographic equity
- Involve a broad range of stakeholders
 - Address who has not been served in the past and invite those communities to conversation
 - Create easier to use platforms that make finding Metro-related information easier
 - It could be as easy as consulting work out and allowing organizations to do that work
- Use data to create more fact-based approaches
 - Promote facts via heat maps and abandon emotion-based conversations
 - Be cognizant of socioeconomic information
 - Create historic geographic maps of services and projects and contrast them to desired outcomes
- Take steps to diminish racial profiling

3. Share ideas to seek out and involve a diverse range of voices.

- Continue collaboration with other organizations to include different voices
 - Use CBO's and social service organizations to communicate with passengers and include their input before the start of projects
 - Forge partnerships between COG's and chambers of commerce
- Make process relatable to communities by prioritizing affected communities
 - Use available resources such as riders and CBO's.
 - Involve CBO's, disability groups, and use their expertise to develop community surveys
 - Create focus groups of parents, students, older age to get feedback
 - Translate experience of others into equity issues meaning
- Diversify outreach approaches
 - Use existing spaces where people convene and ask for community input
 - Use simple videos in different languages
 - Translate experience of others into equity issues
 - Different outreach options for busy people

4. How should PAC engage the equity platforms?

- Engage all the county for diverse and expansive perspectives
 - Make CBO's and COG's work together when providing input for PAC
- Consult with other organizations for best practices
 - Identify CBO's that can represent the community better and do better outreach
 - Partner with other organizations for different work
 - Incorporate the member experience

- Check in regularly with PAC
 - Use PAC members as ambassadors/champions for projects
 - Be interactive with PAC members
 - Receive regular advise on engagement tools
- Pay attention to “color of money”
- Make clear the investments that are coming to entice people to attend meetings
 - Respect people’s time however. Provide various times for meetings, childcare, and materials in different languages.
- Words of caution: What can Metro do about gentrification?
 - Use LRTP influence to change “Free market”
 - Train staff to have this conversation