



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

September 19, 2016

5:00 p.m.

TAM Conference Room
900 Fifth Avenue, Suite 100
San Rafael, CA 94901

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: V-Anne Chernock, Northern Marin Planning Area
Peter Pelham, Major Marin Employers
Joy Dahlgren, Central Marin Planning Area
Paul Roye, Ross Valley Planning Area
Robert Burton, Southern Marin Planning Area
Scott Tye, West Marin Planning Area
Vince O'Brien, Bicyclists and Pedestrians Groups
Kate Powers, Environmental Organizations
Allan Bortel, Marin County Paratransit Coordinating Council

Alternates Present: Jayni Allsep, Southern Marin Planning Area
Nancy Okada, Environmental Organizations
Kay Noguchi, League of Women Voters

Staff Members Present: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director
Li Zhang, Chief Financial Officer
Derek McGill, Planning Manager
Grace Zhuang, Accounting and Administration Specialist

Chairperson V-Anne Chernock called the Citizens' Oversight Committee meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

1. Introductions and Welcome

No introductions were made.

Item #3 was taken out of order.

3. TAM Staff Report (Information)

Executive Director (ED) Steinhauser discussed various options for the relocation of Bettini Transit Center, and announced an upcoming public workshop on the subject. She noted that TAM is considering at its Board meeting this week the approval of funds for the environmental review, with Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District as the lead agency. She also indicated that the Board will be discussing the potential re-use of federal earmarked funds.

ED Steinhauser and other staff also responded to questions/comments from the Committee regarding the need for a scoping meeting, and she confirmed that San Rafael and Marin Transit will be involved in the process. Concerns have been expressed by Member Scott Tye regarding transit connections that will be needed near the SMART station and whether the EIR (environmental impact report) will address all the scenarios.

ED Steinhauser continued her report, discussing with the Committee first and last mile options for SMART riders. Member Peter Pelham discussed his employer, Bank of Marin's plan to provide a shuttle service and ED Steinhauser noted that SMART cancelled their shuttle program for financial reasons. ED Steinhauser also discussed types of bike share programs, potential shuttle options, pedestrian issues, a parking study, wayfinding for parking, new technologies that can assist the commuters, and the need for a good, safe infrastructure. She also discussed plans for an Innovations workshop as part of the Strategic Vision Program Outreach Effort in January/February, which she hopes COC members will attend.

2. Review and Approval of July 18, 2016 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Member Robert Burton moved to approve the July 18th minutes. Member Vince O'Brien seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

4. Review the Request of Using Bond Reserve for Local Streets and Roads Projects (Discussion)

ED Dianne Steinhauser gave a background summary on the subject, specifically noting that TAM has uncommitted sales tax funds which some are suggesting could be used for local streets and roads projects. She also discussed the origin of the monies – Measure A Sales Tax interest revenue, bond reserves for the cash flow needs of capital projects, and reserves from the agency's overall sales tax program (set aside for financially challenging years), and she indicated staff is currently researching the legal aspects, which will then be discussed with the TAM Board.

The Committee briefly debated which roads were better – in the County or in the cities, and which city was best. In response to a question from the Committee, ED Steinhauser commented on options of how the money would be disbursed among the jurisdictions, and she acknowledged that however much TAM allots, the need will be greater than what is available, and each agency will have to prioritize their potential projects.

The Committee discussed the need for coordination among various agencies (including utility companies) regarding work that is needed and how to minimize disruption to the community and reduce the number of times a road needs to be repaved. Concerns were also expressed that using the reserve funds for routine local streets and roads needs could jeopardize future capital projects that could provide more effective impacts.

There was also discussion about aging of the population and ensuring there is enough public transit options (and enough education on how to use them). ED Steinhauser agreed, noting that streets need to be maintained for bikes, transit and emergency vehicles, and suggested that reserves could be used for maintenance programs. Other issues raised included qualifying criteria for use of the funds, equity among the jurisdictions and project needs, and whether the size of the project should give a local jurisdiction higher priority. It was pointed out, however, that changing which type of projects can receive funds in a particular category would require a restructuring and amendment of the Measure A Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan.

ED Steinhauser expressed her intention to bring this topic back to the Committee for further discussion, including information on the Expenditure Plan structure and requirements.

5. Strategic Vision Plan Outreach and Initial Vision development (Discussion)

Planning Manager Derek McGill presented the staff report, beginning with a review of the information he shared with the COC, which was back in March of this year, when he discussed existing conditions of Marin's transportation, including congestion hotspots and highest transit-use sites. He gave an

overview of the background, purpose and goals for the plan, and outreach to the public and jurisdictions. Mr. McGill also discussed the \$1.4 billion in identified needs, the \$890 million road maintenance funding shortfall over a 23-year period, estimated by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). Mr. McGill discussed the rapidly growing transportation needs of the County since the previous Vision Plan and the estimated shortfall of \$1.2 billion for transit capital, also estimated by MTC, and the decline in federal and state transportation funding. He noted that a survey has been launched on the website - gettingaroundmarin.com, which was designed to reach more people for input into transportation issues and priorities. There were helpful ideas from the COC about ways of advertising the survey. He also discussed the next steps in the process, and he asked the Committee for their input on the projects and they would like to see funded over the next 23 years. Mr. McGill asked the members for feedback prior to September 29. He then discussed future projects that currently have no funding, including the Hwy 101-580 interchange.

Mr. McGill and ED Steinhauser responded to questions and comments from the Committee regarding how funds are distributed for PDA (Priority Development Area) and TOD (Transportation-Oriented Development) projects. Discussions took place on the reasons why TAM would consider funding public parklands and trails (including watershed improvements) and the amount of trash along the highways through Marin County. Mr. McGill asked the COC members to e-mail him their ideas and inputs.

6. Discussion of Next Meeting Date and Recommended Items for the Agenda

The next meeting was set for November 7, from 3:00pm to 8:00pm, with the second part of the workshop from 3:00pm to 6:30pm and COC meeting from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. Potential topics were discussed, such as the Major Roads, Safe Routes to School and TDM.

7. Open Time for Public Input

As no one wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.