



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

May 15, 2017

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
Allan Bortel, Marin County Paratransit Coordinating Council
Scott Tye, West Marin Planning Area
Kate Powers, Environmental Organizations
Pamela Gach, League of Women Voters
Paul Premo, Taxpayer Group

Alternates Present: Jeffrey Olson, Central Marin Planning Area
Jayni Allsep, Southern Marin Planning Area

Staff Members Present: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director
Li Zhang, Chief Financial Officer
Molly Graham, Public Outreach Coordinator
Grace Zhuang, Accounting and Administration Specialist

Chairperson V-Anne Chernock called the Citizens' Oversight Committee meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Introductions and Welcome

Chairperson Chernock indicated there was a new member of the Committee, Jeff Olson, alternate for the Central Marin Planning Area. Introductions were made around the room.

Executive Director (ED) Dianne Steinhauser administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Olson, and renewal oaths to Chairperson Chernock, Vice-Chairperson Peter Pelham and Member Joy Dahlgren.

2. Review and Approval of March 20, 2017 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Chief Financial Officer Li Zhang reviewed changes to the minutes that she had received from different Committee members, noting that Member Allan Bortel had not been at the meeting.

Member Scott Tye moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Alternate Jeff Olson seconded the motion since Member Dahlgren was not at the last meeting and elected not to vote. The minute was approved unanimously.

3. TAM Staff Report (Information)

ED Steinhauser began her report with a discussion of current issues with the Novato SMART (Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit) station, providing background history, other sites considered, recent interest, funding issues, competing interests, actions/decisions of the Novato City Council, recusal of one Councilmember, and the deadline for assigning the TAM allocations.

Member Bortel asked whether the TAM funds will enable the city to complete their projects, and ED Steinhauser discussed the phasing of the project and funding details. Chairperson Chernock noted as well that there were at least twenty members of the public who spoke in support of proceeding with the project, and three or four against it. She indicated the community was concerned because the Council made the decision to approve the project originally and now is reconsidering.

In response to an additional question, Chairperson Chernock confirmed the proposed location for the station, including the improvement of an existing structure for the station, which is right next to the railroad tracks. ED Steinhauser noted that federal funds cannot be used for the project unless it is fully funded.

ED Steinhauser updated the Committee on other SMART news, including the status of the at-grade crossings, the beginning of the final testing, and potential starting of service, readiness of the various transit operators, cooperation with Lyft service to offer ride incentives for first and last mile connection, an earlier plan to subsidize bus shuttles to/from SMART, which would be too expensive, and Whistlestop participation for ADA needs.

ED Steinhauser also responded to questions from the Committee regarding registration requirements for using Lyft, whether a user can call ahead to request either Lyft or Whistlestop before the end of a trip, advertising, whether first/last mile service will include Larkspur Landing, data collection requirements for Lyft, bus service connections between SMART and Marin Transit, potential cooperation from major employers who may offer shuttle service to/from SMART as well as employer matching contributions, and the EcoPass program..

ED Steinhauser briefly discussed potential car-share pods at the Whistlestop building site, Sonoma and Marin Counties' joint pursuit of a grant for a bike share pod at several stations. Member Tye commented on a recent accident involving one of the Stagecoach vehicles, as well as continued road closures on portions of Highway 1 and Highway 101. He expressed concern about the traffic impacts, given the level of summer traffic in and around the Four Corners intersection. In response to a follow-up question from one of the other Committee members, Member Tye discussed liability if a death should occur as a result, and he reviewed possible precautionary measures he thought should be taken.

ED Steinhauser said she would contact Member Tye if Marin Transit provides more information on the accident.

4. Update of Sales Tax Renewal Status and Process (Discussion)

ED Dianne Steinhauser presented the staff report, including the possibility of raising the sales tax ceiling for towns and cities in the county, discussions with local jurisdictions regarding other tax measures that may be under consideration at upcoming elections, current public polling regarding the possibility of renewing or extending Measure A, formation of an Expenditure Advisory Plan Committee, public outreach, and next steps in the process.

ED Steinhauser also discussed with the Committee questions/comments regarding the impacts from the passage of SB 1 and/or if the state legislature approves an increase in bridge tolls, the recently-released Plan Bay Area 2040 Update and the lack of data related to Marin County, adjusted RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Assessment) numbers that will be part of the 2021 update, concerns expressed by the County and unincorporated areas regarding population and jobs growth estimates, and the number of school-age drivers who use single-occupancy vehicles.

ED Steinhauser reviewed the current status of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge project and its projected opening in November 2017, and improvements to bridge approaches from Sir Francis Drake and Bellam. She also responded to questions/comments regarding the cost breakdown for the

improvements to East Francisco, possible ramp metering (for which funding is still needed), and potential changes to HOV hours, noting that TAM has no say in the matter, although the Board has expressed their concerns.

The Committee recessed for dinner break for fifteen minutes.

5. Review of the Draft TAM FY2017-18 Annual Budget (Discussion)

Ms. Zhang discussed the budget process, review by the Executive Committee, release for public comment/review, upcoming public hearing, and the TAM's Board's final review and adoption of the FY2017-18 budget. She reviewed the attachments to the staff report, budget categories, fee schedule, eventual addition of the TAM detailed workplans before its final presentation, total revenue estimates; and federal, state and local fund sources for TAM.

Ms. Zhang also responded to questions/comments from the Committee relating to changes in revenue amounts from year to year, improvements to the economy, funding from Measure A, MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) as well as federal funding that doesn't go through TAM, and how one could determine those amounts by using the RTP (Regional Transportation Plan).

Ms. Zhang further reviewed the expenditure side of the budget, comparisons with the last four-year budget cycle, estimated expenditures for each category, how/why the amounts change from year to year, TAM's transition to an independent accounting system, changes to the organizational chart, salary survey among similar agencies leading to a request to the Board for a COLA (cost-of-living) salary increase for all employees, expected project priorities for the coming year, Measure A sales tax estimates, crossing guard program cost increases, funds still being held for outstanding project costs, Transportation Demand Management (TDM) element, and the Transportation Fund for Clean Air program.

Ms. Zhang discussed with the Committee several questions/comments regarding TAM's salary schedule format, step increases for the various positions, decrease in the amount budgeted for Safe Routes to Schools program, how fund "swaps" affected budget estimates versus actual amounts, NTPP (Non-motorized Transportation Pilot Program) funds remaining, how long the Lyft subsidy program will last, expected costs for TAM's management of the 511 program, and the scope of work for the interagency agreement with Larkspur for the East San Francisco/Drake improvement project.

Ms. Zhang indicated that copies of the PowerPoint report are available for those who are interested.

6. TAM FY2016-17 Third Quarter Financial Report (Information)

Ms. Zhang stated that revenue amounts for the fiscal year are on track as expected and requests for various funding reimbursements/payments should increase in the next quarter. Ms. Zhang said that the investment return percentage is also as expected.

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

The next date was set for July 17th, and an update on the EV (electric vehicle) infrastructure was requested.

8. Open Time for Public Input

As no members of the public wished to speak, the meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.