

MEETING OF THE  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN  
PROGRAMMING AND PROJECTS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
October 9, 2017  
2:00 p.m.



TAM CONFERENCE ROOM  
900 FIFTH AVENUE  
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA

**MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Mill Valley City Council, TAM Chair  
Alice Fredericks, Town of Tiburon  
Diane Furst, Corte Madera Town Council  
Eric Lucan, Novato City Council  
Katie Rice, County of Marin Board of Supervisors  
Kathrin Sears, County of Marin Board of Supervisors

Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director  
Bill Whitney, Deputy Executive Director  
Dan Cherrier, Principal Project Delivery Manager  
David Chan, Manager of Programming & Legislation  
Derek McGill, Planning Manager  
Li Zhang, Chief Financial Officer  
Molly Graham, Public Outreach Coordinator  
Nick Nguyen, Principal Project Delivery Manager  
Scott McDonald, Senior Transportation Planner

*Chair Stephanie Moulton-Peters called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.*

**1. Chair’s Report** (Discussion)

Chair Moulton-Peters indicated she had nothing to report.

**2. Commissioner Comments** (Discussion)

None given.

**3. Executive Director’s Report** (Discussion)

Executive Director (ED) Dianne Steinhauser commented on the fires currently burning in the region and expressed hope that the situation will soon improve. Commissioner Furst asked about ways people can help. Commissioner Sears reviewed opportunities that are available, including the Marin Exhibition Hall being used as an evacuation shelter as well as online information about the fire and the most pressing needs.

ED Steinhauser reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for the rest of the year; the work of the Expenditure Plan Advisory Committee thus far, anticipated meeting schedule for the duration of the group and expected update that

will be provided to the Board in December shortly after the group's development of Draft Expenditure Plans is complete; a presentation she made at the Marin Conservation League Transportation Committee meeting, an invitation to present to the MCL Climate Action Group, and an upcoming North-South Greenway Gap Closure project meeting (for which she encouraged commissioners from Corte Madera and Larkspur to attend) to discuss the bike projects in the Greenbrae area.

ED Steinhauser also noted that on the dais were copies of a letter she and MTC representative Damon Connolly wrote regarding a complaint to MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) about placing housing production conditions on eligibility to receive STIP (State Transportation Investment Program) funds, issues involved, and actions that could result related to the overall purpose and process. She concluded with a discussion of MTC policy changes upcoming regarding the MTC share of State Transit Assistance funding, noting she has been working with Nancy Whelan from Marin Transit to determine how to proceed.

#### **4. Open Time for Public Expression**

Cindy Winter commented on potential problems with driverless cars, especially the eventual loss of "hands-on" which no longer requires the driver's hands on the wheel, the risk of driver fatigue, the increasing size of cars, the invisibility of some modes of traffic in the car's sensors, and potential roadway conflicts that could result from interactions with normal vehicles. She expressed confidence that the failings will eventually be fixed, but she acknowledged the need to be sure they are corrected before the use of self-driving cars becomes more widespread. She reviewed necessary steps that she thought would be most important.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes from June 12, 2017 (Action)**

Commissioner Furst moved to approve the minutes of June 12, 2017. Commissioner Lucan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

#### **6. Programming of 2017 TFCA and TDA Article 3 Funds (Action)**

ED Steinhauser indicated that Dave Chan, Manager of Programming and Legislation, and Scott McDonald, Senior Transportation Planner, would be presenting the staff report that asked the Committee to recommend to the full Board to Approve project priorities as shown in the staff report for the 2017 Multi-Fund Call for Projects, programming TFCA and TDA Article 3 funds. The Executive Director provided some background information on the TFCA (Transportation Funds for Clean Air) and TDA (Transportation Development Act) Article 3 funds.

Mr. McDonald began the report, discussing the yearly allocation of funds, purpose of the funds, the process, types of projects that are eligible, the "Call for Projects" issued by TAM, number of applications received and from whom, a brief summary of the types of projects and amounts requested for each, review by TAM's Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and the staff recommendation for funding. ED Steinhauser further discussed design and construction costs for San Rafael's Multi-Use Pathway project, as well as other potential fund sources. Mr. McDonald confirmed that the TAM Board had previously committed some of the funds in its OBAG2 program actions in mid-2016, so the total funds available were about \$350,000.

Commissioner Furst asked for further clarification on the timing of the Multi-Use Path from Second Street to Andersen Avenue project, and Mr. McDonald explained that SMART wants to coordinate work on the MUP with the work that will occur to extend SMART to Larkspur. ED Steinhauser acknowledged there are challenges with

the timing, although SMART's General Manager Farhad Mansourian had said it might be possible to use SMART's contractor in order to realize some savings on the project. Ultimately, she indicated it would probably take a group effort for the funding to work, and even then, it will not occur, most likely, until late spring or summer 2018.

Chair Moulton-Peters commented on the benefit that Mill Valley will realize from the completion of the project, as well as similar small projects in other jurisdictions with similar projects. She expressed her support for the staff recommendation.

Chair Moulton-Peters opened public comment on the item.

Cindy Winter expressed agreement with the Chair regarding the benefit from completing several small projects and combining funding to maximum advantage.

Seeing no further speakers, Chair Moulton-Peters closed public comment on the item.

Commissioner Furst moved to approve the project priorities as shown in Attachment B for the 2017 Multi-Fund Call for Projects, programming TFCA and TDA Article 3 funds. Commissioner Lucan seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

#### **7. Budget Increase for the TAM Junction Program (Action)**

ED Steinhauser introduced the item that requested the Committee to recommend to the full TAM Board to Support construction cost increases for the Tam Junction Project associated primarily with unanticipated site conditions and to approve additional funding. She noted the staff report would be presented by Dan Cherrier, Principal Project Delivery Manager. She reviewed the background of the project, how the project had evolved, collaboration with Caltrans' sidewalk improvement project, construction delays, and anticipated cost increases.

Mr. Cherrier discussed the project boundaries, connection to the existing Class 2 bike lane on Almonte, rationale for the improvements, demographics, congestion in the area, physical constraints, funding, estimated completion date, and additional cost estimates.

Chair Moulton-Peters asked about funding from the Safe Pathways program, which ED Steinhauser confirmed would be, essentially, borrowed from future funding.

Commissioner Sears expressed appreciation for the presentation, especially for the demonstration of how well the Safe Pathway funding suits the project. She also noted that this project would be a good one to review and clarify the lessons learned from the process. She expressed support for the project overall.

Mr. Cherrier pointed out how the approval process is different for Caltrans' large projects from small ones in that coordination with Caltrans occurs at the project's end and including adjustments during construction. Commissioner Rice questioned whether the differences could be clarified for Caltrans to better understand the inefficiencies and improve the process for similar circumstances.

Commissioner Furst added that the issue of rainwater runoff should be analyzed further as well.

Chair Moulton-Peters opened public comment on the item.

Cindy Winter expressed appreciation for the clarity of the discussion.

Seeing no further speakers, Chair Moulton-Peters closed public comment on the item. She thanked Commissioner Sears for her efforts, as well as TAM staff.

Commissioner Sears moved to approve the staff recommendation, and Commissioner Furst seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Staff briefly discussed next steps in the process.

*Commissioner Lucan left the meeting at 3:05 p.m.*

#### **8. Travel Monitoring and Reporting Update and Consider Adoption of Draft 2016 Transportation Report (Action)**

ED Steinhauser introduced the item that asked the Committee to recommend to the full TAM Board to accept the Draft 2016 Transportation System Monitoring Report for Marin County, and to recommend acceptance by the Board. She reviewed TAM's reporting requirements as the congestion management agency (CMA) for Marin.

Planning Manager Derek McGill reviewed the report for the current period, comparing it to the previous one, peak periods, bike/ped facilities, weekend/weekday counts, level of service (LOS) for various locations, HOV lane information, and conclusions or corrections that can be made.

Commissioner Sears asked for clarification on the AM and PM peak hours, which Mr. McGill summarized as 7:00-9:00 a.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m. In response to other questions from the Committee, Mr. McGill commented on changes from the previous reporting period, average speeds, trends, areas of concern, cumulative effects, and highways versus surface streets.

ED Steinhauser acknowledged the frustration between reporting existing conditions as opposed to the corrections or improvements that need to be made. There was general discussion between staff and the Committee regarding the effect of lowering speed limits on different roadway types and potential erroneous conclusions, as well as the need to clarify the conclusions for public understanding. Specific roadways were discussed with regard to level of service improvements and declines over time. Staff also clarified how the data was collected and the age of the information. Mr. McGill indicated that not all of the 2016 data has been incorporated into the data, and he promised to let the Committee know when it has been done.

Mr. McGill reviewed the areas of greatest congestion, as well as more recent transit trends in the region. ED Steinhauser asked, and Mr. McGill confirmed that the lower ratings for alternative transit could be a result of ridership capacities being reached with no provision for increasing capacity. Commissioner Rice also commented on potential improvements from service changes implemented by Golden Gate Transit and Marin Transit.

Commissioner Furst asked if data was available relative to Uber and Lyft services affecting transit ridership similar to those experienced by Golden Gate and Marin Transit. Mr. McGill confirmed it was likely to be consistent across transit operators.

Mr. McGill concluded with a review of bicycle/pedestrian counts and conclusions noting that during peak hours bike counts were up 31 percent on the weekdays and 18 percent on weekends since 2007. Responding to a question from Commissioner Rice, Mr. McGill reported that the counts were done on Wednesday and Thursdays in October. Commissioner Rice noted she was surprised at the high volume of traffic, given the counts were done on a weekday.

Chair Moulton-Peters opened public comment on the item.

In response to a question from Ms. Winters regarding how the counts were made, Mr. McGill indicated that tubes were placed in the roadway for vehicles. Mr. McGill pointed out where in the report the bicycle/pedestrian data was located and he added that much of the data analysis cited in the staff report were the work of the MTC intern from this summer.

Seeing no further speakers, Chair Moulton-Peters closed public comment on the item.

ED Steinhauser commented on expanded information that was included in the report this year, and she also discussed supplemental information that will be included in upcoming reports.

Commissioner Furst asked about references in the presentation to Tiburon Boulevard (State Route 131) she noted that the count had been done in the area from Redwood Highway to Strawberry. She noted that there is often backup to the west of Redwood Highway heading over the freeway on the way to Tiburon, so she questioned whether the counts for this area captured that. Mr. McGill referred the group to the staff report to clarify that the counts were done in the area of Strawberry and Trestle Glen which did show high volumes in the a.m. peak period thereby confirming Commissioner Furst's observation. He added that additional counts could be conducted in this area in the future.

Commissioner Furst moved to accept the Draft 2016 Transportation System Monitoring Report for Marin County, and to recommend acceptance by the Board. Commissioner Sears seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.*

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