



DATE: January 25, 2018

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Support Letter on the Marin Narrows from TAM to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (Action), Agenda Item No. 9f

RECOMMENDATION

Review and approve sending the attached letter to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission encouraging funding for Marin’s portion of the Marin-Sonoma Narrows (MSN).

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) along with Caltrans will be submitting candidates to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for an SB1 grant program entitled “Solutions for Congested Corridors.” This grant cycle will include programming \$1 Billion over the next four years for ready-to-go projects that reduce congestion. Beginning in August, TAM staff promoted the Marin portion of the Narrows to be included in this Congested Corridors grant cycle. The grant cycle covers the period of FY17-18 through FY20-21. MTC and Caltrans agreed that both the Sonoma portion and the Marin portion of the MSN would fit within the grant timeframe. However, in December 2017, because of other projects that are “ready to go” sooner, Caltrans, and now MTC have stepped away from supporting the Marin portion of the Narrows. They continue to support the Sonoma portion of the Narrows and are pledging to consider future state funding cycles under this Congested Corridors program for funding the project in Marin. With the project ready to start construction in April 2020, the Marin project fits within the eligibility requirements of this program.

TAM staff understand there are other projects in the Bay Area that will be “ready to go” sooner. Nonetheless, staff recommends the attached letter be sent to MTC requesting that our project be considered for a contingency list should funds become available under the Congested Corridors program or our project be a priority for full funding under Regional Measure 3 if approved by voters in June of 2018. Note the following that supports TAM’s request:

- Both the Marin and Sonoma portion of the Narrows are mentioned in the SB1 legislation as being eligible for these funds.
- SB595, which directs what is to be included in RM3, contains sufficient funding to complete the Marin portion of the Narrows.

TAM will need to identify additional funding to complete the design and right-of-way activities leading up to the construction start date of April 2020. Staff will bring recommendations to the Board over the next six months as to how to achieve this and make the project shelf ready.

In the meantime, staff believe it prudent to continue to highlight this project at MTC for future consideration of state funds and or prioritization for early funding under RM3.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENT

A: Letter to MTC Chair regarding Support for Marin Portion of the Marin Sonoma Narrows Project



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January 26, 2018

The Honorable Jake Mackenzie, Chair
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Belvedere
James Campbell

Dear Chair Mackenzie:

Corte Madera
Diane Furst

The Transportation Authority of Marin requests that the MTC Commission consider the placement of the Marin portion of the Marin Sonoma Narrows (MSN) on an MTC contingency list for the SB1 Solutions for Congested Corridors program. In addition, we request that MTC consider prioritizing funding for this project under the Regional Measure 3 (RM3) Toll program when that is approved by voters. TAM recognizes and appreciates the MTC support for the Sonoma portion of the corridor but the Narrows will not be complete and significant congestion will remain until the Marin portion of the MSN is completed as well.

Fairfax
John Reed

Larkspur
Dan Hillmer

Mill Valley
Stephanie Moulton-Peters

The Narrows has a distinct advantage in being able to be completed quickly because it has an approved EIR and EIS, design is underway, and there is no controversy in either county over the need to build the project. TAM recognizes there are other important projects in the Bay Area that are being recommended under MTC's submittal into the Congested Corridors program. TAM is appreciative of the project in Sonoma proceeding. But the needs, especially of our business community in the movement of goods and labor within this corridor, necessitate that the Marin segment be completed as well. We have been working in partnership with Caltrans, the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, and our partners to the north in Mendocino and beyond for over 20 years to make this highway widening a reality. Serving as a vital link from the Redwood Empire to the Bay Area, it is paramount that we complete the entire corridor.

Novato
Eric Lucan

Ross
P. Beach Kuhl

San Anselmo
Brian Colbert

San Rafael
Gary Phillips

Sausalito
Ray Withy

TAM appreciates MTC's attention, in the staff reports, on this project's continuing to remain a priority need. To that extent, we are continuing to invest local funds to get the project ready to construct. We want to continue to coordinate closely on any future funding including SB1 and RM3 to bring this project to completion.

Tiburon
Alice Fredericks

We look forward to a favorable response on prioritizing this project for all eligible future funding.

County of Marin
Damon Connolly
Katie Rice
Kathrin Sears
Dennis Rodoni
Judy Arnold

Sincerely,

Stephanie Moulton-Peters
Chair

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