

MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
TAM

July 8, 2019
3:30 PM

900 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 100
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA



MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Alice Fredericks, Tiburon Town Council, TAM Vice-Chair
Damon Connolly, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Brian Colbert, San Anselmo Town Council
Dan Hillmer, Larkspur City Council
Kathrin Sears, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Gary Phillips, San Rafael City Council
Eli Beckman, Corte Madera Town Council (Alternate)
Dennis Rodoni, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Eric Lucan, Novato City Council
Renee Goddard, Fairfax Town Council (Alternate)
Judy Arnold, Marin County Board of Supervisors, TAM Chair
Susan Cleveland-Knowles, Sausalito City Council
Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Mill Valley City Council
Katie Rice, Marin County Board of Supervisors

Members Absent:

James Campbell, Belvedere City Council
P. Beach Kuhl, Ross Town Council

Staff Members Present:

Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director
Bill Whitney, Principal Project Delivery Manager
Dan Cherrier, Deputy Executive Director
David Chan, Manager of Programming and Legislation
Derek McGill, Planning Manager
Grace Zhuang, Accounting and Administration Specialist
Helga Cotter, Senior Accountant
Molly Graham, Public Outreach Coordinator
Nick Nguyen, Principal Project Delivery Manager
Scott McDonald, Senior Transportation Planner

Chair Arnold called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

1. Chair's Report (Discussion)

Chair Arnold stated that the meeting of the board today was to handle necessary business of the agency. The meeting scheduled for July 25 has been reserved for interviewing candidates for the executive director position. She noted that the time for the July 25 meeting had been changed to 2:00 PM and staff will confirm the venue as the meeting date grows closer.

Chair Arnold and ED Steinhauser welcomed Eli Beckman as the new alternate TAM Commissioner representing the Town of Corte Madera. ED Steinhauser noted that she would be swearing in Mr. Beckman.

2. Commissioner Matters Not on the Agenda (Discussion)

There were none.

3. Executive Director's Report (Discussion)

ED Steinhauser stated that the commissioners have received two documents that were not included in the packet: the SMART General Manager's Report for June, and a notice from Caltrans with details of overnight road closures related to the Ramp Metering Project. ED Steinhauser confirmed the notice has been sent to all local jurisdictions, including public works departments.

ED Steinhauser provided an overview of the s discussions, which include the allocation of Measure A/AA Transportation Sales Tax funds to various road projects and a substantial allocation to Marin Transit. She noted that Nancy Whelan, General Manager of Marin Transit, has joined today's meeting to answer questions, and that she will be presenting a status report to the TAM Board at the September meeting. ED Steinhauser provided background information on the Hwy 580/101 Direct Connector Project, noting that a recommendation to the Board will be made to award contracts to an engineering firm and that discussions also include details of potential new revenue measure that could be pursued in the Bay Area called FASTER.

ED Steinhauser administered the Oath of Office to Eli Beckman.

4. Commissioner Reports (Discussion)

Commissioner Moulton-Peters reported that she took the shuttle to the Marin County Fair, which was funded by Measure A, and Commissioner Goddard stated that she rode her electric bike to the fair, which was parked for free by the Marin County Bicycle Coalition.

Chair Arnold reported that the 10:30 p.m. train was very popular with fairgoers.

a. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Report

Commissioner Connolly reported that discussions on the creation of a new Bay Area housing authority are ongoing and that Assemblymember David Chiu, the author of the bill, would be interested in meeting with a Marin County delegation. Commissioner Connolly stated that he would arrange a meeting between the housing legislation committee members and Assemblymember Chiu.

b. Marin Transit Report

Commissioner Connolly discussed the successful promotion of free local transit for the duration of the county fair, which attracted riders who had not previously used the services and that he noted there was an increase in ridership from the previous year. Commissioner Connolly confirmed that data still needs to be collected and analyzed from that promotion.

c. SMART

Commissioner Phillips stated that the SMART Board has not met since the previous TAM Board meeting, and he commented on the success of the train service during the county fair.

5. Open Time for Public Expression

There was no public comment on the item.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR (Action)

a) Approval TAM Board Meeting Minutes May 30, 2019

Commissioner Moulton-Peters moved to approve the Consent Calendar, which Commissioner Lucan seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. State Legislation (SB 277) (Action)

ED Steinhauser presented the staff report. ED Steinhauser discussed the legislation sponsored by Senator Beall, which proposes to revise the distribution of funds between the formula and competitive programs under the local partnership program, which provides \$200 million annually. ED Steinhauser stated that the funds are currently split 50% by formula and 50% provided to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for them to distribute. She explained that the Self-Help counties have agreed to support an 85% split by formula with 15% being reserved for the CTC to distribute amongst counties with under 750,000 residents. She noted that smaller counties do not support this proposal.

ED Steinhauser explained that staff is recommending support for the proposed 85%/15% recommendation to be phased in over time so that the CTC have sufficient funds to release at their discretion. She stated that TAM is at risk from gaining a small share of the funds distributed by formula, which would be insufficient to fund a large project. ED Steinhauser stated that she would anticipate CTC looking favorably on TAM as a small agency with large congestion problems and grant the agency funds from the competitive share program, rather than continuing to grant TAM approximately \$500,000 annually under the present formula.

David Chan, Programming and Legislation Manager, discussed the funds that have been allocated to TAM over the past 3 years. He stated that approximately \$400,000 has been allocated based on Measure A funds and \$100,000 on Measure B. He explained that TAM would request that CTC use a different formula to calculate the share because the current formula, based on population, is advantageous to Southern California. Staff suggests that TAM requests CTC to factor in the amount of revenue generated by Northern California, in addition to population, which would be advantageous to TAM based on revenue generated by bridge tolls. Furthermore, he suggested CTC is requested to maintain the \$100,000 minimum for a qualifying tax or fee, noting that the amount might otherwise be reduced for Measure B funds.

Chair Arnold asked if staff's advice would be to vote yes or no if our recommendations are not accepted. ED Steinhauser explained that this policy was formulated by the CTC and that the proposed legislation could be vetoed later this week. She stated that the Board could await the outcome of the legislation and abstain, but staff is recommending support for the 85%/15% split.

Commissioner Lucan asked staff how the funds are allocated by this agency. Mr. Chan explained that the funds are directly allocated to CMAs that have qualifying taxes and that TAM has made the funds available to partner agencies for two out of the past three years.

In response to Commissioner Lucan, who suggested the funds should be managed in future, ED Steinhauser stated that staff could provide options for the commissioners' review. She noted that the funds are currently used for TAM's highest priorities.

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Commissioner Phillips stated that any action taken by the commissioners might be futile. He suggested a decision is made on behalf of the commissioners, based on their discussions, when the results of the discussions at the governor's offices are known.

There was no public comment on the item.

Commissioner Phillips moved to authorize the Chair and Executive Director to transmit the Board's preferences based on the outcome of the Thursday, July 11th discussions at the Governor's office if deemed appropriate, which Commissioner Connolly seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. 580/101 Direct Connector Contracts

a. Award of Contract for Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Services (Action)

Deputy Director Dan Cherrier presented the staff report which recommended that the TAM Board Award a contract for preliminary engineering, outreach, environmental studies/approval, and various Caltrans required approval reports for the Northbound Highway 101 to Eastbound I-580 Direct Connector Project to Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc. Contract to terminate June 2024. The Not to Exceed amount will be provided during presentation of the item. Project is included in the adopted FY 2019/2020 TAM budget for first year of expenses. Funding to be allocated from the Measure AA Transportation Sales Tax.

Mr. Cherrier explained that funds have been made available from Measure AA to fund initial work for the northbound Hwy 101 and eastbound Hwy 580 direct connector project. As part of the process, Mr. Cherrier noted that studies will also be made for a southbound Hwy 101/westbound Hwy 580 connector to ensure the designs would be compatible.

Mr. Cherrier confirmed that TAM issued an RFP/RFQ for a project that would include outreach, evaluation of all the alternative designs with input from the general public, and project approval documentation from Caltrans. He stated that four teams responded and that the most qualified team, which ranked the highest by the panel, was led by Kimley Horn & Associates. Mr. Cherrier confirmed the panel, consisting of two product managers from TAM, a senior branch chief from Caltrans and San Rafael's Public Works Director, were unanimous in their decision.

Mr. Cherrier discussed Kimley-Horn's cost-plus-fixed-fee contract, which staff has negotiated. He stated that the commissioners are requested to award Kimley Horn a maximum \$5.9 million project that includes a fixed fee of \$600,000.

ED Steinhauser explained that TAM had reviewed alternative plans for Regional Measure 3 (RM3), and that the lowest cost alternative, which was included in RM3, is a low speed connector for \$135 million. She noted that the contract is 4.5% of the estimated project cost, which is within range for a project of this kind. Mr. Cherrier added that Chadi Chazbek of Kimley-Horn will manage the consultant team.

Mr. Cherrier clarified the fixed fee in response to Commissioner Phillips. He stated that the \$600,000 fee is for the entire contract until completion, and that the fee would not change unless there is a change to the scope of work.

There was no public comment on the item.

Commissioner Phillips moved to award a contract for preliminary engineering, outreach, environmental studies/approval, and various Caltrans required approval reports for the Northbound Highway 101 to Eastbound I-580 Direct Connector Project to Kimley-Horn for \$5.9 million, which Vice-Chair Fredericks seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

b. Award of Contract for Project Management Services for 580/101 Direct Connector (Action)

Dan Cherrier presented this item which recommended that the TAM Board Award a contract for Project Management services for the Northbound Highway 101 to Eastbound I-580 Direct Connector Project to Fremier Enterprises Inc. Contract will terminate in June 2024 and the not to exceed amount will be \$400,000. Project is included in the adopted FY2019-2020 TAM Annual budget for first year of expenses. Funding will be allocated from the Measure AA Transportation Sales Tax.

He explained that staff is requesting the Board award a contract to Connie Fremier of Fremier Enterprises as a dedicated project manager, who is anticipated to spend approximately 1/3 of a year on the project. Mr. Cherrier stated that Ms. Fremier was interviewed by a panel; that she has worked with TAM in the past on the Gap Closure project and that the role would be similar.

ED Steinhauser explained that Ms. Fremier is related to Andy Fremier of the Bay Area Toll Authority. She stated that Ms. Fremier would enter into a non-disclosure agreement and that TAM has received assurance from the Bay Area Toll Authority that there will be no direct conflict.

There was no public comment on the item.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters and Mr. Cherrier discussed the terms of the contract and the anticipated hours of service and project timeline. Mr. Cherrier stated that staff anticipates the need for 700 hours of work per year (1/3 of a year) until the project approval process with Caltrans is concluded when the Board will review the final design plans. He stated the contract would expire at the end of 2023, although it is expected to be completed sooner. Mr. Cherrier confirmed that the \$400,000 contract would run for 4-years.

In response to Commissioner Beckman, Mr. Cherrier confirmed the senior project manager's rate would be \$225 per hour.

Commissioner Hillmer moved to award a contract for Project Management services for the Northbound Highway 101 to Eastbound I-580 Direct Connector Project to Fremier Enterprises Inc., which was seconded by Vice-Chair Fredericks. The motion carried unanimously.

9. Allocate FY 19/20 Measure A and Measure AA Transportation Sales Tax Funds to Marin Transit (Action)

David Chan presented the staff report which recommended that the TAM Board allocate \$6,404,063 in Measure A funds and \$12,800,000 Measure AA funds to the Marin County Transit District (Marin Transit) from Strategy 1 and Category 4 of the respective Strategic Plans for FY 19/20 for a total of \$19,204,063.

Mr. Chan discussed the request for approval of the allocation of \$19.2 million to Marin Transit for FY 19/20, noting that Marin Transit delayed the request until final approval of the Measure AA Strategic Plan and the Commissioners' resolution of issues related to the reserve policy for Measure A and Measure AA.

Mr. Chan discussed the allocation of \$6.4 million from Measure A and \$12.8 million from Measure AA, which would take effect on July 1, 2019. He explained that this would result in a small deficit for two of the categories, which should be corrected by the end of this fiscal year, but he noted that \$22 million in funding is available.

Nancy Whelan, General Manager, Marin Transit, thanked the Board for their consideration, noting that she will be providing a full report at a future meeting. Ms. Whelan stated that sales tax is an important part of their budget, contributing 39%, and she discussed their funding request this year to replace 10 vehicles.

There was no public comment on the item.

Commissioner Rice moved to allocate \$6,404,063 in Measure A funds and \$12,800,000 in Measure AA funds to the Marin County Transit District, which was seconded by Vice-Chair Fredericks. The motion carried unanimously.

10. Major Road Allocations

- a. Allocate Transportation Sales Tax (Measure A) Funds to Novato for the Novato Boulevard Segment 1 Rehabilitation Project (Action)
- b. Allocate Transportation Sales Tax (Measure A) Funds to San Rafael for the Third Street Rehabilitation Project (Action)
- c. Allocate Transportation Sales Tax (Measure A) to Marin County for the Sir Francis Drake Rehabilitation Project in Ross Valley (Action)

David Chan explained that he would provide an overview of the three allocation requests from the City of Novato, City of San Rafael, and Marin County, and that the sponsors would provide their own individual presentation.

Mr. Chan discussed the strategy relating to major road improvements under Measure A, noting that at least one project that was prioritized in each of the five planning areas would receive funding. He confirmed that \$9.6 million in unallocated funds from the strategy were transferred under Measure AA, with \$3.5 million to be set aside for the major roads program over a 14-year period to complete the projects that had been prioritized.

Mr. Chan discussed the need for a 3-year reimbursement schedule to disperse the allocation of funds, noting that the sponsors could request unspent funds in the final year.

Mr. Chan discussed the City of Novato's request for \$1 million to begin the right of way and design phases of the third segment of the Novato Boulevard Rehabilitation project. He introduced Chris Blunk, Public Works Director for the City of Novato.

Mr. Blunk explained the funds will allow them to complete the final portion of the widening project on Novato Boulevard between Diablo Avenue and Grant Avenue, noting that the City of Novato has budgeted \$2 million in matching funds. Mr. Blunk provided background information on the project and stated that a consultant team was hired in 2017 to implement a new three-lane design that was approved by the City Council. He confirmed the new design would include bicycle, pedestrian and utility improvements, and new traffic signals, and would necessitate the removal of fewer trees and would not impact the creek or necessitate the removal of houses. Mr. Blunk stated that the overall cost of the project should be approximately \$10 million - \$15 million, compared to \$20 million - \$25 million for the original project. Mr. Blunk provided a timeline for the project, which they anticipate beginning in the spring of 2022 and completing in the spring of 2023.

Commissioner Lucan stated that the three-lane option was unanimously approved by the City Council.

There was no public comment on the item.

Mr. Chan discussed the City of San Rafael's request for \$1 million to begin the preliminary engineering and environmental phase for the Third Street Rehabilitation Project, and he introduced Lauren Davini, San Rafael Public Works Department.

Ms. Davini provided background information on the \$12.5 million of funding for the proposed improvements from Miracle Mile to Grand Avenue, which she noted is a significant Safe Routes to School corridor. She discussed the limits of the environmental phase in relation to other construction projects on Third Street, and feedback from two community outreach meetings, which included better access for bicyclists and pedestrians, tree canopy, sidewalk and crosswalk improvements. Ms. Davini explained that they have developed a project for the funds available,

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which will include traffic signal upgrades, conduits for future signal interconnections, street trees, and curb ramp upgrades. Ms. Davini stated that the City has released an RFP for the environmental work and design, which is expected to take 18 months to 2 years for which they are requesting the funds.

Commissioner Rodoni and Ms. Davini discussed the future users of the new conduits.

Commissioner Rice and Ms. Davini discussed a proposed multi-use path along the Miracle Mile. Ms. Davini stated that there were likely insufficient funds for a 12-foot wide path, and Commissioner Rice commented on the need for an east-west bicycle path.

There was no public comment on the item.

Mr. Chan discussed the City of San Rafael's request for \$11.9 million, the remaining Measure A funds, for the construction phase of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (SFD) Rehabilitation Project in Ross Valley, and he introduced Phil Buckley, City of San Rafael Public Works Department.

Mr. Buckley discussed the project on SFD from Hwy 101 to the Town of Ross, a total length of 2.2 miles, which will include the following improvements: Replacing asphalt, closing gaps with sidewalks and curb cuts, improved pedestrian safety crossings, adding a third lane from El Portal to Hwy 101 eastbound, and improving transit and bicycle access and safety. Mr. Buckley noted that MMWD are incorporating a pipeline project into the work.

Mr. Buckley provided a timeline for the project, which is estimated to begin in the spring of 2020, and will take 2 years. He discussed further improvements, including a \$100,000 TDA grant to replace traffic signals at Ash, which has an accident history, and replacement of a bus stop.

Mr. Buckley discussed the project costs, including \$3 million for traffic signals and \$500,000 for landscaping, with a total estimated cost of \$23 million, \$11.9 million of which is requested from TAM. He discussed funds previously provided by TAM for the planning phase and the EIR.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles asked Mr. Buckley to clarify the bicycle and pedestrian improvement plans. In response, Mr. Buckley explained that there are insufficient funds for a multi-use path, but that improvements include reconfiguring traffic signal timings to aid bicyclists through intersections more safely, realignment work, sidewalk improvements outside Bacich School and a new crosswalk at Wolfe Grade to improve student access to the school.

ED Steinhauser noted that information on unfunded projects has been included in the packet.

In response to Commissioner Beckman, Mr. Buckley confirmed that the Ross Valley Sanitary District are aware of the project and have reported that their facilities are in working order, but that outreach will be necessary to private homeowners to check sewer lateral connections.

Commissioner Rodoni and Mr. Buckley discussed the funding gap, which Mr. Buckley stated would be given more consideration once the project bids are in. Mr. Buckley stated that they might need to consider trimming the scope of work, shortening the length of road improvements, or finding other funding sources.

Commissioner Rodoni and ED Steinhauser discussed possible funding sources from Safe Routes to School. ED Steinhauser stated that she would encourage an application for Safe Pathway Call for Projects.

Commissioner Rice noted that funding sources for the scope of work were limited when the EIR was certified, so she would encourage community input if any part of the scope of work is removed. She discussed her support to delay phases of the project, rather than remove elements, for funding purposes and she noted that the intersections are designed with child safety in mind.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles discussed her concern that multi-use paths are not given sufficient priority in large projects, which promote the reduction of greenhouse gases.

ED Steinhauser stated that TAM would continue to work with the City of San Rafael to locate funding sources.

Commissioner Lucan discussed the need to publicize the fact that the three projects are funded through local taxes. ED Steinhauser stated that TAM would start getting the word out to our local partners and press.

There was no public comment on the item.

Commissioner Fredericks moved to approve the allocation of Transportation Sales Tax funds (Measure A) to:

- a. The City of Novato for the Novato Boulevard Segment 1 Rehabilitation project
- b. The City of San Rafael for the Third Street Rehabilitation Project
- c. Marin County for the Sir Francis Drake Rehabilitation Project in Ross Valley

which was seconded by Commissioner Lucan. The motion carried unanimously.

11. FASTER Bay Area (Discussion)

ED Steinhauser stated that a list of possible visionary projects was included in the materials, which could be considered if a transportation revenue measure, FASTER (Fast Affordable Sustainable Transportation), which is proposed by the Bay Area Council, Silicon Valley Leadership group and Transform, is pursued. ED Steinhauser explained that the measure would be similar to measures introduced in Seattle and LA. She stated that TAM, Marin Transit, Golden Gate and Smart have formulated a list of projects that could be considered transformative, although she noted that the initiative is centered around access to and from Silicon Valley.

Commissioner Colbert discussed his concern that the proposal is project-focused, aimed at transporting people to and from Silicon Valley, rather than focusing on innovation. ED Steinhauser stated that the measure could help those most in need of transit in the Bay Area and that staff will report back on future discussions.

Commissioner Goddard discussed the need to move people along the east/west corridor in Marin and that there might be a potential project that could be funded by this opportunity.

Commissioner Phillips suggested adding a second SMART track between Larkspur and Cloverdale to the list of projects.

Commissioner Rodoni discussed the need to consider ideas that benefit the whole Bay Area, such as moving people from where they can afford to live to where they work, rather than investing in highways.

Commissioner Fredericks discussed a previous idea of acquiring a right of way by Wood Island for a turnaround for the SMART train, and Commissioner Colbert expressed a vision of a floating roundabout at the Hub in San Anselmo, similar to the Eindhoven Ring in the Netherlands.

Commissioner Lucan suggested that offering free fares would be a transformative idea, noting that revenue from SMART and Marin Transit are relatively low in comparison to the budget, and using battery-run buses and rail cars.

12. Letter to Caltrans Requesting Financial Assistance with the Bellam Boulevard Safety Project (Action)

ED Steinhauser presented this item which recommended that the TAM Board approved forwarding a letter from the TAM Chair to the Caltrans District 4 Director requesting financial assistance with the Bellam Boulevard Project, widening the offramp from Northbound Highway 101 to and through Bellam Boulevard, improving safety of Highway 101 and improving access to the Richmond San Rafael Bridge.

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She reported that TAM is still working on the project to widen the northbound Hwy 101 offramp to Bellam Boulevard that will relieve traffic congestion and improve access to the Richmond San-Rafael Bridge. ED Steinhauser stated that there have been changes in the cost, and that TAM is requesting Caltrans contribute more funds.

There was no public comment on the item.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters moved to approve the letter to Caltrans requesting financial assistance with the Bellam Boulevard Safety Project, which Vice-Chair Fredericks seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

13. Caltrans Report (Discussion)

ED Steinhauser stated that the new Director, Tony Tavares, will be attending the TAM Board meeting in September.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

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