



DATE: October 24, 2019

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

FROM: Anne Richman, Executive Director
Dan Cherrier, Principal Project Delivery Manager *Anne Richman*

SUBJECT: Update on FASTER Initiative (Discussion), Agenda Item No. 11

RECOMMENDATION

The TAM Board further discusses and refines the List of Marin County FASTER (Freedom, Affordability, Speed, Transparency, Equity, Reliability) Projects.

BACKGROUND

The FASTER Bay Area Measure is led by a coalition of business and civic groups, including the Bay Area Council, the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, and the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), in partnership with local environmental, equity, and labor communities. The Coalition is hoping to develop a “public transit network that is reliable, coordinated and easy-to-use” for the Bay Area funded by the proposed Faster Bay Area Measure (1% sales tax) that would raise \$100 billion over the next 40 years. The coalition has conducted polling to educate and survey the general public in the Bay Area and has met with stakeholder groups including congestion management agencies and transit agencies throughout the Bay Area.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

At the July 8, 2019 TAM Board meeting, under the direction of the Board, staff created a list of potential projects in Marin that TAM will request to be included in the FASTER Expenditure Plan. Since that time, the goals of the FASTER initiative have been more refined. FASTER is now proposing four major categories of investment:

1. FASTER Rapid Transit Network Build Out & Operations
2. Connections to FASTER Rapid Transit Network
3. An Affordable and Seamless Network
4. (Potential) Employer-Funded Congestion Reduction Programs

The proposed prioritization principles currently focus on transit ridership and connectivity; connections to the proposed FASTER network; use of shared FASTER hub stations; improved access for disadvantaged communities and protection of residents vulnerable to displacement; and communities that are planning for affordable and middle-income housing.

Based on the proposed, updated categories, staff believes that Marin's list should be refined to emphasize key projects that align with the FASTER strategies but are short of funding, as well as to include or reference several key regional-level projects and projects that reflect the County's priorities.

The attached list includes projects recommended by the TAM Board at the July 8, 2019 meeting as well as projects put forward by Marin Transit (MT), Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District (GGHTD), and Sonoma Marin Aare Rail Transit (SMART). Staff has added to the list projects that are part of past planning efforts discussed by the Board that align with the FASTER strategies. Projects marked with asterisks are ones that have been discussed previously by the TAM Board, whether in the context of FASTER or as part of other recent planning efforts.

FISCAL CONSIDERATION

The FASTER Coalition has explored various scenarios for raising the \$100 Billion. The funding strategy recommended by the FASTER team currently is a one-cent sales tax. Since many jurisdictions are at or approaching the State sales tax limit, special legislation will be required to allow an exemption before placing the measure on the ballot. This regional sales tax measure could potentially limit jurisdictions' abilities to raise sales taxes in the future. The FASTER coalition is also considering various programs to assist low-income residents, such as reduced transit fares, and a tax rebate program.

NEXT STEPS

Staff will refine the list of FASTER projects and programs in Marin based on input from the TAM Board. Estimated costs will be added as more information is gathered. Staff is working closely with the FASTER team to make sure that Marin County's projects and programs are being considered for inclusion in the draft expenditure plan that may be developed over the next few months.

ATTACHMENTS

List of Marin County FASTER Projects

FASTER – DRAFT Marin Projects for Discussion
With Additions from Marin Transit, SMART and Golden Gate Transit

Transit Capital Improvements

Project or Program Title	Previously Considered by TAM Board
Extend SMART from Larkspur platform to Larkspur Golden Gate Ferry Terminal	
Close funding gap for Downtown San Rafael Transit Center	*
Extend SMART to Cloverdale	*
Provide SMART commuter rail service from Novato to Suisun City	
Double-Tracking of SMART	
Down payment on Richmond-San Rafael Bridge replacement to include rail service from San Rafael to Richmond	
Marin Transit operations and maintenance facility	*
Implement Bus-on-Shoulder in Northern Marin along Hwy 101	*
Provide resources for dealing with Sea Level Rise including a long-term solution for flooding in the vicinity of the Manzanita Park and Ride	*
Electrify the transit fleet	*
Maintain the Transit Fleet in a state of good repair	
Bus Rapid Transit on Richmond San Rafael Bridge	*
Additional Park & Ride Lot Improvements excluding Manzanita	*
Bicycle and Pedestrian access to transit Improvements	*

Transit Operations

Project or Program Title	Previously Considered by TAM Board
Implement Regional Express Bus on Hwy 101 and Interstate 580 (Richmond Bridge) corridors	*
Implement first-last mile solutions to and from SMART rail and the Highway 101 Regional Express Bus Corridor, considering innovative solutions	*
Increase ferry service to and from Marin	*
Consider free fare or means based fare on all transit	
Increase Regional Fare Integration to Increase Transit Usage	
Increase Accessibility for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities	*
Express Bus Service on Highway 37	*

FASTER – DRAFT Marin Projects for Discussion
With Additions from Marin Transit, SMART and Golden Gate Transit

Capital Improvements for Congestion Relief, Active Transportation, and Innovation

Project or Program Title	Previously Considered by TAM Board
Protect and improve State Route 37 across the North Bay from Highway 101 to Interstate 80	*
Provide shoulder running westbound travel lane on Richmond San Rafael Bridge	*
Complete carpool lane and bike/ped facilities in Marin Sonoma Narrows	*
Implement commute alternatives in the highway corridors	*
Improve interchange access throughout Marin to and from Hwy 101/ improve east/west corridors	*
Complete core improvements in the North-South Greenway bike ped system	*
Complete core improvements in East-West bike ped corridors	*
Provide innovative signal technologies on major roadways	*
Consider role of autonomous shuttles or cars for transit connections	*
Implement roundabout at the Hub in San Anselmo	*
Ramp Metering Phase 2	*
101/580 Sea Level Resiliency	*