



October 24, 2019

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

FROM: Anne Richman, Executive Director

RE: Executive Director's Report – Agenda Item 3 (Discussion)

I am pleased to present my first report as TAM's Executive Director. As you can see from this report and from the Board agenda, a lot is happening here at TAM even in the last few weeks, from implementing the Measure AA Programs like Safe Pathways, to participating in local community and stakeholder activities, to continuing to advance important capital projects. I welcome your feedback on TAM's progress and I look forward to our partnership.

## **Local**

### **TAM in the Community**



TAM's recent outreach includes tabling and/or presentations at: Leadership Novato, a program of the Novato Chamber of Commerce; Sausalito Sustainability Commission; "Party for a Cooler Planet" in Tiburon; Drive Clean Marin EV and E-bike test drive event; International Walk to School Day at Sun Valley Elementary School in San Rafael with Mayor Phillips; "Streets for People" in Fairfax; the City of San Rafael Wellness Fair; and the Marin Senior Fair. Upcoming events include the County of Marin Employee Health and Wellness Fair.

### **TAM to Hold Regular Transportation Planning Working Group Meetings**

On September 30, TAM staff hosted a working group meeting to discuss a number of transportation topics local jurisdictions are facing. These include implementation of SB 743, the shift from automobile delay to vehicle miles traveled (VMT) that will change CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) transportation analysis starting in July 2020, and updates occurring to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Plan Bay Area 2050, being developed now and expected to be completed in 2020. Attendees of the workshop include staff from local jurisdictions' planning and public works departments, as well as transit operators. During this meeting, the group agreed to regular meetings to continue the coordination on these topics, and TAM staff encourage your jurisdictions to participate in these conversations.



## **Regional**

### **Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Multi-Use Path**



Construction of the movable barrier on the westbound upper deck of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge is nearing completion. The MTC/BATA (Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Bay Area Toll Authority) Project is scheduled to be opened to the public sometime in November and a ribbon cutting celebration is being planned. Staff will keep the Board informed the exact date.

Concurrent with the path work is the construction of a sidewalk from the west end of the bridge along the northside of Francisco Blvd East to the existing sidewalk east of Grange Avenue. Pedestrians using the multi-use path on the

bridge will be able to continue traveling on the new sidewalk. This project is expected to open around the same time as the multi-use path on the upper deck.

### **Marin-Sonoma Narrows – Sonoma Groundbreaking**

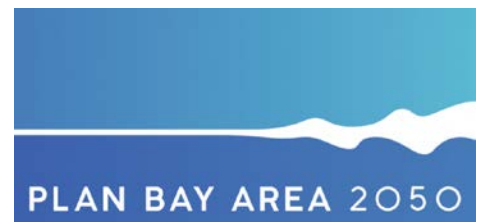
On October 2, a groundbreaking celebration was held for the final segment of the Marin-Sonoma Narrows project in Sonoma County.

Design work is underway for the final segment in Marin (partially funded by Measure AA). TAM is awaiting the release of Regional Measure 3 (RM3) funds and is seeking additional funding from the State to complete this last portion of the 17-mile project.



### **MTC Plan Bay Area Project Performance Review**

On October 15, MTC released its preliminary Project Performance Assessment of large (\$250M dollar plus) transportation projects being considered for inclusion in Plan Bay Area 2050. These projects include projects submitted by TAM and by public participants in MTC's Transformative Projects call for projects that occurred in Summer 2018. TAM staff is currently reviewing the performance assessment of the projects that relate to Marin County and will report back with more information. Results are expected to be released to the MTC Commission and greater public in November.



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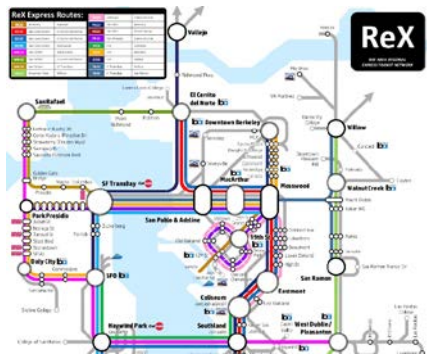
### **Class IV Bikeway on the I-580 Offramp to Sir Francis Drake Blvd**



Over the last few months, TAM, Caltrans, and BATA have been cooperatively working together to further evaluate the feasibility of installing a bicycle barrier on the westbound Sir Francis Drake Blvd. flyover from I-580 creating a safe two-way Class IV Bikeway. The new Bikeway will connect Francisco Blvd East with Andersen Drive. This project has been pursued by TAM as part of a suite of projects to improve vehicular and bicycle access to and from the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.

Staff plans to bring a full report on the implementation strategy and potential funding to the Board in November.

### **Regional Express (ReX) Transit Network Proposal**



In Summer 2018, the MTC invited the public to submit Transformative Projects for consideration in MTC's Horizon and Plan Bay Area 2050 effort. Transform and SPUR (the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association), two regional transportation advocacy organizations, submitted a project for consideration, Optimized Express Lane Network and Regional Express Bus Network, that was selected and included as part of Horizon. In October 2019, Transform released a proposal for the Regional Express (ReX) transit network, that would provide regional express bus service and express lanes throughout the Bay Area. This plan would require conversion of a mixed flow or High Occupancy Vehicle Lane to an Express Lane on US-101 and I-580 and provide new infrastructure for Regional Express Bus Stations and Station Access. Express Bus service would operate on a 10-minute schedule along these express lanes. TAM is currently reviewing this proposal and its relationship to the FASTER proposal.

## **State**

### **SB1 Programs**

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is continuing to develop the next round of certain SB1-funded programs, including the following:

- **Local Partnership Program (LPP):** LPP provides local and regional transportation agencies that have passed sales tax measures, developer fees, or other imposed transportation fees with SB1 funds that can be used for a variety of transportation improvement projects. LPP has two components: Formula and Competitive. The Competitive Program is a statewide competitive program.
- **Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP):** SCCP provides funding to reduce congestion throughout the state. This statewide, competitive program makes \$250 million available annually.

TAM is the designated recipient of the LPP Formula funds in Marin, because of the Transportation Sales Tax and Vehicle Registration Fee. The amount of LPP Formula funds are determined by revenue and population.

The CTC previously issued two cycles of LPP Formula funds. TAM received approximately \$500,000 for each of the fiscal years distributed by the CTC. To date, TAM has programmed LPP Formula funds to MSN design, Novato Downtown SMART Station, and San Rafael Francisco Blvd West Multi-Use Path.

The CTC is proposing to issue Cycle 3 of LPP in 2020, with applications due in May 2020 and recommended projects be adopted by the CTC in October 2020.

For SCCP, the CTC is also proposing to issue Cycle 2 in 2020, with applications due in June 2020 and recommended projects adopted by the CTC in October 2020. Regional transportation agencies (MTC for the Bay Area) and Caltrans are the eligible applicants for SCCP. TAM staff has been working closely with MTC for the past six months to position the MSN project as a prioritized project in the Bay Area for MTC and Caltrans to nominate. This includes providing all necessary information on the project and assuring MTC and Caltrans that the MSN project will be "shovel-ready" in time for the upcoming cycle.

### **New District 4 Chief Deputy Director Announced**

On October 23, Caltrans announced the appointment of a new District 4 Chief Deputy Director, Dina El-Tawansy, starting November 1. Ms. El-Tawansy has 21 years of experience with the Department spanning across three districts and multiple divisions. The full announcement is attached.

### **Federal**

The US Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) released highway crash fatality data for 2018 on October 22, showing a 2.4 percent decline in overall fatalities, the second consecutive year of reduced crash fatalities. The data, compiled by NHTSA's Fatality Analysis Reporting System, shows that nationwide highway fatalities decreased in 2018 with 913 fewer fatalities, down to 36,560 people from 37,473 people in 2017. The fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled also decreased by 3.4 percent (from 1.17 in 2017 to 1.13 in 2018), the lowest fatality rate since 2014.

In addition to the 2018 numbers, NHTSA also released initial estimates for the first half of 2019, which suggest that this overall positive trend may be continuing. The estimated number of fatalities in the first half of 2019 declined by 3.4 percent from the same period in 2018, with 589 fewer fatalities over that time.

The news is not all positive however, as the Governors Highway Safety Association is also reporting that 2018 is projected to have the highest number of pedestrian fatalities in the US since 1990. This sharply growing trend shows a 35 percent increase in pedestrian fatalities over the last 10 years, from 4,414 deaths in 2008 to 5,977 deaths in 2017, and 2018 is projected to increase further to 6,227 deaths.

## Item 3 - Attachment

**From:** Tavares, Tony F@DOT  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2019 4:31 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Announcement - District 4 Chief Deputy Director

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dina El-Tawansy as the District 4 Chief Deputy Director. Dina will officially begin her new role [on November 1, 2019](#).

Dina has over 21 years of experience with the Department spanning across three Districts and multiple Divisions. She joined Caltrans as a Transportation Engineer in District 7 upon receiving her Bachelor degree from Cal Poly Pomona in 1998. She has gained extensive and broad experience working in several Divisions, including Maintenance Design, Construction, Program and Project Management, Traffic Operations and Maintenance.

Dina's most recent assignment has been the Deputy District Director of Maintenance and Operations, D12. Prior to that she served in D4 for 10 years as Senior Project Manager and a Regional Project Manager (RPM) for the innovative team (iTeam), which was a new business model for working closely with our local partners at that time.

Dina also possesses a Masters in Construction/ Engineering Management from Long Beach State University and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

Please join me in welcoming Dina back to the Bay Area and her new position as Chief Deputy District Director.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Doanh Nguyen for acting as the Chief Deputy District Director for Capital Delivery, and Michelle Tucker for acting as the Chief Deputy District Director for Operations, and for their excellent leadership, continuous efforts, and significant contributions towards the overall success, and accomplishments of the district.

Please join me in thanking Doanh and Michelle and welcoming Dina to our Bay Area district.

Thank you

TONY TAVARES  
Director  
Caltrans Bay Area



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**Caltrans Mission:** *Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.*

**Caltrans Vision:** *A performance-driven, transparent, and accountable organization that values its people, resources and partners, and meets new challenges through leadership, innovation, and teamwork.*