



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
TAM

FEBRUARY 25, 2021
6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Alice Fredericks, Tiburon Town Council
Beach Kuhl, Ross Town Council
Brian Colbert, San Anselmo Town Council
Charles Lee, Corte Madera Town Council
Damon Connolly, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Dan Hillmer, Larkspur City Council
Dennis Rodoni, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Eric Lucan, Novato City Council, Chair
James Campbell, Belvedere City Council
Chance Cutrano, Fairfax Town Council
Judy Arnold, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Kate Colin, San Rafael City Council
Katie Rice, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Kevin Haroff, Larkspur City Council (Alternate)
Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Marin County Board of Supervisors, Vice-Chair
Susan Cleveland-Knowles, Sausalito City Council
Urban Carmel, Mill Valley City Council

Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present Anne Richman, Executive Director
Bill Whitney, Principal Project Delivery Manager
Dan Cherrier, Principal Project Delivery Manager
David Chan, Manager of Programming and Legislation
Denise Merleno, Executive Assistant
Derek McGill, Planning Manager
Helga Cotter, Senior Accountant
Li Zhang, Chief Financial Officer/Deputy Executive Director
Nick Nguyen, Principal Project Delivery Manager
Scott McDonald, Senior Transportation Planner

Chair Lucan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Lucan welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Executive Assistant Denise Merleno to conduct a roll call to ensure a quorum. A quorum of the Board was confirmed and detailed information about how the public may participate was provided.

1. Chair's Report (Discussion)

Chair Lucan reported on the recent passing of Cindy Winter, a resident of Larkspur, and a long-time participant in active transportation and other transportation matters. He spoke about Cindy's attendance at most TAM meetings and how she would read transportation-related articles that were timely and/or forward thinking. He then invited other commissioners to share similar articles in her honor.

Vice-Chair Moulton-Peters read a quote by US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. Commissioner Fredericks read an excerpt from an article on Hyperloop which Cindy had provided at a previous meeting. Commissioner Arnold read an excerpt from an article on self-driving busses. Commissioner Hillmer commented on Cindy's passionate involvement in civic affairs, how he oftentimes biked with Cindy, and that, as mayor, he had the honor of making Cindy Larkspur's Citizen of the Year in 2019.

Executive Director (ED) Anne Richman spoke about Cindy's positive presence at TAM meetings. She reminded everyone that TAM honored Cindy with a Letter of Appreciation in May 2019 for her dedication to civic engagement.

Chair Lucan noted that the meeting would be adjourned in Cindy's memory.

2. Commissioner Matters Not on the Agenda (Discussion)

None.

3. Commissioner Reports (Discussion)

a. MTC Report – Commissioner Connolly

Commissioner Connolly reported on the bi-annual change in leadership at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) with Napa County Supervisor Alfredo Pedroza taking the helm as Chair while Nick Josefowitz, Chief Policy Officer at San Francisco-based nonprofit public policy organization, SPUR, and the San Francisco Mayor's appointee to the Commission, will serve as the Vice-Chair. He stated that \$800 million in funds from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) of 2021 will be allocated through MTC in March to help the challenges transit agencies are facing. He was hopeful for the approval of the next \$1.9 trillion federal stimulus package which would bring additional funding to the state. He finalized his report by talking about various pieces of legislation on housing that MTC will be considering.

b. Marin Transit Report – Commissioner Colin

Commissioner Colin reported that Marin Transit has been working with certain schools throughout the county to provide transit services as they reopen for in-person classes. She added that, due to various constraints, no other supplemental school routes would be added at this point. She finalized her report by stating that, starting on February 21, Marin Transit, Golden Gate Transit and SMART (Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit) will provide free transit for those who have confirmed appointments to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

c. SMART Report – Commissioner Lucan

Commissioner Lucan reported that SMART has been focusing on a review of 2020's operations as well as what opportunities and challenges may lie ahead in 2021. He stated that sales tax revenue continues to look more positive than the original projections when the pandemic began. He added that those extra dollars will be placed in a capital plan and an analysis will begin as to how to best leverage those funds for activities including building out the multi-use path and other key initiatives.

4. Executive Director's Report (Discussion)

ED Richman highlighted recent activities and transportation news including: a survey being conducted for the Marin-Sonoma Bike Share Pilot Program; progress on TAM's study of the 12 interchanges along Highway 101 in Marin; free transportation to vaccination sites offered by transit operators in Marin; a town hall meeting held by Senator Mike McGuire to discuss the Great Redwood Trail; Marin's unsuccessful applications for the State Active Transportation Program (ATP) Grants; Caltrans' planning grant applications that TAM is coordinating with local and regional agencies; the release of the draft Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) to support greenhouse gas reduction, and \$975 million in funding for Bay Area transit operators from CRRSAA.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles asked why Marin was not competitive in applying for the ATP grants.

ED Richman stated that Marin's projects did not score well in this extremely competitive program because they did not as strongly meet the criteria that the State set to rank the projects. She encouraged the project sponsors to request a debrief with the California Transportation Commission (CTC) who sponsored the grant for a better understanding on how to be more competitive in the future.

5. Open Time for Public Expression

Chair Lucan asked if any members of the public wished to speak or had sent in an e-comment, and hearing none, he moved on to the next item.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR (Action)

- a. Approve TAM Board Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2021
- b. TAM Response to 2019-2020 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report on "Roadblocks to Safer Evacuation in Marin"
- c. Approval of Professional Service Contract with Eide Bailly LLP for Financial Audit Services

Commissioner Arnold moved to approve the Consent Calendar and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Kuhl.

On Agenda Item 6b - *TAM Response to 2019-2020 Marin County Civil Grand Jury Report on "Roadblocks to Safer Evacuation in Marin"*, Commissioner Rodoni stated that he supported the response as written but added that it is important to note that the responsibility for the preparation for an evacuation falls on multiple public entities while the police and fire departments, in conjunction with the Office of Emergency Services, are responsible for handling the actual evacuation event. He noted that it is imperative to address evacuation routes on public roads and thoroughfares but that this is not an option on private roads of which there are many in the county. He encouraged TAM to add to its project scoring process a criterion for ease of evacuation.

A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Review and Accept the February 2021 Project Status Report (Action)

Project Delivery Manager Nick Nguyen presented this item which recommended that the TAM Board accept the February 2021 Project Status Report. He provided a brief update on 9 of TAM's active projects and programs: Marin Sonoma Narrows, State Route 37, North-South Greenway Gap Closure, Highway 101 Interchange Studies; Class IV Bikeway on the I-580 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Off-Ramp; Northbound (NB) US 101 to Eastbound (EB) I-580 Direct Connector, Bellam Blvd. Off-Ramp from US 101; Marin County Part-Time Transit Lane Feasibility Study and the Alternative Fuels Program.

Commissioner Lee asked when the work will occur on the Class IV Bikeway in Larkspur and if detour signs would be posted if closures are to occur.

Project Delivery Manager Bill Whitney stated that bike path will remain open at all times with the exception of brief periods when equipment will be moved across the path. He added that the path will be closed at night when girders are being moved over the path but that detour signs will be provided.

In response to a question from Commissioner Rice about whether or not there will be advance messaging prior to the night closures, Mr. Whitney said there will be message boards and additional outreach to make users aware of these closures in advance.

Commissioner Lee asked how equity will play a role in the planning process of the NB US 101 to EB I-580 Direct Connector Project.

ED Richman responded that the next item on this agenda will utilize that project as an example of how TAM has been incorporating equity into such projects.

Commissioner Cutrano, noting that the California Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (CEVIP) is being held in abeyance until later in the Fall, asked if staff anticipates any funding will come to Marin.

Planning Manager Derek McGill stated that the California Energy Commission (CEC) is currently reviewing the program for the next phase and will make a determination by October as to the program's administrator, rules, and amount of funding that will be available. At that point, Mr. McGill stated, TAM will be able to apply for funds.

Vice-Chair Moulton-Peters thanked staff for the report.

Commissioner Colbert thanked staff for incorporating the comments provided by the Administration, Projects, and Planning (AP&P) Executive Committee.

Chair Lucan opened this item to public comment.

Kevin Carroll of Larkspur commented on the North-South Greenway Gap Closure Project. He stated that residents of the Larkspur Mobile Home Park have a number of questions related to environmental issues associated with the Southern portion of the project and would like to know the appropriate time to ask these questions and to which governmental entity they should be addressed.

Commissioner Hillmer assured the speaker that the Larkspur City Council is aware of the concerns expressed and that the Council will keep these concerns in mind.

Vice-Chair Moulton-Peters moved to accept the February 2021 Project Status Report which was seconded by Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Advancing Equity in Transportation (Discussion)

Mr. McGill introduced this item which explained how TAM initiated a discussion on equity when it analyzed who was being impacted the most by the COVID-19 pandemic. He reviewed: objectives to advance equity; the internal review the agency performed relative to its practices; an overview of past activities related to equity; how equity is addressed or the issue is embedded in the existing regional and local planning and policy framework; direct actions that TAM built into its Measure AA expenditure plan to address equity; and opportunities identified to advance equity in the decision-making process.

ED Richman used the NB US 101 to EB I-580 Direct Connector Project as an example of how an equity analysis approach would look. She reviewed the public engagement process which included involving members of the community and forming a stakeholder working group, identifying needs and concerns of the community relative to the project, partnering with community organizations to develop outreach efforts with the community, and tapping into approaches that other agencies have used successfully. She finalized her comments by reporting on next steps that are planned centered on equity.

Commissioner Lee questioned whether regional considerations impacting local communities is considered an equity issue. He wondered if the residents living in the Canal Area, who would be most impacted by the NB US 101 to EB I-580 Direct Connector Project, are happy to see this project move forward or do they want the project diverted away from their community.

Commissioner Campbell stated that conducting an equity analysis should be routine on any project or program. He asked if this analysis would be conducted only when communities of concern are to be impacted or if projects may be initiated as a result of outreach conducted within the communities.

Mr. McGill noted that TAM's community-based transportation plans have identified needs within these communities, but that additional engagement is warranted since the plans are only updated every four to five years.

Vice-Chair Moulton-Peters stated that there are many more disadvantaged communities in Marin than those often identified, and she stated that all of them need to be considered. She added that most every city in Marin has low-income residents even though they may not be in centralized areas of that jurisdiction and that these residents should not be forgotten.

Commissioner Arnold agreed with the Vice-Chair Moulton-Peters' comment that every city in Marin has low-income residents but that some communities seem to be more in the spotlight because the federal agency, HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development), tracks certain areas for funding purposes.

Commissioner Rodoni agreed with Vice-Chair Moulton-Peters and commented on San Rafael's Canal Policy Working Group. He noted that the group has developed bold policies including rent freezes on certain census tracts that were highly impacted by the pandemic and that there may be additional tracts that could benefit from a similar policy. He thanked staff for focusing on the Canal Community and hopes that the equity lens will be applied widely to all of TAM's efforts.

Commissioner Colin expressed her appreciation for incorporating equity into the NB US 101 to EB I-580 Direct Connector Project planning process but added that it is the implementation process that will be the true test of whether or not equity was incorporated. She asked staff to include as an objective, "*Ensure that policy decisions reflect and meet the transportation needs of underserved communities.*" She wondered if the 2006 Community-Based Transportation Plan for San Rafael was updated or if it was due to be updated.

ED Richman replied that TAM recently signed an agreement with the City of San Rafael to begin working on an update for the Plan.

Commissioner Colin finalized her comments by stating that she liked the idea of a commissioner workshop on equity.

Commissioner Carmel expressed his appreciation for the proactive approach staff took to address equity practices within the agency and what more can be done. He discussed the diversity, equity and inclusivity discussions that have occurred within his community and how it is critical to be able to see a situation through the eyes of the underserved. He stated that this will allow one to better understand the views of that sector of the community. He supported the idea of creating a community task force for all projects and for commissioner training, as well.

Commissioner Rice thanked staff for their work on this topic. She suggested that projects and programs are considered, typically, to resolve a problem and that the solution usually benefits one population while impacting another. Likewise, in some cases, funding is moved from one project to another, so she suggested it was important to understand how, historically, funding has flowed to benefit one project to the detriment of another, which, again, can impact certain populations. She suggested that TAM has a role in helping project designs at the community level to apply the equity lens and to help package them to be more competitive when applying for grant funding. She stressed the importance of inclusion, so all ideas and voices are heard on an on-going basis. She finalized her comments by reiterating a key component she would like to see when evaluating a project or program: “*Who is it benefiting and who is it burdening?*”

Commissioner Cutrano thanked staff for this important discussion and asked how metrics are developed for projects.

Mr. McGill replied that, on any given project, the metrics chosen are assigned to the objective of the project. He commented that the metrics developed for the NB US 101 to EB I-580 Direct Connector Project could be used for similar projects in the future. He added that the recently developed TAM Travel Model generates a wealth of travel information which can be used for future efforts.

Commissioner Cutrano asked if the metrics for the NB US 101 to EB I-580 Direct Connector Project were developed from best practices or if they were constructed from community feedback.

ED Richman stated that they were developed through discussions with the stakeholder working group and then honed by staff and the consultant team.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles urged staff to look at these issues in every step of a project or program’s process. She added that every staff report should include an equity analysis section. She finalized her comments by stating that impacts are not always obvious when analyzing transportation projects and programs, and she encouraged a deeper dive when considering the impacts.

Chair Lucan asked if any members of the public wished to speak or had sent in an e-comment, and hearing none, he asked ED Richman if she had any closing comments.

ED Richman thanked the board for the thoughtful discussion and said that training, considering past investments and how to embed equity into policies and outcomes while maintaining the directives of the Measure AA Expenditure Plan are some items that staff can begin to consider in the near term.

Chair Lucan commented that it is important for board members to continue the discussion on this topic and to get the word out on how TAM is looking to continue to advance equity in transportation, particularly at their Council level.

Chair Lucan adjourned the meeting in memory of Cindy Winter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.