

MEETING OF THE  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN  
TAM

MAY 27, 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  
Damon Connolly, Marin County Board of Supervisors  
Dan Hillmer, Larkspur City Council  
Dennis Rodoni, Marin County Board of Supervisors  
Eli Beckman, Corte Madera Town Council  
Eric Lucan, Novato City Council, TAM Chair  
James Campbell, Belvedere City Council  
Chance Cutrano, Fairfax Town Council  
Judy Arnold, Marin County Board of Supervisors  
Katie Rice, Marin County Board of Supervisors  
Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Marin County Board of Supervisors, TAM Vice-Chair  
Susan Cleveland-Knowles, Sausalito City Council  
Urban Carmel, Mill Valley City Council

Members Absent: Kate Colin, San Rafael City Council

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  
Joanne O’Hehir, Administrative Assistant  
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 6:03 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 expressed condolences on behalf of the TAM Board and staff to the employees of Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) and the families of those who lost their lives on May 26, 2021.

Chair Lucan introduced Commissioner Beach Kuhl, representing the Town of Ross, to present the Crossing Guard of the Year Award. Commissioner Kuhl introduced the Superintendent of Ross School District, Dr. Michael McDowell, who commended Crossing Guard David Houston for his service to the community. Commissioner Kuhl presented the award to Mr. Houston in a video recording.

Chair Lucan recognized the Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) members and he congratulated Member Joy Dahlgren, Central Marin Planning Area, who is stepping down after 14 years of service to the Committee. Alternate Jeffrey Olson will take the member seat. Chair Lucan also recognized Mr. Bob Burton, who was a dedicated COC member for over 15 years representing the Southern Marin Planning Area and passed away in December 2020. He reported that Mr. Stephen Burke would be appointed Member for Southern Marin Planning Area and Debbie Allen as the Alternate.

Chair Lucan expressed his appreciation on behalf of the TAM Board for the work undertaken by the members. COC Chairperson Peter Pelham thanked the Board for the acknowledgement and the COC members/alternates for their dedication.

Chair Lucan concluded his report with an announcement that Commissioners Carmel and Cleveland-Knowles would be joining the TAM Commute Alternatives & Trip Reduction (CART) Ad-Hoc Committee.

## **2. Commissioner Matters Not on the Agenda (Discussion)**

Commissioner Colbert reported on a virtual community workshop on the San Anselmo Hub Transportation Study and Commissioner Carmel recommended a podcast on roundabouts.

## **3. Commissioner Reports (Discussion)**

### **a. MTC Report – Commissioner Connolly**

Commissioner Connolly reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the State of California Wildlife Conservation Board have issued a grant agreement for the North Bay Baylands Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) for a sea level rise and climate change vulnerability assessment related to State Route (SR) 37. He also reported on MTC's plans for the approximately \$1.7 billion for the Bay Area region for transit from the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Commissioner Connolly discussed his participation on a Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) Ad-Hoc Recovery Committee, which focuses primarily on pandemic recovery actions for BATA and the bridges. He stated that traffic levels are anticipated to return to about 90% of 2019 levels by 2022 and bridge traffic is expected to return to 100% by 2028. He confirmed that the last meeting of the Ad-Hoc group took place on April 5, 2021 and will issue a report that includes a recommendation for open-road tolling and an extension of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane east of the Toll Plaza.

### **b. Marin Transit Report – Commissioner Colbert**

Commissioner Colbert reported that he had joined Commissioner Connolly for a bus and bike ride from the San Rafael Transit Center to Golden Gate Bridge and back. He noted that Commissioner Connolly traditionally foregoes driving during the month of May in favor of biking and public transit. Commissioner Colbert reported that the Marin Transit drivers were very helpful and the experience of riding public transit was very positive.

## c. SMART Report – Commissioner Lucan

Commissioner Lucan reported that SMART’s “Welcome Back” campaign is underway with 2 additional services in the morning and 3 additional services in the afternoon on weekdays. He added that Saturday service will begin on May 29, 2021, and that the SMART Board has approved a promotional fare structure that is effective until May 2022, resulting in fare savings of 40%.

**4. Executive Director's Report (Discussion)**

Executive Director (ED) Anne Richman issued an oath of office to Eli Beckman, a new alternate TAM Commissioner for Corte Madera.

ED Richman reported on a call for projects for \$1.25 million in funding from the Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) and the Transportation Development Act (TDA); funding allocations to Mill Valley and San Rafael for two major road projects, and the release of the Draft FY2021-22 Annual budget for the public comment period. ED Richman read a Letter of Appreciation for Ms. Merleno, who will retire at the end of May after 15 years of service as the agency’s Executive Assistant and Clerk of the Board. Vice-Chair Stephanie Moulton-Peters and Commissioners Hillmer, Connolly, Rice, Arnold, Fredericks, and Colbert offered their best wishes to Ms. Merleno. Chair Lucan added his thanks for Ms. Merleno’s contribution to the agency.

**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 April 22, 2021
- b. Approval of Financial Advisory Services Contract Extension
- c. Appointments to the Citizens’ Oversight Committee
- d. Review the 2021 Measure A/AA Transportation Sales Tax Compliance Auditee Selection List
- e. Allocate Transportation Sales Tax (Measure AA) Funds to Mill Valley for the East Blithedale Avenue Rehabilitation Project
- f. Allocate Transportation Sales Tax (Measure AA) Funds to San Rafael for the Third Street Rehabilitation Project
- g. Review the Proposed TAM FY2021-22 Annual Budget and Release for Public Comment

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

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

**7. MTC Presentation on Plan Bay Area 2050 (Discussion)**

Planning Manager Derek McGill provided background information on Plan Bay Area (PBA) 2050 and he confirmed that all the projects submitted by Marin County have been included in the Plan. Mr. McGill introduced David Vautin, Assistant Director of Major Plans with MTC, who presented the report on PBA 2050.

Mr. Vautin provided an overview of Draft PBA 2050, the long-range regional plan for transportation, housing, the economy and the environment, which MTC released on May 26, 2021. He discussed the planning process and public outreach since the Plan's inception 3.5 years ago and highlighted the expected growth geographies in the Bay Area over the next 30 years.

Mr. Vautin discussed the four elements of the Plan. He stated that the Transportation Element focuses on maintaining and optimizing the existing system and investing \$100 billion in transit; the Housing Element focuses on preserving and growing affordable housing levels; the Economy Element focuses on strategies to improve economic mobility to address income inequality; and the Environmental Element includes strategies to reduce risks from sea level rise and earthquakes.

Mr. Vautin provided an overview of the 35 strategies that are included in the Plan, including strategies to expand the transportation network to connect to new destinations and reduce traffic congestion. He discussed 5 strategies that relate directly to Marin County, including a transportation strategy to improve interchanges and highway bottlenecks (such as SR 37), and increased affordable housing and sea level rise protections. Mr. Vautin stated the cost of the Plan is expected to be over \$1.4 trillion over the 30-year time period and he noted that there were significant funding gaps, particularly in the housing, economic and environmental strategies, which will require state and federal funding. He noted that Marin County is expected to account for 3% of the region's housing growth, and the North Bay is expected to account for 10% of housing growth. He discussed the importance of job and housing growth occurring close to public transit in order to meet the state's greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction mandates and the advantages of adopting the strategies, including reductions in the burden of housing and transportation costs and the protection of homes from sea-level rise.

Mr. Vautin highlighted some of the actions in the implementation plan, including the need to raise revenue, advance the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Recovery Taskforce and to lead projects that advance affordable housing.

Mr. Vautin concluded his presentation with details of the public outreach process and noted that the Draft Plan is available to the public for review and comment through July 20, 2021.

Commissioner Hillmer asked how the pandemic has affected data on jobs and housing. Mr. Vautin stated that a Draft and Final Blueprint were produced during the pandemic that incorporated data on telecommuting, GHG emissions and office needs during that period.

Commissioner Campbell and Mr. Vautin discussed MTC's role in sea level rise planning and the financial aspects of implementing the plan. Mr. Vautin stated that the plan includes studies on the costs and mitigations for impacts from a 2-foot sea level rise through 2050, and that MTC's role would be to provide technical assistance and funding to local agencies. He confirmed that they utilized research from San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

Commissioner Carmel and Mr. Vautin discussed the need for 37,000 housing units over the 30-year period of the Plan and Commissioner Carmel noted that lack of funding would be the key problem for meeting affordable housing needs.

Chair Lucan and Mr. Vautin discussed the inclusion of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and junior accessory dwelling units (JADUs) in growth patterns.

Chair Lucan opened this item to public comment.

Vida Florez, Alternate for the COC, commented on the Plan, which she urged the TAM Board to support .

**8. Adopt Positions on 2021 State Legislative Bills (Action)**

Manager of Programming and Legislation David Chan introduced Gus Khouri of Khouri Consulting to present this item which recommended that the TAM Board adopt the recommended positions on the 2021 Legislative bills.

Mr. Khouri discussed the state budget surplus, financial commitments to education, homelessness, and the dedication of \$4.5 billion for transportation, including investment in rail transit to reduce GHG emissions; funding for the Active Transportation Program (ATP) and grade separation projects. He also discussed the extension of relief on transit fare box recovery ratio requirements, maintaining the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) support cost cap charged to local agencies for delivering projects relating to state highways, and TAM's response to the Governor's Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure.

In response to Commissioner Rice, Mr. Khouri confirmed the Governor is required by the constitution to set aside funds for a rainy day fund. He noted that the state has exceeded the level of taxation funds allowed and is returning funds to taxpayers.

Chair Lucan recused himself from the discussion on the e-bike bill and asked Vice-Chair Moulton-Peters to preside over that portion of the item.

Mr. Khouri confirmed an amendment to Assembly Bill (AB) 117 (Boerner Horvath) would prioritize rebates for low-income individuals who purchase electric bikes and he recommended the Board change its position on the bill from "Watch" to "Support".

Chairperson Lucan returned to the virtual dais and Mr. Khouri also recommended TAM change position from "Oppose" to "Watch" on Senate Bill (SB) 542 and to take a position of "Support" on AB 14 and SB 4 that will provide funding to expand broadband.

Commissioner Fredericks asked Mr. Khouri if there would be sufficient funds to provide increased broadband across the community or if funds would be prioritized. In response, Mr. Khouri stated that he is not aware of how funds will be distributed.

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

Chair Lucan recused himself and stepped away from the virtual dais while Vice-Chair Moulton Peters presided over the vote on the e-bike bill.

Commissioner Rice made a motion to move from a "Watch" position to a "Support" position on AB 117 which was seconded by Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Lucan returned to the virtual dais and presided over the vote for the remainder of the bills.

Commissioner Rice made a motion to adopt positions on the remaining bills in the 2021 State Legislative Bills as presented in the staff report which was seconded by Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

**9. MTC Agreement for the Marin Sonoma Narrows (MSN) Project (Action)**

ED Richman introduced the item and noted that MTC has approved the funding agreement with TAM. Mr. Chan presented the staff report, which asks the TAM Board to authorize the TAM ED to execute an agreement with MTC

for the programming of federal discretionary Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds to the construction phase of the MSN Project.

Mr. Chan reported that the Board had authorized the TAM ED to sign a Letter of No Prejudice (LONP) at the April 22, 2021 Board Meeting for the remaining funding needed for the construction of the MSN project. Mr. Chan explained the circumstances under which TAM would be required to pay a one-time payment of 1% under the agreement with MTC. He stated that staff is proposing the amount of \$757,000 would be paid using Measure AA and he confirmed staff's recommendation to execute the funding agreement.

In response to Vice-Chair Moulton-Peters, Mr. Chan clarified that payment of the 1% is required if Regional Measure (RM) 3 is upheld after September 30 2023, but TAM would not be required to repay any of the federal funds if RM3 fails. ED Richman stated that the funding agreement is still significantly beneficial to the agency.

Commissioner Connolly and ED Richman discussed the reason why MTC would apply an interest fee if RM3 is not upheld before September 2023. ED Richman noted that the date is tied to the cycle of funding from the Surface Transportation Program (STP) through the One Bay Area Program (OBAG).

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles stated that the litigation of RM3 is currently being considered by the courts and that it is possible the lawsuit might not be resolved before September 2023. She confirmed her support for staff's recommendation.

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

Commissioner Arnold made a motion to authorize TAM ED to execute an agreement with the MTC for the programming of federal discretionary STP funds to the construction phase of the MSN Project which was seconded by Commissioner Fredericks.

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

#### **10. Review and Release the Draft 2021 Strategic Plan for Public Comment (Action)**

ED Richman introduced the item and Mr. Chan presented the staff report, which asks the Commissioners to review and release the draft 2021 Strategic Plan for the required 30-day public comment period.

Mr. Chan provided background information on the Expenditure Plans for Measure A and Measure AA, which require TAM to have Strategic Plans that identify when funding would become available and when projects are slated to receive funds. He stated that the Strategic Plan for Measure A must remain until the agency has fulfilled all the commitments under the measure and that staff is recommending the Strategic Plans for Measure A and Measure AA are combined into a single document.

Mr. Chan discussed the notable changes to the new Plan, including the addition of two new guiding principles: 1) Equity and 2) Wildfire Evacuation Awareness, and the provision of a 5-year outlook. He discussed sections in the Plan that address transparency and accountability and the inclusion of revenue forecasts.

Mr. Chan stated that revenue collections for Measure A ceased on March 30, 2019 and he discussed the outstanding commitments under Strategy 1.1 and the Reserve Fund. He discussed Measure AA funds, which began collection on April 1, 2019 and discussed the ways in which the funds have been spent, including Quick-Build Projects, large and small Safe Pathway Projects and the Crossing Guard Program.

Mr. Chan confirmed that the recommendation by staff is to release the 2021 Strategic Plan for the 30-day public comment period, with adoption of the Strategic Plan anticipated by the TAM Board at the June 24, 2021 meeting subject to completion of the public comment period on June 26.

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

Commissioner Hillmer made a motion to release the draft 2021 Strategic Plan for the required 30-day public comment period which was seconded by Commissioner Arnold.

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

#### **11. Active Transportation Update in Celebration of Bike Month (Discussion)**

Senior Transportation Planner Scott McDonald presented the discussion item on the agency's activities that advance biking in Marin County. The activities include the agency's sponsorship of Bike to Everywhere Days, the completion of an electric bike study in 2020, future implementation of an e-bike share program, a website toolkit, the funding of 27 projects through Safe Pathways, a call for projects for TFCA and TDA funds, funding from the state Active Transportation Projects (ATP) for Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Access, and funding requests submitted through the federal Community Projects process.

Mr. McDonald discussed current construction projects that include bike and pedestrian improvements on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, the North-South Greenway Multi-Use Path over Corte-Madera Creek, and the Gate 6 Intersection improvements in Sausalito. He also discussed TAM's promotion of biking throughout Marin County,

Vice-Chair Moulton-Peters stated that it was wonderful to see all that has been accomplished in the County and Commissioner Hillmer thanked Mr. McDonald for his presentation to the Larkspur City Council on the Bike Share Program.

Chair Lucan opened this item to public comment.

Warren Wells, Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC), thanked the commissioners for their support for biking projects. He particularly thanked Supervisor Connolly for accompanying him on a biking tour of bike projects.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. in memory of the VTA victims*

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