



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
TAM

JUNE 24, 2021
6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Alice Fredericks, Tiburon Town Council
Brian Colbert, San Anselmo Town Council
Damon Connolly, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Dennis Rodoni, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Kevin Haroff, Larkspur City 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
Kate Colin, San Rafael City Council
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: Beach Kuhl, Ross Town Council
Dan Hillmer, Larkspur City Council
Katie Rice, Marin County Board of Supervisors

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
Jennifer Doucette, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board
Helga Cotter, Senior Accountant
Li Zhang, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer
Nick Nguyen, Principal Project Delivery Manager
Scott McDonald, Senior Transportation Planner

Chair Lucan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Chair Lucan welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Executive Director (ED) Anne Richman to introduce TAM's new Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board, Jennifer Doucette, to the Board of Commissioners. Chair Lucan asked Ms. Doucette 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 that the electrical vehicle (EV) Drive Clean event at the Bon Air shopping center in Greenbrae was well attended and included vehicles from most major car manufacturers. Chair Lucan expressed his encouragement that considerable progress has been made over the past decade when a similar event only included vehicles from a few manufacturers and had significantly lower community participation.

2. Commissioner Matters Not on the Agenda (Discussion)

None.

3. Commissioner Reports (Discussion)

a. MTC Report – Commissioner Connolly

Commissioner Connolly reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approved its budget, as well as the budget for the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), and other MTC-related organizations. Commissioner Connolly shared some toll bridge traffic updates by BATA, including an increase in traffic levels and the expectation that toll bridge traffic will be restored to FY2018-19, pre pandemic level, by FY2024-25; traffic on the 6 state-owned toll bridges has increased 28% in FY2020-21, and has stabilized at 80% of the FY2018-19 level; and that recovery has not been equal across individual bridges with less traffic on the southern bridges, to date.

Commissioner Connolly reported that MTC allocated \$83 million to various projects through the Safe & Seamless Mobility Quick-Strike Program, which is a one-time competitive grant using federal funds. Marin secured funding for 3 projects: TAM - \$141K for planning and programming; Marin Transit - \$1.2 million for bus stop improvements; and the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) - \$1.86 million for the multi-use pathway project between McGinnis Parkway and Smith Ranch Road in San Rafael.

Commissioner Connolly updated the Board on the Federal Transportation Act, which now is known as the INVEST in America Act. MTC is working closely with Congressman Huffman on several local and regional projects, including a San Rafael canal crossing. Lastly, Commissioner Connolly reported that a report from the BATA Recovery Ad-Hoc Working Group was issued and approved by MTC. The report focuses on issues such as the state of bridges, long and short-term projects, equity, strengthening the relationship between Caltrans and MTC, and FORWARD programs.

b. Marin Transit Report – Commissioner Colin

Commissioner Colin reported that effective June 15, 2021, Marin Transit and Golden Gate Transit increased the number of passengers allowed to 100% of seating capacity. Commissioner Colin updated the Board on the installation of the electric bus charging stations at the bus parking facility in Novato. The four new charging stations, funded through Measure AA and the State Low Carbon Transit Operation Program, are scheduled to be installed by late September 2021, before the arrival of the new battery-electric buses in October 2021.

c. SMART Report – Commissioner Lucan

Commissioner Lucan reported that \$13.6 million has been secured to replace an aging bridge over the Russian River that will be necessary for a future SMART line to Healdsburg. Commissioner Lucan also reported that SMART welcomed its 2 millionth passenger since the start of passenger rail service.

4. Executive Director's Report (Discussion)

ED Richman announced the production and distribution of limited hard copies of the FY2019-20 COC/2020 TAM Annual Report and that copies have been sent to all Board members.

ED Richman updated the Board on protocols for public meetings, as mandated by Governor Newsom, to extend through September 30th. TAM is planning virtual meetings for July as new meeting logistics are developed for September and subsequent future meetings.

ED Richman highlighted recent activities and transportation news including: the upcoming Bon Air Bridge closure, North-South Greenway construction progress, MTC Safe & Seamless Mobility Quick-Strike program, public comment period for Plan Bay Area 2050, Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Pathway and Connections survey, MTC recruitment for Policy Advisory Council, and the INVEST in America Act.

ED Richman called attention to this month's Caltrans report and noted that Caltrans is expecting to close the Central San Rafael off-ramp from northbound US 101 for a not-yet specified weekend in July.

In response to Commissioner Carmel's inquiry regarding future funding for Quick Strike Tier 1 projects that were not awarded MTC funds, ED Richman noted that TAM will continue to look for funding opportunities for those projects.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters reiterated the importance of funding the Blithedale project; and inquired about TAM's funding allocation for sea-level rise. ED Richman confirmed that there is a program within Measure AA for sea-level rise (approximately \$200,00 per year) and explained that this amount allows TAM to perform collaborative planning with other agencies like Caltrans and the County of Marin towards sea-level rise solutions. Staff expects to present more detailed information on the sea-level rise program to the Board in the Fall of 2021.

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.

Doug Wilson from the Marin Conservation League (MCL) expressed the need to address sea-level rise and climate change. He inquired if greenhouse gas (GHG) emission is used as a criterion in the purchasing of vehicles by government agencies.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR (Action)

- a. Approve TAM Board Meeting Minutes May 27, 2021
- b. Safe Routes to School Contract Extension
- c. Allocate Transportation Sales Tax Funds from Measure AA Category 2.1 for Local Infrastructure Projects

In reference to Item 6b, Commissioner Rodoni asked if the contract extension should trigger a request for proposal (RFP) process. ED Richman explained that the Safe Routes to School contract was procured with an RFP for a 3-year term with an option to extend for 2 additional years.

Commissioner Rodoni moved to approve the Consent Calendar and was seconded by Commissioner Arnold. Chair Lucan opened the item to public comment and hearing none, a roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. State Legislative Update (Discussion)

Chair Lucan welcomed Gus Khouri, TAM's Legislative Advocate with Khouri Consulting, who presented the State Legislative Update.

Mr. Khouri reported on the State budget including the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 128, education, Medi-Cal reimbursement rates, and high-speed rail. Mr. Khouri reported that Governor Newsom is making \$3 billion available to the Transits and Intercity Rail Capital Program, for which Marin Transit, Golden Gate Transit, and SMART could qualify.

Mr. Khouri highlighted both the Central Marin Regional Pathways Gap Closure Project (\$1.3 million), and the San Rafael Canal Crossing (\$1.5 million) as projects that would likely qualify for state funds if the additional \$900 million in Active Transportation Program were to materialize.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles asked Mr. Khouri to clarify whether TAM's questions and comments on the draft Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) were addressed by the State in the updated CAPTI document. Mr. Khouri deferred to ED Richman who explained that TAM will continue to work with the state agencies to clarify the CAPTI policy.

Chair Lucan opened this item to public comment. Seeing no others wishing to speak, Chair Lucan closed the item to public comment.

8. 2021 Transportation Sales Tax Strategic Plan (Action)

ED Richman advised the Board of a revised presentation that included public comments received on the Strategic Plan and staff's responses, which was sent to the Board and posted on the TAM website prior to the meeting.

Manager of Programming and Legislation David Chan presented the 2021 Transportation Sales Tax Strategic Plan with a recommendation to adopt the 2021 Strategic Plan, with the few revisions noted in response to the comments from the Citizens Oversight Committee (COC) and Marin Conservation League (MCL), on the condition that any additional comments received by the end of the 30-day public comment period on June 26, 2021, do not substantially alter the 2021 Strategic Plan.

Chair Lucan asked if any members of the public wished to speak or had sent in an e-comment.

COC Member Veda Florez from Novato commented that she would like more clarification on the formula used to measure equity success. In addition, Ms. Florez asked the Board to consider renaming the COC to the Community Oversight Committee, instead of Citizens' Oversight Committee.

COC Member & MCL representative Kate Powers commented that reduction of GHG emissions should receive more emphasis within the Strategic Plan. Ms. Powers asked how TAM defines and measures the sustainability of our transportation systems and how a sustainable transportation system can be achieved in relation to GHG emissions.

Organizing for Action (OFA) Marin representative Belle Cole expressed her support of the MCL public comment letter sent to the Board.

Chair Lucan asked if there were any other public comments and hearing none, he closed the item to public comment and asked ED Richman if she would like to respond to the public comments.

ED Richman clarified that TAM staff recommends incorporating language from the Measure AA Expenditure Plan (EP) goals in reference to the reduction of GHG into the Strategic Plan.

Chair Lucan opened the discussion to the Board members.

Commissioner Carmel commented that the Strategic Plan should include a "green" focus for a 21st century transportation system. He also commented on the potential conflict between reducing GHG and the increase in vehicular traffic as a result of increased housing.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles asked TAM staff for clarification of Guiding Principle (e) (Promote High Environmental and Conservation Awareness) of the Strategic Plan, and if it was possible to incorporate the reduction of GHG into that principle. In addition, she noted that the language used to describe Guiding Principle (e) may be outdated.

In response to Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles, ED Richman explained that the definition of “environmental and conservation awareness” has changed over time, however, with the Board’s direction, GHG language could be incorporated into Guiding Principle (e). ED Richman further noted that the development of the Guiding Principles should not conflict with the voter-approved Expenditure Plan.

In response to Commissioner Carmel’s inquiry regarding meeting Plan Bay Area 2050 requirements, ED Richman explained that MTC will be implementing many projects and programs throughout the Bay Area that meet the Plan’s requirements.

Commissioner Colbert thanked Commissioner Carmel for his comments and encouraged TAM staff to share these comments about the future of transportation.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters asked for clarification of where TAM staff recommends inserting GHG language into the Strategic Plan. She further commented that she did not believe GHG reduction would conflict with highway transportation projects and would like to see reference to GHG as explicit as possible.

ED Richman explained that the GHG language would be added to the Executive Summary of the Strategic Plan as an overall goal of the 2018 Measure AA Expenditure Plan.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters agreed with Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles that language used to describe Guiding Principle(e) is outdated and should be updated to incorporate specific GHG language.

Chair Lucan asked if there were any additional questions or comments, and hearing none, he asked TAM staff if the feedback and proposed changes could be incorporated into the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Chan responded in the affirmative, and ED Richman confirmed changing the first sentence of Guiding Principle (e) to read, “TAM will remain committed to working with program and project sponsors in a cooperative manner to deliver the Measure AA program with attention to environmental and conservation awareness and reducing greenhouse gas emissions”.

In response to Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles’ inquiry regarding the incorporation of the new goal language into the Strategic Plan, ED Richman stated that TAM staff will create a new section within the Executive Summary that restates the 2018 Expenditure Plan goal.

Chair Lucan confirmed that a subsequent vote to approve a revised 2021 Strategic Plan may occur should substantive comments be received before the end of the 30-day public comment period on June 26, 2021.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters made a motion to adopt the 2021 Strategic Plan with the proposed revisions recommended by TAM staff and was seconded by Alternate Haroff. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Adoption of the Proposed TAM FY2021-22 Annual Budget (Action)

ED Richman explained that the presentation will be co-presented by herself and Ms. Li Zhang, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer.

Ms. Zhang recommended that the TAM Board review and adopt the Proposed TAM FY2021-22 Annual Budget, including the proposed work plan for FY2021-22 and the salary schedule effective as of July 1, 2021, pending the completion of the 30-day budget comment period.

Ms. Zhang reviewed the budget development timeline and process, an update on budget activities since the May board review, components of the annual budget, and the proposed revenues and expenditures for FY2021-22.

ED Richman presented an overview of the work plans by the Agency's functional areas and noted that the work plan identifies the Agency's major planned work for the upcoming year.

Chair Lucan opened the discussion to the Board members.

Commissioner Cutrano asked if the budget included a specific line item for support of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (MWPA), and if TAM staff considered such expenses within the budget to address wildfire risk.

ED Richman explained that there is not a specific line item for the MWPA, however, TAM staff has been working with the MWPA to provide guidance and access to the TAM travel demand model, which has extensive information about the roadway network and traffic patterns in Marin County. ED Richman explained that TAM staff will continue to support MWPA but does not anticipate an associated budget expenditure at this time.

Ms. Zhang clarified that any professional services or resources required outside of TAM staff will have a specific line item within the budget while all staff support time for various projects and programs are shown under the Salary/Benefit budget line.

Chair Lucan asked if any members of the public wished to speak or had sent in an e-comment.

Susannah Saunders commented in support of funding levels for Measure B, Element 3.3, to promote the use of EVs.

Marin-Sonoma EV Squad representative and Larkspur resident David Moller advocated for the wide-spread use of EVs to reduce GHG emissions. Mr. Moller commented in support of TAM's Alternative Fuels Program and the proposed funding level of \$345K in the FY2021-22 Budget, and TAM's development of the EV Readiness Plan. However, the Marin-Sonoma EV Squad would like to see an increase in the funding level of the Alternative Fuels Program if the EV Readiness Plan identifies significant actions TAM can undertake to reduce GHG emissions. In addition, Mr. Moller commented in support of the Measure B Expenditure Plan 10-Year Review and looks forward to contributing during that process.

Sustainable Mill Valley Co-Head and Mill Valley resident Al Grumet expressed support for the proposed funding levels for the Measure B Alternative Fuels Program and the development of the EV Readiness Plan. Mr. Grumet commented on the need for flexibility regarding funding to address the fast-changing landscape of EV infrastructure, outreach, and education.

Chair Lucan asked if there were any other public comments and hearing none, he closed the item to public comment and asked ED Richman if she had any comment before opening the discussion to the Board.

ED Richman explained that TAM has the ability to make mid-year budget amendments, as appropriate. ED Richman also noted that there is an Alternative Fuel & Electrical Vehicle (AFEV) Ad-Hoc Committee that reviews the AFEV program and recommends changes, if needed. ED Richman explained that TAM is working in conjunction with the Marin Climate and Energy Partnership Group to fund and develop the EV Readiness Program. Lastly, ED Richman noted that increased awareness on both the State and Federal levels for EV use has resulted in significant increases in funding for EV programs and infrastructure.

Commissioner Campbell reiterated the urgent need to address sea-level rise. He further commented that TAM's scope of responsibilities should be clearly communicated to the public (e.g. wildfire evacuations).

Commissioner Colbert moved to adopt the Proposed TAM FY2021-22 Annual Budget, including the proposed work plan for FY2021-22 and the salary schedule effective as of July 1, 2021, pending the completion of the 30-day budget comment period, which was seconded by Commissioner Cutrano. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.