

MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Funding, Programs & Legislation
May 10, 2021
2:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting



MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Beach Kuhl, Ross Town Council
Eric Lucan, Novato City Council, Committee Chair
Katie Rice, County of Marin Board of Supervisors
Judy Arnold, County of Marin Board of Supervisors
Susan Cleveland-Knowles, Sausalito City Council

Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Anne Richman, Executive Director
David Chan, Manager of Programming and Legislation
Denise Merleno, Executive Assistant
Helga Cotter, Senior Accountant
Joanne O’Hehir, Administrative Assistant
Li Zhang, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer
Nick Nguyen, Principal Project Delivery Manager

Chair Lucan called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. Chair’s Report (Discussion)

Chair Lucan welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting as allowed by Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20. Denise Merleno, TAM’s Executive Assistant, conducted a roll call, reported that there was a quorum of the Committee, and provided instructions on how members of the public may participate in the meeting.

Chair Lucan noted that May is Bike Month; that May 12, 2021 would be National Bike to School Day and May 21, 2021 would be Bike to Wherever Day.

2. Commissioner Comments (Discussion)

There were none.

3. Executive Director’s Report (Discussion)

Executive Director (ED) Anne Richman presented her report. ED Richman reported that TAM will be issuing a call for projects for approximately \$1.25 million in TFCA (Transportation Fund for Clean Air) and TDA (Transportation Development Act) Article 3 funds.

ED Richman confirmed that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approved \$75 million for the construction phase of the Marin Sonoma Narrows (MSN) B7 project at its Board Meeting on April 28, 2021. She reported that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) should approve \$3.5 million of Local Partnership Program (LPP) funding for the right-of-way phase of the MSN B7 project at its May 13, 2021 meeting.

Commissioner Arnold joined the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

ED Richman discussed funding applications for the San Rafael Canal Crossing, Corte Madera Central Gap Closure and Safe Routes to Schools projects, which were submitted by TAM for Congressionally Directed Spending Requests (previously known as Earmarks). She stated that the San Rafael Canal Crossing project and an application for State Route (SR) 37, which TAM supported, are moving forward to the next stage for funding consideration.

ED Richman reported on forthcoming meetings: the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway & Transportation District (GGBHTD) Board will consider a preferred alternative for the San Rafael Transit Center at its May 21, 2021 meeting; staff from MTC will present a status update on Plan Bay Area 2050 at the May 27, 2021 TAM Board Meeting; and project alternatives will be reviewed at a May 18, 2021 Marin 101-580 Stakeholder Working Group Meeting.

ED Richman concluded her report with the announcement that TAM would be participating in Bike to Wherever Day by providing giveaway bags to bike shops in Marin.

4. Open Time for Public Expression

Chair Lucan asked if any member of the public wished to speak or had submitted a comment by e-mail, and hearing none, he closed this item.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2021 (Action)

Commissioner Arnold moved to approve the Minutes of April 12, 2021, which was seconded by Commissioner Rice with the following amendment:

Page 1, Item 2, Commissioner Comments:

“Commissioner Rice commented on her recent visit to Denver, Colorado and that part-time transit lanes are part of Denver’s freeway system along with toll roads and express lanes. She suggested that this might be a resource for TAM while it considers part-time transit lanes for Marin”, amended to read:

“Commissioner Rice commented on her recent visit to Denver, Colorado and that part-time transit lanes are part of Denver’s freeway system along with toll roads and express lanes. She suggested that this might be a resource for TAM while it considers part-time transit lanes for Marin *and noted that she was not expressing a personal opinion on toll roads and express lanes.*”

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

6. Allocate Transportation Sales Tax (Measure AA) Funds to Mill Valley for the East Blithedale Avenue Rehabilitation Project (Action)

Manager of Programming and Legislation David Chan presented this item which requested that the Committee review the request to allocate \$1,210,780 in Transportation Sales Tax (Measure AA) funds to Mill Valley to commence the construction phase for the East Blithedale Avenue Rehabilitation Project and refer it to the TAM Board for approval.

Mr. Chan discussed the funds, which he noted are set aside off the top of Measure AA to honor funding commitments to the Major Roads projects under the Measure A Expenditure Plan. Mr. Chan introduced Ahmed Aly, Project Manager from the City of Mill Valley, to provide a presentation on the project.

Mr. Aly presented an overview of the project, which included repaving the road from Sunnyside to US-101, and traffic signal upgrades. Mr. Aly noted that the City received a grant of approximately \$400,000 from TAM's Safe Pathways to School Program. He discussed the schedule for the three project phases, public outreach, construction for Phase 1, and funding. Mr. Aly discussed underfunding for Phases 2 and 3, which might require plan alterations to reduce construction costs, improvements to a multi-use trail, and a new Class IV bike lane.

In response to Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles, Mr. Aly stated that the Class IV bike lane would not be constructed along the entire length of the project in both directions because there is inadequate space. Andy Poster, City of Mill Valley Public Works Director, confirmed that the Ashford Road Class III bike lane connects to the multi-use path.

Chair Lucan opened the item to public comment.

Warren Wells, Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC), thanked Mill Valley staff for considering MCBC's comments in the design process. Mr. Wells asked the City to install a solid barrier between the bike lane and road to provide more protection for bikers.

Donald Herzog provided an email comment in which he asked for the section between Camino Alto and Park Elementary School to be constructed with ADA accessibility and safe pathways on both sides of the road before funding Phase 2 of the project.

In response to Commissioner Rice, Mr. Aly stated that Phase 2 is still in the design stage; that the community will be involved in outreach discussions; and that sidewalk construction would need to be coordinated with projects relating to Marin Municipal Water District and the Sanitary District.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles made a motion to support the staff recommendation and refer it to the full Board for approval, which was seconded by Commissioner Rice. A roll call was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Allocate Transportation Sales Tax (Measure AA) Funds to San Rafael for the Third Street Rehabilitation Project (Action)

Mr. Chan presented this item which requested that the Committee review the request to allocate \$11,654,106 in Measure AA funds to San Rafael to commence the construction phase for the Third Street Rehabilitation Project and refer it to the TAM Board for approval.

Mr. Chan confirmed that funds are set aside off the top of Measure AA to honor the funding commitments to the Major Roads projects approved under Measure A and that TAM's funding commitment to this project will have been completed if the TAM Board allocates the funds. He discussed the proposed reimbursement schedule that will help TAM's cashflow.

Mr. Chan introduced Bill Guerin, Public Works Director of San Rafael, who introduced April Miller, Senior Engineer for the City of San Rafael. Ms. Miller provided a presentation on the project, including community outreach, project goals, traffic signal upgrades, road accessibility improvements, a new two-directional Class IV bike lane on Second Street and the addition of approximately 50 trees. She also discussed funding and construction, which is anticipated to begin in late summer or early fall.

Commissioner Rice and Ms. Miller discussed the two-directional bike lane. Ms. Miller confirmed that staff is still exploring options for a barrier and noted that a multi-use path would have required more space.

Chair Lucan opened the item to public comment.

Mr. Wells thanked Mr. Guerin and Ms. Miller for working with the bike community. He commended the City for considering a variety of bike and car separation facilities.

Commissioner Arnold made a motion to support the staff recommendation and refer it to the full Board for approval, which was seconded by Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Lucan and ED Richman discussed signage at the project site that will acknowledge funding from TAM and Measure AA.

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

ED Richman introduced Gus Khouri with Khouri Consulting, to present this item, which asks the Committee to review a proposed letter to the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) Secretary David Kim and positions on eight new legislative bills, shown in Attachment A.

Mr. Khouri reported on the release of the revised FY2021-22 state budget, the approximately \$26 billion allotted to the state from the American Rescue Plan (ARP), the anticipation that there will not be a shortfall in funding for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and the Active Transportation Program (ATP). He also reported on the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI), and TAM's draft letter to CalSTA.

ED Richman discussed the draft letter and the need for the agency to support the environmental elements of CAPTI while expressing the need for funding to deliver the Expenditure Plan and projects such as State Route (SR) 37.

Commissioner Arnold asked ED Richman to ensure the draft letter addresses the agency's concerns relating to major highway projects, such as SR 37.

In response to Commissioner Rice, ED Richman stated that staff would amend the draft letter to make the agency's main message more succinct; and she clarified TAM's partnership with state agencies and the need for their support. ED Richman stated that there is no consensus among Bay Area counties on CAPTI, but that Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA) and TAM share similar reservations.

Mr. Khouri discussed the importance of CAPTI being sufficiently flexible to allow funding assistance for congestion and mobility projects.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles agreed with Commissioner Rice that the draft letter needs to clarify TAM's position, although she acknowledged the breadth of the issues encompassed by CAPTI. She discussed the need for the letter to accentuate TAM's commitment to transportation projects.

Chair Lucan and Mr. Khouri discussed capacity-increasing projects that allow more free-flowing traffic. Mr. Khouri stated that CAPTI encourages people to use modes of transportation other than single-occupancy vehicles to reduce their carbon footprint. ED Richman noted that TAM needs funding to continue making improvements where transit becomes a viable and effective alternative to single-occupancy vehicles.

Chair Lucan asked if any member of the public wished to speak or had submitted a comment by e-mail, and hearing none, he asked Mr. Khouri to continue his presentation on the Bill Matrix.

Mr. Khouri stated that he recommends the commissioners take a position of "Support" on AB 14 and SB 4 that will provide funding to expand broadband; refrain from taking a position on AB 339, which will require translation services and in-person testimony while allowing virtual public meetings; take a position of "Support" on AB 745 that will provide vouchers for low-income drivers to purchase zero emission vehicles if their vehicles fail a smog check; continuing to take a position of "Oppose" on SB 771, which will exempt plug-in hybrid or zero-emission vehicles from the state Bradley-Burns tax, which is a main source of funding for transportation.

Commissioner Rice suggested taking a "Watch" position on AB 339 and Mr. Khouri explained how SB 4 could help the agency to meet its green-house gas (GHG) reduction goals by expanding broadband access to allow more people to work from home.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles and ED Richman discussed the state's reopening on June 15, 2021. ED Richman stated that the rules will need clarifying before decisions to reopen the TAM office and hold in-person public meetings are made.

Chair Lucan asked if any member of the public wished to speak or had submitted a comment by e-mail, and hearing none, he closed this item.

Chair Lucan and Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles stated that they supported changing AB 339 to a "Watch" position.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles made a motion to support the staff recommendation with modifications and refer it to the full Board for approval, which was seconded by Commissioner Rice. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.