



MEETING OF THE  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
Administration, Projects & Planning  
September 13, 2021  
4:00 PM

Virtual Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85317140959?pwd=RzczNmxdW8yaVFyOVFtTjJ3aW5MZZ09>

**Webinar: 853 1714 0959**

**Password: 264152**

Members Present: Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Marin County Board of Supervisors, Committee Chair  
Alice Fredericks, Tiburon Town Council  
Dan Hillmer, Larkspur City Council  
Brian Colbert, San Anselmo Town Council  
Damon Connolly, 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, Director of Programming & Legislation  
Derek McGill, Director of Planning  
Helga Cotter, Senior Accountant/HR Specialist  
Jennifer Doucette, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board  
Li Zhang, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer  
Nick Nguyen, Principal Project Delivery Manager  
Molly Graham, Public Outreach Coordinator

Chair Stephanie Moulton-Peters called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Chair Moulton-Peters welcomed everyone to the Committee's virtual meeting and asked Jennifer Doucette, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board, to conduct a roll call and ensure a quorum. Ms. Doucette confirmed the quorum and described how the public could provide comment during the meeting.

**1. Chair's Report (Discussion)**

Chair Moulton-Peters noted that she did not have a report.

**2. Commissioners Comments (Discussion)**

There were none.

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

Executive Director (ED) Anne Richman reported that Marin Commutes will begin a 6-week campaign in October to encourage people who live or work in the County to use greener ways of travel. ED Richman also reported that Bay Area transit agencies and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) have launched a new multi-lingual advertising campaign to encourage Bay Area residents to use buses, trains, ferries, and light rail.

ED Richman provided an update on the Central San Rafael off-ramp bridge construction project. She stated that the temporary bridge would be in place until the end of October 2021.

ED Richman reported that MTC hosted a webinar on the latest public outreach results for Plan Bay Area (PBA) 2050. She stated that a joint meeting between the Executive Boards of MTC and ABAG (Association of Bay Area Governments) is expected to take place in October to consider final adoption of the plan.

ED Richman reported on a debrief between TAM staff and the U.S Department of Transportation (DOT) on the grant application for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program, which was submitted in March 2021 for the Marin-Sonoma Narrows (MSN) B7 project. She stated that from a total of 127 project applications, 26 were forwarded to the Secretary's Office for final consideration including TAM's project; however, only 16 projects (not including MSN) were selected to receive grants. ED Richman confirmed that MTC has since committed other federal funds for the project.

ED Richman concluded her report with a discussion on grant opportunities for local jurisdictions, which included: Clean California Local Grant Program from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans); Sustainable Transportation Planning grants that are issued annually by Caltrans; Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Chair Moulton-Peters thanked ED Richman for keeping track of funding opportunities. She stated that October 6 is Clean Air Day and discussed a Drive Less, Bike More campaign by the League of American Bicyclists. ED Richman noted that National Drive Electric Week is from September 25 to October 3, 2021 and that the Board will be provided with an update on the Alternative Fuel Program at the September 23 meeting.

#### **4. Open time for public expression**

Chair Moulton-Peters asked Ms. Doucette if any public comment had been received and hearing none, she closed this item to public comment.

#### **5. Approval of the Minutes from July 12, 2021 Meeting (Action)**

Commissioner Connolly moved to approve the Minutes of the July 12, 2021 Administration, Projects and Planning (AP&P) Executive Committee meeting, which Commissioner Hillmer seconded. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed. Commissioner Fredericks abstained because she did not attend the July meeting.

#### **6. Traffic Study for Richmond San Rafael Bridge Westbound Vehicle Shoulder Use (Discussion)**

Dan Cherrier, TAM's Principal Project Delivery Manager, presented the staff report. Mr. Cherrier discussed increased congestion in the westbound (WB) direction of the Richmond San Rafael Bridge (RSRB), the analysis needed to confirm that the bridge could bear the weight of 6 lanes of traffic and a barrier, and current pilot projects. Mr. Cherrier stated that the purpose of the traffic study is to determine the feasibility of operating a third traffic lane in the WB direction between 5 a.m. – 11 a.m. on weekdays.

Mr. Cherrier discussed the data that has been collected, which includes data from existing RSRB projects, such as a project by the Bay Area Transportation Authority (BATA) to replace the toll booths with an open gantry system. He also discussed the estimated project costs of \$90 million, and necessary improvements to the west side of the bridge to accommodate a third lane, including the removal of the Francisco Boulevard East (FBE) on-ramp to a new location west of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (SFDB).

Mr. Cherrier discussed traffic data, which he noted significantly decreased in 2020 during the Shelter-in-Place Order, and he stated that a permanent reduction in traffic is not anticipated. He discussed travel times from the I-580 junction to northbound (NB) and southbound (SB) US-101 and stated that the project should provide a time saving of 11 minutes for northbound traffic at peak hours.

Commissioner Hillmer and Mr. Cherrier discussed a possible increase in SB traffic with the closure of the on-ramp to FBE. Mr. Cherrier stated that traffic backups to SFDB would decrease with a new WB I-580 to SB US-101 Connector

Mr. Cherrier discussed a water pipeline proposed by the Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) to help address Marin's water shortage. He stated that a decision on the location of the pipeline should be confirmed soon, which would be either attached to the multi-use path or hung from the upper deck. He confirmed that TAM, BATA and Caltrans are working closely with MMWD on this proposal.

Mr. Cherrier summarized the traffic study, noting that the additional part-time third traffic lane would improve conditions for NB vehicles but would adversely affect SB traffic. He also stated that the third lane would not be possible if the water pipeline is located on the multi-use path.

Commissioner Hillmer thanked Mr. Cherrier for the presentation and commented on the complexity of the project.

Commissioner Connolly commented on the high estimated costs for bridge signage, widening the WB trestle section of the bridge and the relocation of the FBE on-ramp, which he stated would not result in significant time savings. Commissioner Connolly requested information on the impact of stalled vehicles, and he discussed the difficulty of transportation mode shifts, noting that the multi-use path is used primarily for recreational purposes on weekends.

Mr. Cherrier discussed the reasons for the cost of signage and trestle section improvements; and stated that the response time to stalled vehicles has improved because more emergency vehicles have been provided.

Commissioner Connolly stated that the 2024 completion date for the multi-use lane pilot program is too long and that current data on the use of the lane is reported on MTC's website. He noted that the multi-use path is rarely used during the week, while traffic is backed up on the bridge, and he suggested implementation of a pilot program to allow bus and carpooling on one lane of the WB deck during the morning commute.

Commissioner Colbert stated that WB traffic is a serious problem during commute times and on weekends, and he asked if there is a more immediate way to mitigate some of the issues. Commissioner Colbert suggested that the exit ramps depicted on the presentation slides be more clarified in advance of the September 23 Board Meeting; and he questioned the expense of a project that would not result in better conditions for vehicles using the relocated on-ramp.

Commissioner Fredericks discussed the need to clarify the slide presentation and the proposed project so that the commissioners are better able to explain the project to their councils.

Commissioner Hillmer discussed his concern that traffic backups are an equity problem because low-wage earners need to commute across the RSRB to work in Marin.

Chair Moulton-Peters discussed the need to clarify data in the presentation and she agreed that the project costs seemed very high. She expressed support for Commissioner Colbert's comment that a more cost-effective and immediate alternative might exist, and further expressed support for Commissioner Connolly's recommendation for a pilot program to create the part-time third lane for bus and carpool use. Chair Moulton-Peters discussed her concerns regarding the relocation of the FBE on-ramp.

Commissioner Hillmer noted that the state is developing housing on San Quentin property, which will increase traffic on SFDB.

ED Richman confirmed that the proposed water pipeline would affect the proposal for a part-time third traffic lane. She suggested drafting correspondence to the General Manager of MMWD requesting that transportation options on the bridge are preserved when possible. The commissioners were unanimous in their support.

*The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.*

Approved October 11, 2021