



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
TAM

OCTOBER 28, 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
Eric Lucan, Novato City Council, TAM Chair
Chance Cutrano, Fairfax Town Council
Kate Colin, San Rafael City Council
Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Marin County Board of Supervisors, TAM Vice Chair
Urban Carmel, Mill Valley City Council
Beach Kuhl, Ross Town Council
Katie Rice, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Daniel Hillmer, Larkspur City Council
Judy Arnold, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Susan Cleveland-Knowles, Sausalito City Council
Charles Lee, Corte Madera Town Council

Members Absent: James Campbell, Belvedere City Council
Dennis Rodoni, 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 and Legislation
Jennifer Doucette, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board
Helga Cotter, Senior Accountant/HR Specialist
Derek McGill, Director of Planning
Molly Graham, Public Outreach Coordinator
Grace Zhuang, Accounting & Administrative Specialist
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 6:04 p.m.

Chair Lucan welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board Jennifer 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. Adopt TAM Resolution No. 2021-16 in Compliance with AB 361 (Action)

Executive Director (ED) Anne Richman recommended the Board adopt Resolution No. 2021-16 for compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 361 so that TAM Board and Committee meetings can continue to be held virtually. Chair Lucan asked if any members of the public wished to speak or had sent an e-comment, and hearing none, asked for a motion.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles moved to adopt TAM Resolution No. 2021-16 for compliance with AB 361, which was seconded by Commissioner Cutrano. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion was unanimously approved.

2. Chair's Report (Discussion)

Chair Lucan reported on the electric bike (e-bike) share site tour, which was conducted by Bolt Mobility and the City of Richmond's Transportation Demand and Sustainability Manager. Participants included Chair Lucan, Aide to Commissioner Connolly Mary Sackett, and several TAM staff.

3. Commissioner Matters Not on the Agenda (Discussion)

None.

4. Commissioner Reports (Discussion)

Item 4b was taken out of order.

b. Marin Transit Report – Commissioner Colin

Commissioner Colin reported that starting October 1, Marin Transit (MT) will offer free fares for adults aged 65 and older, and people with disabilities, in a pilot program that is aimed to assist people impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Free rides on local fixed route service countywide will be provided during this 6-month pilot from October 2021 through March 2022. In addition, two more pilot programs are planned: free transit passes to the families of low-income students who qualify to receive MT free youth passes; and free summer passes for students for approximately 9 weeks in the summer of 2022. The passes will be offered with a valid student identification or proof of age.

Commissioner Colin also reported that on September 13, the MT Board of Directors unanimously approved staff recommendation to award a new Marin Access contract to the firm that submitted the proposal that scored the highest by the evaluation panel, Transdev Services, Inc. MT continues to be committed to ongoing oversight and ensuring that the selected contractor provides safe, hands-on, high-quality, customer-oriented service. MT staff are working with Transdev and Vivalon to ensure facility and vehicle readiness for start of service on February 1, 2022. Mailers and emails were sent to all riders to notify them of the transition to a new service provider. A dedicated page on the MT website with information, FAQs, and an opportunity to provide input has been created. Transdev is committed to offering all qualified Vivalon employees an opportunity to transition to employment with Transdev. Next week, Transdev is holding an open house for Vivalon employees to meet with, and ask questions of, the Transdev management team. Transdev will provide information and documents to start the transfer of employment process.

Lastly, Commissioner Colin reported that on October 1, the MT Board of Directors approved the distribution of \$294,112 to eligible yellow bus programs for remobilization or other impacts due to the COVID19 pandemic. This funding was made available from prior year unused Measure AA funds due to three yellow bus programs that did not operate in FY 2020-21. San Rafael Elementary School District, Miller Creek Elementary School District, Tiburon Joint Powers Authority (Reed Union School District, Cove School) and Ross Valley School District are recipients of the supplemental funds.

Item 4c was taken out of order.

c. SMART Report – Chair Lucan

Chair Lucan reported that the Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Board of Directors appointed Eddy Cumins as the new General Manager to succeed Farhad Mansourian upon his retirement.

Item 5 was taken out of order.

5. Executive Director's Report (Discussion)

ED Richman provided an update on recent projects and transportation news including updates on the project status of the final segment of the Marin-Sonoma Narrows (MSN); Gate 6 intersection modifications; the northbound Central San Rafael exit ramp and Bon Air bridge closures; the City of Richmond bike share visit; Marin Commutes Fall Campaign; Regional “All Aboard” Transit Campaign; International Walk and Roll to School Day (iWalk); new pedestrian safety measures, including Assembly Bill (AB) 43, which allows more local control over speed limits.

ED Richman also reported on her participation in the Marin Conservation League (MCL) meeting focusing on greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction; TAM’s application for a Caltrans sustainable communities grant program; the adoption of Plan Bay Area (PBA) 2050; and State Route (SR) 37 interim flood mitigation environmental clearance.

Lastly, ED Richman called attention to this month’s Caltrans (California Department of Transportation) report.

Chair Lucan opened the discussion to the Board members and public, and hearing none moved to the next agenda item.

4. Commissioner Reports (Discussion)

a. MTC Report – Commissioner Connolly

Commissioner Connolly reported that PBA 2050 was adopted by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Associations of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) on October 21.

Commissioner Connolly also reported on the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force and its focus on local and regional public transit, recovery, and transformation. The issues considered include fare integration policy; mapping and wayfinding; bus transit priority; network management reform; connected network planning; data collection and coordination; accessibility; and funding.

Commissioner Connolly reported that surveys show that 87% of Bay Area residents believe public transit is important to our region. Coordinated public transit that operates as a seamless, multimodal transit system for the Bay Area is overwhelmingly popular, across riders and non-riders.

Commissioner Connolly noted that most of the bridges are back to 90% of pre-pandemic traffic volumes. Traffic on the Richmond-San Rafael (RSR) Bridge is at 88% of September 2019 level. The Bay Bridge is at 92% of September 2019 level. Single occupancy vehicle trips have recovered faster than carpools or transit. BART ridership is at 19% of 2019 level. High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane volumes are about 70% of 2019 level. Total vehicle volumes are 98% of 2019 level, with non-HOV lane volumes 18% more than 2019 level.

Commissioner Connolly also noted that there has been a substantial shift towards remote work. Forty percent of employees are working remotely three days a week, and 20% or more are working remotely five days a week. This data is reflected in surveys by both the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and the Bay Area Council.

Lastly, Commissioner Connolly reported that Bay Area transit ridership is slowly increasing but remains significantly below pre-pandemic levels. Stimulus funds, including allocations through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), have been critical in allowing operators to maintain some level of service despite significant revenue losses. Most revenue service today supports transit dependent riders and essential service workers.

In response to Commissioner Carmel's comment that public transportation services have not returned to pre-pandemic levels, Commissioner Connolly noted that there should be a focus on returning regional bus routes to service for riders.

Commissioner Fredericks commented that the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (GGBHTD) is receiving federal funds to offset the lower levels of ridership due to the pandemic. GGBHTD prioritizes route returns based on employer reopening tracking data.

Commissioner Rice commented that the increase in RSR Bridge traffic reflects the need for more affordable housing.

In response to Vice Chair Moulton Peters, Commissioner Connolly noted that transit riders may express their support of routes by contacting GGBHTD staff or providing comments at the GGBHTD Board meeting.

Commissioner Fredericks noted that members of the public may also provide comment at the GGBHTD's transportation committee meetings.

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

6. Open Time for Public Expression

Marin Sonoma Electric Vehicle Squad representative and Larkspur resident David Moller reported that all jurisdictions in Marin are compliant with AB 1236; and expressed his continued support of the Alternative Fuels program.

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

7. CONSENT CALENDAR (Action)

- a. Approve TAM Board Meeting Minutes September 23, 2021
- b. Approve the Programming of 2022 State Transportation Improvement Program Funds
- c. Accept the US 101 Part-Time Transit Lane Feasibility Study
- d. Review and Accept the FY2021-22 First Quarter Financial Report
- e. Adopt Revision to the Programming of FY21/22 and FY22/23 TFCA and TDA Article 3 Funds
- f. Approve Resolution 2021-12 (TDA Funding) and Authorize an Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for the North/South Greenway Gap Closure Project

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

8. State Legislative Update (Discussion)

ED Richman reported that Gus Khouri, TAM's Legislative Advocate with Khouri Consulting, will be presenting the State Legislative Update, including discussions at the state level regarding budget surplus and potential additional funding for transportation. ED Richman also noted that the EDs from the nine Bay Area County Transportation Authorities (BACTA) will be meeting with the Assemblymember Laura Friedman, Chair of the California State Assembly Transportation Committee, later this week.

Mr. Khouri provided an update on AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry), AB 43 (Friedman), AB 361 (Rivas), AB 1499 (Daly), Senate Bill (SB) 4 (Gonzalez), and SB 339 (Wiener); and a summary of the FY 2021-22 State Budget.

Mr. Khouri also reported on Senate Bill (SB) 1 Cycle 3 Competitive Programs, including the Active Transportation Program (ATP), the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP), Local Partnership Program (LPP), Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP); and the release of the draft Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) guidelines.

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

9. 2021 Congestion Management Program Report & 2020 Transportation System Monitoring Report (Action)

Senior Transportation Planner Scott McDonald presented this item, which requested that the TAM Board accept the 2021 Congestion Management Program (CMP) and 2020 Transportation System Monitoring Report for Marin County.

Mr. McDonald provided an overview and update of the program including expanded data collection; morning and evening conditions on arterial roads and freeways; HOV lane level of service (LOS) levels; transit ridership trends; and bicycle and pedestrian counts.

Mr. McDonald introduced TJKM Transportation Planner Cory Peterson to present an overview of the congestion maps, which reflect all of the major freeways and arterials in Marin and displays the LOS. Mr. Peterson also provided details on the data comparison tools that are available within the online mapping program.

Mr. McDonald reported that the pandemic had a major impact on both congestion and volume and was most influential on morning traffic; bicycle/pedestrian monitoring showed a decline in average activity since 2018 counts but was mixed depending on location; transit ridership decline was evident in the reported data; and that overall traffic reduced significantly from changes associated with the pandemic.

In response to Commissioner Colin, Mr. McDonald explained that the timeline for the next cycle has yet to be determined. Mr. McDonald also noted that the LOS metrics used are currently required through the state legislation for the CMP and that TAM staff is working with MTC to determine how vehicle miles traveled (VMT) data may be incorporated in the future.

In response to Commissioner Carmel, Mr. McDonald explained that the minimum LOS for arterial roads is 'D', and the minimum LOS for freeways is 'E'.

ED Richman explained that a major goal of PBA 2050 is to address GHG emissions and VMT through policy tools, capital improvements, and land-use patterns. ED Richman also noted the Blue Ribbon Transit Recovery Task Force's focus on public transportation and alternative modes of travel for transit recovery and transformation. ED Richman further noted that TAM is applying for funds to produce a VMT toolkit for use by local jurisdictions in response to a state legislation requirement that developers provide assessments of VMT generated by their development to mitigate any increases.

Commissioner Colbert expressed his support of the bicycle/pedestrian count data in the Ross Valley area and also expressed his support of a bike share program.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles expressed her support of an annual workshop to discuss broader transportation issues.

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

Sausalito Taxi owner Kevin Carroll commented that data reflected in passenger travel logs could be used to identify gaps in public transportation.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles moved to accept the 2021 CMP and 2020 Transportation System Monitoring Report for Marin County, which was seconded by Commissioner Arnold. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Review and Accept the FY2020-21 TAM Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (Action)

Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer Li Zhang presented this item which recommended that the TAM Board review and accept the FY2020-21 TAM Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).

Ms. Zhang noted that TAM's Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) reviewed the draft report at its October 25 meeting and recommended that the TAM Board accept the report. Ms. Zhang introduced Nathan Edelman of Eide Bailly LLP and then she and Mr. Edelman summarized the report, noting that there were no findings.

Vice Chair Moulton-Peters expressed her support of sharing the economic data with the city and county housing collaborative.

In response to Chair Lucan, Ms. Zhang explained that the majority of TAM funds are invested in CalTRUST and that staff is closely monitoring the cash needs of various projects and exploring various investment options.

Chair Lucan asked if any members of the public wished to speak or had sent an e-comment, and hearing none, asked for a motion.

Commissioner Fredericks made a motion to accept the FY2020-21 TAM ACFR and was seconded by Commissioner Hillmer. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

11. Comment Letter on Draft EIR for San Rafael Transit Center Relocation Project (Action)

ED Richman presented the staff report, which recommends that the TAM Board authorizes the ED to send a comment letter (Attachment A) on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the San Rafael Transit Center Relocation Project to GGBHTD.

Commissioner Colin expressed her support of addressing the EIR comments from all of the community partners.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles expressed her support of an efficient transit center that encourages more use of public transportation.

Chair Lucan asked if any members of the public wished to speak or had sent an e-comment, and hearing none, asked for a motion.

Vice Chair Moulton-Peters made a motion to authorize the ED to send the comment letter on the Draft EIR for the San Rafael Transit Center Relocation Project to the GGBHTD and was seconded by Commissioner Fredericks. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

12. Public Comment Regarding Closed Session Item

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

13. Adjourn to Closed Session

14. Reconvene to Open Session – Announcement from Closed Session

Chair Lucan reported that the Board met in closed session to discuss the annual performance review for the ED, and direction has been given to staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Approved November 18, 2021