



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
TAM

JANUARY 27, 2022
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
Chance Cutrano, Fairfax Town Council
Charles Lee, Corte Madera Town Council
Damon Connolly, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Daniel Hillmer, Larkspur City Council
Dennis Rodoni, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Eric Lucan, Novato City Council, TAM Chair
Judy Arnold, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Kate Colin, San Rafael City Council
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: James Campbell, Belvedere City Council

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
Derek McGill, Director of Planning
Grace Zhuang, Accounting & Administrative Specialist
Jennifer Doucette, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board
Li Zhang, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer
Molly Graham, Public Outreach Coordinator
Nick Nguyen, Principal Project Delivery Manager
Scott McDonald, Senior Transportation Planner

Chair Lucan called the meeting to order at 6:02 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. 2022-01 in Compliance with AB 361 (Action)

Chair Lucan explained that the Board may reconfirm its ability to meet virtually by adopting Resolution No. 2022-01 for compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 361. 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. 2022-01 for compliance with AB 361, which was seconded by Vice-Chair Moulton-Peters. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. TAM Annual Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair, Appointments to the TAM Executive Committees, Review of Ex-Officio Members, and Issue Oath of Office for New Members (Action)

Chair Lucan thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as TAM's Chair, and also thanked Executive Director (ED) Richman and TAM staff for their hard work over the past year, including securing funding for the final segment of the Marin-Sonoma Narrows (MSN) project.

On the matter of the annual selection of the TAM Chair, Commissioner Cutrano nominated Vice-Chair Moulton-Peters, which was seconded by Commissioner Arnold. Chair Lucan asked if there were any other nominations and hearing none, asked for a motion.

Commissioner Cutrano made a motion to select Vice-Chair Moulton-Peters as the new Chair of the TAM Board, which was seconded by Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

On the matter of the annual selection of the TAM Vice-Chair, Commissioner Carmel nominated Commissioner Colbert, which was seconded by Commissioner Colin. Chair Lucan asked if there were any other nominations and hearing none, asked for a motion.

Commissioner Carmel made a motion to select Commissioner Colbert as the new Vice-Chair of the TAM Board, which was seconded by Commissioner Fredericks. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

On the matter of appointments to the Executive Committees, Chair Lucan stated that TAM's Administrative Code calls for the TAM Chair and Vice-Chair to serve as the Chairs of the Funding, Programs & Legislation (FPL) Executive Committee and the Administration, Projects & Planning (APP) Executive Committee. As such, Commissioner Lucan volunteered to switch Executive Committee appointments with Vice-Chair Colbert thus making Vice-Chair Colbert the new Chair of the FPL Executive Committee. Chair Moulton-Peters will continue as the Chair of the APP Executive Committee.

New Executive Committee Appointments would therefore be:

FPL Executive Committee: Chair Colbert and Commissioners Arnold, Cleveland-Knowles, Kuhl, and Rice

APP Executive Committee: Chair Moulton-Peters and Commissioners Connolly, Fredericks, Hillmer, and Lucan

Commissioner Fredericks made a motion to approve the changes to the Executive Committee appointments, which was seconded by Commissioner Arnold. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Upon conclusion of this agenda item, Chair Lucan congratulated Vice-Chair Moulton-Peters and transferred to her the duties of the Chair.

Chair Moulton-Peters thanked Commissioner Lucan for his service as the TAM Board Chair and expressed her enthusiasm to serve as Chair with Vice-Chair Colbert.

3. Chair's Report (Discussion)

None.

4. Commissioner Matters Not on the Agenda (Discussion)

None.

5. Commissioner Reports (Discussion)

a. MTC Report – Commissioner Connolly

Commissioner Connolly reported that the Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority (BAIFA), a joint powers authority (JPA) composed of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), will restructure to serve as the tolling agency for State Route (SR) 37 and Bay Area express lanes, subject to legislative authorization, and to provide enhanced regional transportation conduit financing. The creation of a Tolling Committee has been recommended by MTC staff to include, among others, those Commissioners representing counties along SR 37, including Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano.

Commissioner Connolly also reported that the One Bay Area Grant (OBAG) program established the policy and programming framework for investing federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program, and other funds throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. Commissioner Connolly thanked TAM staff for working closely with MTC staff in developing the Cycle 3 framework. The framework continues many of the policies from prior cycles of OBAG, and weaves in emerging needs, such as Climate Resilience and Road Safety. County and Regional programs are equal partners with 50-50 funding shares of the overall program. The Commission adopted the overall program framework.

Commissioner Connolly further reported that there is a new proposal to update the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Policy. This policy originally established corridor level development thresholds to support specified major transit expansions such as Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) extensions and Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART). The proposed new policy update will target Transit Rich Areas (TRA) as well as Priority Development Areas (PDAs) and would tie regional discretionary funding for a wider range of transportation projects to the local jurisdictions' ability to meet a host of density and policy requirements. The proposed requirements go beyond the prior policy, including a longer list of transportation projects that would be subject to the policy, and a longer list of requirements that jurisdictions would have to meet, such as minimum density for commercial development, anti-displacement policies, parking management, and access.

Lastly, Commissioner Connolly highlighted the new bridge toll violation policies, and expressed his support of this initiative as part of the BATA Ad Hoc Committee, as a step forward towards an equitable transportation system.

b. Marin Transit Report – Vice-Chair Colbert

Vice-Chair Colbert reported that in preparation for the upcoming budget cycle and service contracts that are coming due in the next 18 months, Marin Transit (MT) has begun a series of informational presentations and Board discussions of ridership, bus service, and finances. Ridership and service trends were presented in January, service costs and projections are planned for the February 7 Board meeting; and options for future service will be discussed in March. These presentations are designed to continue to inform the public and the Board on how COVID-19 has impacted the financial outlook and ridership demand for service. Board feedback and public input will help staff develop service adjustments and delivery options.

Vice-Chair Colbert also reported that in November 2021, MT offered free transit passes to the families of low-income students who qualify to receive MT Free Youth Pass. This pilot program provides free transit access to low-income riders in the form of three free one-month passes to eligible families – 290 applications were received, and 570 monthly passes were distributed to 190 families in Dec 2021. Staff is contacting the remaining applicants and school coordinators to complete application processing. MT will monitor usage of the passes as a part of the pilot program evaluation.

Lastly, Vice-Chair Colbert reported that at the January Board meeting, MT staff reported on the ongoing need for bus parking and maintenance facilities for its fleet. Maintenance and parking for most of MT's fleet is currently provided through a patchwork of leased and contractor-owned facilities. This situation, while always challenging, is now a critical issue as MT converts to zero emission vehicles and needs to re-bid operations contracts. Staff continues to search for publicly and privately owned properties, to lease or buy, to meet MT's operation needs.

c. SMART Report – Commissioner Lucan

Commissioner Lucan reported that the new SMART General Manager Eddy Cummins and the SMART Board are looking ahead with SMART's vision and mission as the agency evolves from construction phase to ongoing service – focus areas include pathway, freight, ridership, and extensions.

6. Executive Director's Report (Discussion)

ED Richman provided an update on recent projects and transportation news including the North-South Greenway Gap Closure Project; bid opening for the final segment of the MSN project; SR 37 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study; SR 37 Draft Environmental Document review (DED) and public meeting; new tolls and policies on state owned bridges; environmental review of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Water Pipeline by Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD); new Bay Trail website; and TAM's community outreach meetings.

ED Richman also called attention to this month's Caltrans (California Department of Transportation) report.

Chair Moulton-Peters opened the discussion to the Board members, and hearing none moved to the next agenda item.

7. Open Time for Public Expression

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

Kevin Carroll of Sausalito Taxi expressed his support of restoring public transit options in and around Southern Marin, including transportation between Muir Woods and the Sausalito Ferry. Mr. Carroll also expressed his concern that the existing public transit signage is outdated. Mr. Carroll explained that restoring these public transit options will promote equity and accessibility for those without automobiles; help those who want to lower their carbon footprint; and increase sales tax revenue in Sausalito.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR (Action)

- a. Approve TAM Board Meeting Minutes December 13, 2021
- b. Acceptance of the FY2021-22 Second Quarter Financial Report
- c. Accept the Priority Development Area Investment and Growth Strategy

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles moved to approve the Consent Calendar and was seconded by Commissioner Fredericks. Chair Moulton-Peters opened the item to public comment and hearing none, a roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Adopt the 2022 Legislative Platform (Action)

ED Richman introduced Director of Programming and Legislation David Chan, and Gus Khouri of Khouri Consulting to present the proposed 2022 State Legislative Platform and update of Governor Newsom's budget proposal for FY2022-23.

Mr. Khouri reported on budget impacts to transportation including high-speed rail; statewide transit and rail projects; port infrastructure and goods movement; zero-emissions vehicles, equipment and infrastructure; active transportation and projects to connect communities; high priority grade separation projects; and climate adaptation projects.

Mr. Khouri further reported on TAM's proposed 2022 State Legislative Platform, highlighting additions and changes from the 2021 State Legislative Platform, including streamlining application processes for state funding; monitoring funding opportunities for land-use and transportation planning integration for more transit-oriented development; increased zero-emission vehicle infrastructure; leveraging regional partnerships; enhancing mobility options; and pursuing federal funding opportunities.

In response to Commissioner Carmel, Mr. Khouri explained that aside from public charging stations, funding for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure includes but is not limited to school and transit buses, and zero-emissions vehicles at ports to reduce greenhouse gas (GNG) emissions.

In response to Commissioner Rice, Mr. Khouri explained that the gas tax provides funding for the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) for maintenance of the state highway system, and local streets and road funding.

In response to Commissioner Hillmer, ED Richman explained that there are a number of ways that Caltrans develops projects and often looks to local agencies to develop the planning for projects on the state highway system, whereby Caltrans enters the process closer to the design and construction phases.

In response to Commissioner Cutrano, ED Richman explained that some federal funding is distributed by formula, which means for California, the distribution process begins at the state level. Locally, TAM has an opportunity to assist in the selection of projects through the OBAG process, which is administered by MTC.

In response to Commissioner Arnold, Mr. Khouri agreed that Senator McGuire continues to be a transportation ally.

In response to Commissioner Cutrano, ED Richman explained that modifications to strategy number four address the state's strict definition of disadvantaged communities in order to have the opportunity to compete for funds on behalf of disadvantaged communities in Marin.

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

Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC) representative Warren Wells commented that there has been a mode shift to electrical bicycles (e-bikes); expressed his support of the state's subsidy program for low-income families to purchase e-bikes; and encouraged TAM to include support for federal funding of e-bikes in its 2022 Legislative Platform.

In response to Commissioner Colin, ED Richman indicated that staff would revise the 2022 Legislative Platform to include support for federal incentives or credits for e-bikes.

Commissioner Rice expressed support of federal and state funding for e-bikes for low-income families.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles also expressed her support of prioritizing grants to low-income communities and suggested that the Board incorporate that language into the 2022 Legislative Platform.

Commissioner Lee expressed his support of language that incentivizes the use of e-bikes for all community members, both public and private.

Commissioner Lucan recused himself from this portion of the discussion due to a potential conflict of interest as a company officer of Mike's Bikes/Headlands Ventures, LLC.

Vice-Chair Colbert commented on the increased number of families using e-bikes in lieu of public transportation, including daily transport to/from school; and expressed his support of language that advocates financial assistance to low-income families to purchase such modes of transportation.

Commissioner Rice expressed support of providing language to support prioritizing incentives for disadvantaged communities and tax credits for all.

Commissioner Colin moved to adopt the 2022 Legislative Platform, with the incorporation of language to support prioritizing incentives for disadvantaged communities and tax credits for all, which was seconded by Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Senate Bill (SB) 1 Competitive Programs Consideration (Discussion)

Mr. Chan presented this item regarding application consideration for Senate Bill (SB) 1 competitive programs.

Mr. Chan provided an overview of various SB 1 programs, including Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP), Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP), Local Partnership Program (LPP), Active Transportation Program (ATP), and the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP). Mr. Chan also provided a summary of potential SB 1 applications for various projects in Marin.

Commissioner Colin expressed her support of LPP funding for the Bellam Blvd. Off-Ramp Project; and also expressed support of ATP funding for the San Rafael Canal Crossing, as a priority equity issue for the community.

In response to Commissioner Lucan, Mr. Chan explained that TAM works with the Marin Public Works Association (MPWA) to identify potential projects for various funding programs.

Commissioner Arnold expressed her support of the SR 37 Sears Point to Mare Island project and indicated that she would like to identify potential projects in Northern Marin.

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

MCBC ED Tarrell Kullaway expressed support of opening the Alto Tunnel for bicycle and pedestrian use.

Member of the public Jean Severinghaus expressed her support for the construction of the southern segment of the North-South Greenway Gap Closure Project.

Wilderness Trail Bike representative Matthew Hartzell expressed his support of the ATP application for the San Rafael Canal Crossing project; as well as the opening of the Alto Tunnel, and the construction of the southern segment of the North-South Greenway Gap Closure Project.

Chair Moulton-Peters, and Commissioners Carmel and Rodoni requested that staff provide an update to the Board on the overall North-South Greenway Gap Closure Project to identify which segments still need to be funded.

Commissioner Lee expressed his support of obtaining funding for the North-South Greenway Gap Closure Project in its entirety.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.