



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

February 22, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85060588343?pwd=NUpPYTVpWFpTQXF4WE1nTmE1RENSUT09>

Webinar ID: 850 6058 8343

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MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Peter Pelham, Major Marin Employers (Chairperson)
Kevin Hagerty, League of Women Voters (Vice-Chairperson)
Jeffrey Olson, Central Marin Planning Area
Charley Vogt, Northern Marin Planning Area
Vince O'Brien, Bicycle & Pedestrian Groups
Kate Powers, Environmental Organizations
Paul Roye, Ross Valley Planning Area
Debbie Alley, Southern Marin Planning Area
Allan Bortel, Marin County Paratransit Coordinating Council
Zack Macdonald, School Districts

Alternates Present: Kay Noguchi, League of Women Voters
Kingston Cole, Taxpayer Groups

Staff Members Present: Anne Richman, Executive Director
Li Zhang, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer
Bill Whitney, Principal Project Delivery Manager
Grace Zhuang, Accounting and Administration Specialist
Jennifer Doucette, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board
Molly Graham, Public Outreach Coordinator
Nick Nguyen, Principal Project Delivery Manager

Chairperson Peter Pelham called the Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Introductions and Welcome

Chairperson Pelham asked Grace Zhuang, Accounting and Administrative Specialist, to conduct the roll call. Ms. Zhuang did so and confirmed that a quorum was not yet present.

Ms. Zhuang stated the meeting order rules and instructions for the public to provide comments and confirmed that an additional member of the COC had joined and a quorum was present.

2. Open Time for Public Expression

No public expression was received.

3. Review and Approval of November 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Vice-Chairperson Kevin Hagerty moved to approve the November 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Member Allan Bortel seconded the motion, and the Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. TAM Staff Report (Information)

Executive Director (ED) Anne Richman wished the Committee Members a belated Happy New Year and presented the staff report. ED Richman reported that Marin County Free Library has sponsored activities and events in observance of Black History month. ED Richman also reported that the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has released a video highlighting the contributions made by black Americans to transportation throughout history.

ED Richman reported on the formation of a new Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Taskforce in West Marin during the Fall of 2021. A December meeting was attended by approximately 20 people, including Marin County Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, the Principal of the Lagunitas School, representatives from West Marin Elementary School, parents, agency staff and residents. The Taskforce discussed potential improvements and infrastructure needs for the West Marin schools.

ED Richman reported that Caltrans opened a new northbound section of the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane in Petaluma in December 2021 and a full update on the Marin Sonoma Narrows (MSN) project would be provided during the Project Status Report presentation.

ED Richman reported on the Major Roads projects under Measure A/AA. ED Richman stated that the Sir Francis Drake Blvd. project between Ross and Highway 101 had been mainly completed; the contract for the Third Street Rehabilitation project in San Rafael has been awarded; construction of the East Blithedale project in Mill Valley is slated to start in early 2022; public comment period for the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Novato Blvd. project has recently been closed. ED Richman also noted that all prior completed Major Roads projects are listed, including projects in San Rafael, Novato, Unincorporated County and Mill Valley.

ED Richman reported that TAM provided \$309,000 in federal funding for a study conducted by the Town of San Anselmo, which will explore improvements to “The Hub” intersection. A public workshop was held on February 3 to evaluate the proposed improvements and solicit community feedback.

ED Richman reported that California electric vehicle (EV) sales surpassed 250,000 in 2021, a 70% increase compared to 2020. In Marin County, EV sales increased by over 50% in 2021 compared to 2020. ED Richman also reported on upcoming EV workshops, webinars and ride and drive events. She also discussed presentations by TAM staff to community groups on agency projects, including State Route (SR) 37 and the 101-580 Direct Connector.

ED Richman provided an update on partner news: Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) will be using the traditional environmental review process to develop the water pipeline project on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge (RSRB) because substantial rainfall has filled reservoirs, and a new interactive Bay Trail section has been added to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s (MTC’s) website.

Member Bortel commended Deputy Executive Director/Chief Finance Officer Li Zhang on her presentation to the Marin County Commission on Aging.

In response to Member Kate Powers, ED Richman confirmed that a discussion item on TAM's EV programs could be scheduled for a future meeting. ED Richman also confirmed that local and state agencies coordinate EV programs and infrastructure. She discussed TAM's partnership with Marin Clean Energy (MCE), the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and the Bay Area Electric Vehicle Coordinating Council, and the inclusion of EV programs in the forthcoming Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill.

Principal Project Delivery Manager Nick Nguyen stated that TAM and Marin Climate & Energy Partnership (MCEP) are drafting an EV Readiness Plan that supports local jurisdictions in accelerating the transition to Electric Vehicles.

Member Charley Vogt stated that he used a charging station at the College of Marin Indian Valley Campus and confirmed he has a charging station installed in his garage to charge his car overnight.

Debbie Alley commended TAM's EV Readiness Plan and stated that there are insufficient charging stations. She expressed interest in seeing the final plan.

Vice-Chairperson Hagerty thanked ED Richman, Mr. Nguyen and Molly Graham, TAM's Public Outreach Coordinator, for their presentation on SR 37 to the League of Women Voters Transportation, Housing & Land Use Committee. Vice-Chairperson Hagerty expressed a wish that they return later in the year for a presentation to the entire League.

In response to Vice-Chairperson Hagerty, ED Richman stated that there is no update on Regional Measure (RM3), which is still under litigation at the State Supreme Court. ED Richman stated that if RM3 is not upheld, public agencies will need to address the shortfall in their funding programs.

5. TAM Project Status Report (Information)

Mr. Nguyen presented the staff report and stated that he would be providing an overview of 9 TAM projects. Mr. Nguyen began his presentation with an update on the MSN project. He reported on the bid opening on February 15 for the section of HOV lane from Novato to Sonoma County and noted that several of the bids were below the engineers' estimate. Mr. Nguyen stated that the project will close a gap to complete 50 miles of HOV lanes through Marin to Santa Rosa and should be completed by the end of 2024. He stated that the construction project will also include the relocation of utility lines and vegetation planting.

Mr. Nguyen provided an update on 3 projects relating to SR 37: an MTC Design Alternative Assessment (DAA), which will study the conditions of the corridor and initial environmental impacts in Segment A from Highway 101 to Sears Point; Caltrans' Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study for the main project to raise the highway and make it more resilient to sea level rise, and a project in Segment B (Sears Point to Mare Island), which will widen the highway with 2 additional lanes in each direction for congestion relief purposes. He noted that the draft EIR on the Segment B project has been released for public comment until the end of February.

Mr. Nguyen reported on the North-South Greenway Gap Closure project, which will replace a 4-foot sidewalk over Corte Madera Creek in Larkspur with a 12-foot multi-use path from Sir Francis Drake Boulevard south to Redwood Highway. He stated that the project is under construction and should be substantially complete by early summer.

Mr. Nguyen reported on two pilots: the completion of the Class IV bikeway on the Sir Francis Drake Blvd off-ramp from the RSRB, and the multi-use path on the RSRB, both of which are being monitored as part of the pilot program study. He also provided an update on the 101-580 Direct Connector project and noted that the TAM Board reduced the number of alternative design options for further consideration to four. Mr. Nguyen stated that TAM will start the project initiation process with Caltrans shortly, which is a precursor to the environmental review process.

Mr. Nguyen also reported on the following projects: The design phase of the Bellam Blvd. project, which will add an additional lane to the northbound Highway 101 offramp to Bellam Blvd., is almost complete, but a funding shortfall of approximately \$3.5 million will need to be addressed before the construction phase; TAM Board approval of the Part-Time Transit Lane (PTTL) Feasibility Study at the October 25, 2021 meeting and the expected submission of an application in March 2022 for a TIRCP (Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program) grant to fund project development; TAM's partnership with MCEP to provide outreach to expand the EV program. Mr. Nguyen concluded his report with a discussion on EV rebates that TAM has provided in the last fiscal year, including rebates for 3 e-bikes and 12 charging ports for the City of Novato, and 4 charging ports have been reserved for the City of Belvedere.

In response to Alternate Kingston Cole, ED Richman confirmed that Senator Dodd has introduced legislation to turn SR 37 into a toll road. ED Richman stated that the purpose would be to manage traffic on SR 37 and generate revenue for improvements to the corridor, which will need funding from a wide variety of sources.

In response to Alternate Kay Noguchi, Mr. Nguyen stated that Caltrans will need to undertake an appraisal of the rights-of-way for relocating the underground utility lines along MSN. He stated that staff is hopeful the owners of 3 parcels of land, including the owner of the solar panel farm, are open to negotiations.

Member Kate Powell expressed concern that the planning process for the MSN project was long and the solar panels were installed in the past two years. Member Powell inquired if the Bellam Blvd. offramp project has been considered in the design of the 101-580 Direct Connector project, and if the SR 37 DAA studies will be used for interim projects and incorporated into the PEL study. She expressed concern that the studies might not align with the ultimate solution for the corridor.

In response, ED Richman stated that the Bellam Blvd. project has been in the planning phase for several years, and added that there would be opportunities to evaluate potential conflicts with the Direct Connector project as that develops.

Mr. Nguyen stated that Caltrans initiated an environmental process for Segment A of the SR 37 corridor, from Highway 101 to Highway 121, for interim projects that addressed flooding issues. He stated that Caltrans was asked by the SR 37 Committee to investigate less expensive solutions to address the problems. He also stated that the PEL Study will include the whole corridor with a goal to finding solutions with a 2100-year horizon; that the project from Highway 121 to Mare Island will offer congestion-relief benefits to commuters, and the DAA should benefit the PEL Study and interim flood mitigation projects.

Mr. Nguyen noted the agency that provided permits for the solar installation was informed of the MSN project needs.

In response to Member Debbie Alley, Mr. Nguyen stated that local jurisdictions are able to receive rebates for projects identified through climate and energy plans under TAM's EV Rebate program. ED Richman noted that TAM has provided rebates for approximately 370 EV chargers throughout Marin since the inception of the program.

In response to Member Vince O'Brien, ED Richman stated that the PTTL would operate from Novato to North San Rafael, and the MSN project will create HOV lanes from Novato to the Sonoma County line. ED Richman noted that the section of Highway 101 where PTTL would operate is congested and the project would benefit transit users.

In response to Member Paul Roye, Mr. Whitney stated that cyclists are encouraged to remain on SFDB and use the onramp to eastbound I-580 to the Main Street exit and then use the Class II bike facility under the undercrossing to access the RSR Bridge. Mr. Whitney acknowledged that cyclists do not always use the route.

6. Review and Approval of the FY2020-21 COC/2021 TAM Annual Report (Action)

Ms. Graham presented the Draft FY2020-21 COC/2021 TAM Annual Report. Ms. Graham stated that the COC is asked to review the report and authorize the Annual Report Sub-committee to work with staff to finalize the report

and also authorize the Chairperson Pelham or his designee to present the final draft to the TAM Board for acceptance at the February 24 Board meeting.

Ms. Graham expressed her appreciation for the Sub-Committee's work for the development of the Annual Report and she thanked Alternate Noguchi for her careful review of the final draft. Ms. Graham stated that Committee members/alternates can forward their comments on the Draft Annual Report to staff and staff will incorporate them into the final report.

Member Powers complemented staff and the Sub-Committee on the Draft Annual Report. Member Powers suggested the font should be larger and darker for better readability, and that fewer and larger photographs should be used for the Featured COC Member section and considered in other parts of the document. Member Jeffrey Olson agreed that the font should be clearer, and he stated the text boxes surrounding the project description on the map page should be uniform.

Vice-Chairperson Hagerty moved to approve the combined FY2020-21 COC/2021 TAM Annual Report and authorizes Vice-Chairperson Hagerty, since Chairperson Pelham is not available February 24, to present the report to the TAM Board for acceptance at its February meeting, which was seconded by Member Powers. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Review of the FY2021-22 Second Quarter Financial Report (Information)

Li Zhang, TAM's Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer (CFO) presented the staff report. Ms. Zhang noted that total actual revenue collected in the first half of the year is less than budgeted because reimbursements from projects/program expenditures are delayed. Ms. Zhang stated that Sales Tax revenue for the first half of the year was almost 17% higher than the same period last year and she noted that the County benefits greatly from employees working and shopping from home. Ms. Zhang stated that the same level of increase is not predicted for the forthcoming years with more people expected to return to offices, travel more out of the region/state/country, and undertake fewer home improvement projects.

Ms. Zhang stated that there has been a 6% drop in the Vehicle Registration Fee (VRF) revenue for the same period but noted that the VRF revenue level does not significantly impact the agency's funding. Ms. Zhang stated that staff will present the revenue projections for both the sales tax and VRF and the development schedule for the FY2022-23 budget cycle at the March COC meeting.

Vice-Chairperson Hagerty and Ms. Zhang discussed the discrepancy between the budgeted and projected revenue amounts. Ms. Zhang stated that the payments of deferred Sales Taxes from last year has resulted in higher than normal sales tax disbursements in the current year.

Member Powers and Ms. Zhang discussed the low expenditure amount for the Alternative Fuel Program compared to the relatively large amount remaining under Element 3.3 of the Expenditure Plan. Ms. Zhang stated that a contract has been approved for the EV outreach programs and that reimbursement requests for the EV rebate program are expected. Ms. Zhang confirmed funds that remain at the end of a fiscal year are reserved for the EV program for the next budget cycle.

8. Committee Member Hot Items Report (Discussion)

a. Marin Transit Report

Member Powers provided an update on Marin Transit (MT) activities, and she thanked MT General Manager Nancy Whelan for providing her with the presentation and notes to share with the COC. Member Powers reported on MT's January 10 Board meeting on local transit ridership and service trends. She stated that MT has been reviewing its ridership and service levels during the pandemic and analyzing cost projections for the future Service Plan and budget

for FY2022-23. Member Powers reported on increasing ridership trends: In January 2022, the fixed route ridership increased to 75% of its pre-pandemic levels and Paratransit and Dial-a-Ride (On Demand services) ridership has increased to 50% of pre-pandemic level. She also noted that data on trip purposes for the On Demand program is collected. Member Powers reported on a presentation on service costs and budget projections at the February 7 Board meeting, which included expectations of service growth at 2.2% for Paratransit, increased contract costs of 18% for Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Transportation District (GGBHTD), and increased fuel costs and expected revenue growth. She noted expenses for fixed routes and paratransit are expected to increase due to fuel cost and other factors. Member Powers reported that revenue sources, including fares, VRF, Measure A/AA funds, and the Transit Development Act (TDA), provided less funding in 2021 than the previous year with additional funding received from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). She noted that federal funding is likely to decrease in the future and stated that property tax revenue remained unaffected by the pandemic with the strong housing market.

Member Powers reported that MT has been able to maintain its level of service through federal funding but that the reserved funds would be depleted by FY 2026-27. She discussed MT's modeling scenarios that were presented at the February 7 Board meeting; fixed route services that would need to be reduced; capital improvement projects, including the purchase of a property at 3000 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael, in July 2021, which functions as the new Paratransit facility that opened on February 1, 2022, after \$1.1 million in building improvements.

Member Powers reported on the purchase of 4 new battery-powered electric buses, which have a range of approximately 120 miles on a single overnight charge and should go into service in the fall. She stated that installation of the electrical infrastructure is underway at the Rush Landing facility and that an electrical charger has been delivered to the San Rafael facility as an interim solution for charging the buses for testing and training purposes.

Chairperson Pelham thanked Member Powers for her report.

In response to Member Vogt, Member Powers confirmed that MT will offer free rides to seniors over 65 and persons with disabilities during the month of March to encourage ridership.

7. Discussion of Next Meeting Date and Recommended Items for the Agenda

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2022. Ms. Zhang stated that the COC will be polled to determine if a hybrid meeting could be held for those who want to attend in-person. Scheduled items included sales tax and VRF estimates and the development schedule for the FY2022-23 TAM Annual Budget, and the timeline and process for the Measure B Expenditure Plan update.

ED Richman suggested that staff will provide an update on the EV program at a future meeting.

Member Olson stated that he will provide a short report on his safety concerns about the intersection at Fifth Avenue and California Street at the next meeting.

Chairperson Pelham thanked staff for the reports and Ms. Zhang and Ms. Graham for their work on the Annual Report.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.