



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN

JULY 28, 2022
6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Alice Fredericks, Tiburon Town Council
Chance Cutrano, Fairfax 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 Pro-Tempore
Judy Arnold, Marin County Board of Supervisors
James Campbell, Belvedere City Council
Kate Colin, San Rafael City Council
Katie Rice, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Susan Cleveland-Knowles, Sausalito City Council
Urban Carmel, Mill Valley City Council

Members Absent: Beach Kuhl, Ross Town Council
Brian Colbert, San Anselmo Town Council, TAM Vice-Chair
Charles Lee, Corte Madera Town Council
Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Marin County Board of Supervisors, TAM Chair

Staff Members Present: Anne Richman, Executive Director
Bill Whitney, Principal Project Delivery Manager
Dan Cherrier, Director of Project Delivery
David Chan, Director of Programming and Legislation
Derek McGill, Director of Planning
Emily Tong, Senior Accountant
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
Scott McDonald, Principal Transportation Planner

Executive Director (ED) Anne Richman welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:01 p.m. and explained that due to the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, the first order of business was to nominate and elect a Chair Pro-Tempore for the July 28 TAM Board meeting.

1. Nominate and Elect Chair Pro Tempore for the July 28, 2022 Board of Commissioners Meeting
(Action)

Commissioner Fredericks nominated Commissioner Lucan to serve as Chair Pro-Tempore (Pro-Tem) for the July 28 TAM Board Meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Arnold. A roll call vote was conducted, and the nomination was approved unanimously.

Chair Pro-Tem Lucan 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.

2. Adopt TAM Resolution No. 2022-08 in Compliance with AB 361 (Action)

Chair Pro-Tem Lucan explained that this action item would allow Board and Committee meetings to continue to be held virtually. Chair Pro-Tem 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. 2022-08 for compliance with AB 361, which was seconded by Commissioner Rice. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion was unanimously approved.

3. Chair's Report (Discussion)

Chair Pro-Tem Lucan congratulated TAM staff on the North-South Greenway Project ribbon cutting ceremony and the groundbreaking for the final segment of the Marin Sonoma Narrows (MSN).

4. Commissioner Matters Not on the Agenda (Discussion)

None.

5. Commissioner Reports (Discussion)

Item 5b was taken out of order.

b. Marin Transit Report – Commissioner Rice on behalf of Commissioner Colbert

Commissioner Rice reported that Marin Transit (MT) continues to maintain a steady core of riders using the local transit service. Recent reports show that ridership is at 80% of pre-pandemic levels, with MT having the greatest percentage of ridership recovery among all Bay Area transit operators.

Commissioner Rice also reported that students and youth 18 and under can ride MT local fixed route service county-wide this summer for free. The free fare offering is effective from June 12 through August 14, 2022 and is limited to MT local bus service, not Golden Gate Transit routes.

Commissioner Rice further reported that MT offered free local transit rides county-wide on all MT fixed route services during the County Fair, which helped ease traffic congestion around the fairgrounds. In addition, this Fall, MT will be evaluating all of the promotional fare campaigns and pilots it has implemented over the past year.

Item 5c was taken out of order.

c. SMART Report – Commissioner Lucan

Commissioner Lucan reported that the Sonoma Marin Rail Area Transit (SMART) ridership continues to increase; and that additional service to the ferry for Giants games had good ridership results. Commissioner Lucan also reported that the SMART Board discussed the pilot program for the first-last mile connection to the Sonoma County Airport; and the response to the Sonoma County Grand Jury Report.

Item 6 was taken out of order.

6. Executive Director's Report (Discussion)

ED Richman reported on the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the North-South Greenway and the groundbreaking ceremony for the final Marin-Sonoma Narrows (MSN) segment.

ED Richman also reported on the East Blithedale Rehabilitation Project; funding for State Route (SR) 37 and Southern Marin flood projects; Senate Bill (SB) 1 for Local Streets and Roads funding; and California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans') release of the draft environmental document for the US 101/Tamalpais Drive Overcrossing.

Lastly, ED Richman called attention to recent and upcoming TAM public outreach meetings and confirmed no TAM Executive Committee and Board meetings in August.

In response to Commissioner Carmel, ED Richman explained that the excise tax component of SB 1 is a fixed amount but that the funds generated from the sales tax component of SB 1 increase with the price of gasoline; and Commissioner Lucan explained that SMART remains optimistic with respect to a return to pre-pandemic levels in ridership.

Commissioner Rice expressed her support of improving the US 101/Tamalpais Drive Overcrossing and inquired about the nexus between Caltrans' project and the TAM Interchange Study.

Item 5a was taken out of order.

5. Commissioner Reports (Discussion)

a. MTC Report – Commissioner Connolly

Commissioner Connolly reported that the Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) policy and resolution were to come to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in July for approval, but the Planning Committee deferred the TOC policy until September. There has been a lot of feedback on this policy, and how it fits in with the housing element updates currently underway, and how transit services will be taken into consideration.

Commissioner Connolly also reported on the June 30 field meeting with Congressmen Huffman and Thompson, Supervisor David Rabbitt, SMART General Manager (GM) Eddy Cummins, representatives of resource agencies and others, to observe and discuss the challenges and opportunities posed by SR 37, as a major environmental project and a key transportation project. Commissioner Connolly noted the value of considering aspects of the landscape, such as the current alignment of the SMART tracks in Sonoma County, and how the current rail line veers north-south through marshland, and whether that can be realigned in parallel to a new SR 37 alignment to better protect the environment. Lastly, Commissioner Connolly expressed his commitment in both the short and long term to the 4-county partnership among Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano.

7. Open Time for Public Expression

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

Sausalito Taxi representative and Larkspur resident Kevin Carroll inquired about the public outreach and timing for the southern segment (Old Redwood Highway) of the North-South Greenway Gap Closure Project.

Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC) Policy and Planning Director Warren Wells expressed his appreciation for the completion of the northern segment of the North-South Greenway Project over the Corte Madera Creek, and the new bike lanes on East Blithedale. Mr. Wells also highlighted Caltrans' project to improve the US 101/Tamalpais Drive Overcrossing.

Corte Madera resident Chris Tufts thanked TAM for the completion of the northern segment of the North-South Greenway Project over the Corte Madera Creek and inquired about additional phases.

ED Richman explained that TAM staff and the City of Larkspur will be conducting public outreach for the southern segment (Old Redwood Highway) of the North-South Greenway Gap Closure Project.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR (Action)

- a. Approve TAM Board Meeting Minutes June 23, 2022
- b. Accept the Canal Neighborhood Community Based Transportation Plan
- c. Award of Contract for Crossing Guard Program Data Collection
- d. Award of Contract for Street Smarts Banner Installation

Commissioner Cutrano made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, which was seconded by Commissioner Colin. Chair Pro-Tem Lucan opened the item to public comment and hearing none, a roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Colin also expressed her appreciation for the Canal Neighborhood Community Based Transportation Plan (CBTP).

9. Adopt Position on 2022 State Legislative Bills and Hear Overview on the FY 2022-23 State Budget (Action)

Chair Pro-Tem Lucan welcomed Gus Khouri, TAM's Legislative Advocate with Khouri Consulting, to present this item, which recommends that the TAM Board adopts a support position on Senate Bill (SB) 307 of the 2022 State Legislative bills.

Mr. Khouri reported on the current Legislative schedule; and provided an overview of the State Budget, highlighting funds for high-speed rail, transit, and the Active Transportation Program (ATP), as well as funds to address sea level rise and flooding on SR 37 and US 101 in Southern Marin.

Mr. Khouri also reported that SMART received a Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) award for approximately \$25 million for zero-emission buses, passenger amenities for Petaluma Transit, and the Petaluma North Train Station.

Chair Pro-Tem Lucan commented that the TIRCP funding award was shared with other Sonoma County transit agencies.

Mr. Khouri further reported on the status of Assembly Bills (AB) 1178, 1944, 2237, 2438, 2622; and SB 1217 and 307.

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

Commissioner Hillmer moved to adopt a support position on SB 307, which was seconded by Commissioner Rice. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion was approved unanimously.

10. Approve the Draft Implementation Plan for the Highway 101 Interchange and Approaching Roadway Study (Action)

ED Richman introduced TAM Principal Project Delivery Manager Bill Whitney to present this item, which recommends that the TAM Board reviews and approves the Draft Implementation Plan for the Highway 101 Interchange and Approaching Roadway Study. This item was reviewed at the Administration, Projects & Planning (AP&P) Executive Committee on July 11 and referred to the TAM Board for adoption.

Mr. Whitney provided an overview of the Study, and introduced project consultants Kim Franchi of HNTB, and David Parisi and Bri Adams of Parisi Transportation Consulting.

Mr. Franchi provided an update on the project status, including concept evaluation and preliminary recommendations; and long-term (LT) and near-term (NT) project concepts.

Ms. Adams provided an overview of the concepts evaluation based on weighted goals, including details on the total weighted scores and costs of each interchange.

Mr. Parisi provided an overview of the prioritization and implementation approach, recommending prioritizing the interchanges at Blithedale Avenue/Tiburon Blvd. (LT), Freitas Parkway/Civic Center (LT), and Alameda Del Prado/Nave Drive (NT) for planning and phased implementation.

Mr. Franchi stated that funding is available to move the three proposed concepts to the project development phase. He discussed opportunities for developing the concepts for the remaining nine interchanges and noted that local jurisdictions and Caltrans could choose to develop any of the concepts or incorporate some elements into other projects. Mr. Franchi also discussed the timeline for developing a LT concept and noted that NT improvements could be developed outside Caltrans' development process.

Mr. Franchi also noted the expanded project overview and content on the TAM website, including reports on the existing conditions of the interchanges; survey results; and the ability of the public to provide feedback and comments on the website. Lastly, Mr. Franchi discussed other public outreach efforts, including newsletter and email distribution, and social media outlets.

In response to Commissioner Cutrano, Mr. Whitney explained that the Study documentation may be used by local agencies to seek grants and funding to further develop or implement interchange improvements in their jurisdictions.

In response to Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles, ED Richman explained that Caltrans' project to address flooding in Southern Marin is separate from the proposed improvements identified for the interchange located at Donahue Street/Bridgeway in Sausalito.

In response to Commissioner Carmel, Mr. Whitney explained that the proposed timeline is consistent with the Caltrans process. ED Richman explained that the revenue from Measure AA was intended to fund the project development and that additional funding will be needed to fund the capital construction. ED Richman further explained that the improvements were conceptualized with contemporary elements and scope, focusing on bicycle and pedestrian access, safety improvements, and correcting design features, which may position them well for competitive funding programs.

In response to Commissioner Rodoni, Mr. Whitney explained that components of Caltrans' Project Initiation Document (PID) for the US 101/Tamalpais Overcrossing were incorporated into the Study for the Tamalpais Drive/Paradise Drive interchange; and that the Town of Corte Madera and other local agencies may be seeking additional funding sources.

In response to Commissioner Colin, Mr. Parisi explained that during the Study there was direct communication with Caltrans regarding the various projects located near and around the Manuel T. Freitas Parkway/Civic Center Drive interchange, as well as the other eleven interchanges. ED Richman noted that TAM staff is in regular communication with the San Rafael Department of Public Works and would be available to assist in sharing information with other City of San Rafael staff.

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

Commissioner Arnold moved to approve the Draft Implementation Plan for the Highway 101 Interchange and Approaching Roadway Study, which was seconded by Commissioner Fredericks. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.