



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

FEBRUARY 23, 2023
6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Alice Fredericks, Tiburon Town Council
Beach Kuhl, Ross Town Council
Chance Cutrano, Fairfax Town Council
Dennis Rodoni, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Eric Lucan, Marin County Board of Supervisors, TAM Vice-Chair
Kate Colin, San Rafael City Council
Kevin Carroll, Larkspur City Council
Melissa Blaustein, Sausalito City Council
Nancy Kemnitzer, Belvedere City Council
Pat Eklund, Novato City Council
Pat Ravasio, Corte Madera Town Council
Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Urban Carmel, Mill Valley City Council

Members Absent: Brian Colbert, San Anselmo Town Council, TAM Chair
Katie Rice, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Mary Sackett, Marin County Board of Supervisors

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 and Payroll Specialist
Jennifer Doucette, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board
Li Zhang, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer
Mikaela Hiatt, Associate Transportation Planner
Molly Graham, Public Outreach Coordinator
Nick Nguyen, Principal Project Delivery Manager
Scott McDonald, Principal Transportation Planner

Vice-Chair Lucan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Vice-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. Chair's Report

None.

2. Commissioner Matters Not on the Agenda (Discussion)

None.

3. Commissioner Reports (Discussion)

a. MTC Report – Commissioner Moulton-Peters

Commissioner Moulton-Peters reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) appointed Andrew Fremier as the new Executive Director; re-elected Napa County Supervisor Alfredo Pedroza and San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR) Chief Policy Officer Nick Josefowitz to a second two-year term as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively; and received a report about the dismissal of the litigation related to Regional Measure (RM) 3.

b. Marin Transit Report – Commissioner Rice

The Marin Transit (MT) Report was provided by MT General Manager Nancy Whelan during Agenda Item #7.

c. SMART Report – Commissioner Lucan

Commissioner Lucan reported that Sonoma–Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) is anticipating the receipt of RM 3 funding for the Windsor and Healdsburg extensions; and that SMART was awarded a Transit Intercity Rail Capital Project (TIRCP) grant in the amount of \$43 million to continue the northbound extension.

4. Executive Director's Report (Discussion)

Executive Director (ED) Anne Richman reported on the following: MTC approved a \$1.25 million grant for the US-101 Part-Time Transit Lane (PTTL) Project; TAM's grant application for the Bellam Boulevard Off-Ramp project; Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Sea Level Rise (SLR) Program; and transit service and fare updates.

ED Richman also provided an update on the State Route (SR) 37 corridor projects; the Commute37 Pilot Program; federal government actions for electric vehicle (EV) promotion; and upcoming State and Regional funding opportunities.

Lastly, ED Richman highlighted recent and upcoming TAM public outreach meetings; and called attention to this month's California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) report, including an update on current repaving and storm damage repair being conducted by Caltrans' maintenance division.

In response to Commissioner Colin, ED Richman explained that based on prior studies, TAM has a good understanding of the areas vulnerable to SLR and that the SLR RFP will focus on the effects those vulnerabilities have on the transportation network and identifying potential solutions.

In response to Commissioner Carmel, ED Richman explained that the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program includes both formula-based and competitive-based funding components and that it is too early to determine the timing or amount of funds that may be received by the State or the County; however, TAM has had preliminary discussions with local jurisdictions that have indicated an interest in applying for those funds.

In response to Commissioner Blaustein, ED Richman explained that TAM staff is currently assessing the funding opportunities to determine which programs and projects may be eligible and that TAM staff is available to provide more details about specific funding opportunities.

5. Open Time for Public Expression

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

Member of the public Clayton Smith expressed concern about midday traffic delays due to SMART railroad crossings along Anderson Drive in San Rafael and inquired about revenue and ridership data. Mr. Smith also expressed concern about the midday use of large double buses in Mill Valley and suggested that smaller vehicles would be more appropriate for narrow roadways. Lastly, Mr. Smith commented on the data used to measure the rate of SLR.

Member of the public Eva commented that operating smaller buses more frequently would be beneficial to riders that depend on public transit and commented on the importance of public outreach when determining fare structures. Eva also expressed concern about the materials used in batteries for electric bicycles (e-bikes) and EVs.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR (Action)

- a. Approve TAM Board Meeting Minutes January 26, 2023
- b. Adopt TAM Resolution No. 2023-04 in Compliance with AB 361
- c. Review of the Semi-Annual Project Status Report
- d. Adoption of Amended Measure B Expenditure Plan
- e. Programming Commitment for Cycle 5 Local Partnership Program Formula Funds
- f. Contract Amendment with BKF Engineers to Complete Design and Support on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Approach Improvements
- g. Allocate Measure AA Funds to Novato for the Novato Boulevard Segment 1 Rehabilitation Project

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

7. Accept Marin Transit's 2023-2028 Short Range Transit Plan (Action)

Director of Programming and Legislation David Chan introduced MT General Manager Nancy Whelan to present MT's 2023-2028 Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP), which TAM staff recommends that the Board accepts and directs staff to incorporate into the Measure A/AA Strategic Plan.

Ms. Whelan provided an update on ridership and revenue, and presented the SRTP, including background, financial and service planning scenarios, comparisons to other Bay Area transit operators, and a summary of opportunities and challenges. Ms. Whelan also outlined proposed service changes for 2023, including outreach and education and a timeline for implementation.

Ms. Whelan further reported on planning and project development; goals and needs of an electric bus maintenance facility and yard; and fare policy updates and activities.

In response to Commissioner Fredericks, Ms. Whelan explained that although MT has experienced a robust ridership recovery across many fixed-route services, Route 219 in Tiburon has not experienced the same level of ridership recovery; and that a shortage of drivers is currently the largest factor contributing to service reductions. Commissioner Fredericks also commented that TAM's 2023 Legislative Platform includes language that supports funding for an operation and maintenance facility for MT.

In response to Commissioner Carroll, Ms. Whelan explained that MT contracts with four service providers for service provision, including Golden Gate Transit (GGT), and that the contractors recruit and employ the drivers; that incentives, including wage increases and bonuses, have been offered in an effort to

attract more drivers; and that the shortage of drivers is occurring nationwide. Ms. Whelan also explained that MT has released an RFP to contract out the Muir Woods Shuttle service in an effort to reassign those drivers to other routes; and that MT recently received a public comment in support of running the new Route 29 in Larkspur on weekends.

In response to Commissioner Ravasio, Ms. Whelan explained that some factors for determining proposed service route changes include the existence of alternate routes and the availability of drivers; and that service changes from the Canal neighborhood to the College of Marin may include transfers at the San Rafael Transit Center. Ms. Whelan also explained that the MT Board is supportive of driver wage increases and that the current wages are competitive.

In response to Commissioner Moulton-Peters, Ms. Whelan explained that the MT adult cash fare is \$2 and that students, adults over 65, and people with a disability all ride for \$1. Ms. Whelan also explained that MT has other discount fare programs, including free youth passes for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch programs and a 50% fare discount for low-income adults through the Clipper Start program. Lastly, Ms. Whelan commented that MT has not raised base fare rates in twenty years.

In response to Commissioner Carmel, Ms. Whelan explained that 10% of MT revenue comes from fares, which is common for smaller suburban operators that serve lower-income riders. Ms. Whelan further explained that in comparison, commute-oriented transit operators such as Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and GGT rely on fares for approximately 50-60% of revenue.

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

Mr. Smith commented that due to rising costs of batteries, some industries are moving away from EVs and shifting their focus to hydrogen fuel cell technology.

Eva expressed concern about possible reductions and/or changes in routes servicing the Canal neighborhood in San Rafael; and commented that although MT fares appear low, some users may still not be able to afford to ride transit and suggested making MT fare-free.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters moved to accept Marin Transit's 2023-2028 SRTP, and direct staff to incorporate it into the Measure A/AA Strategic Plan, which was seconded by Commissioner Rodoni. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Review and Approve the FY2021-22 COC/2022 TAM Annual Report (Action)

ED Richman introduced Peter Pelham, Chairperson of the Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) to present this item, which recommends that the Board review and approve the combined FY2021-22 COC/2022 TAM Annual Report and direct staff to finalize the report based on input from both the COC and the Board and make it available to the public in March 2023.

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

Eva expressed concern about representation on the COC and the challenges faced by low-income and underserved populations throughout the County.

Mr. Pelham commented that Bank of Marin is a community bank headquartered in Marin County and includes a diverse pool of employees.

Member of the public Damian expressed concern about the banking industry's relationship with low-income and underserved communities.

Commissioner Rodoni asked TAM staff to return to the Board when applications are sought for COC membership in an effort to expand public outreach.

Commissioner Fredericks moved to approve the combined FY2021-22 COC/2022 TAM Annual Report and direct staff to finalize the report based on input from both the COC and the Board and make it available to the public in March 2023, which was seconded by Commissioner Rodoni. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Return to In-Person Meetings in Compliance with AB 2449 (Action)

ED Richman presented this item, which requests that the Board approves staff's recommendation to return to in-person meetings for the TAM Executive Committees, and the Board of Commissioners starting in March 2023 in accordance with the provisions of Assembly Bill (AB) 2449, with options for remote public participation.

ED Richman provided background and outlined the requirements for teleconferencing and virtual participation under the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) and AB 2449.

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

Commissioner Carmel moved to approve staff's recommendation to return to in-person meetings for the TAM Executive Committees, and the Board of Commissioners starting in March 2023 in accordance with the provisions of AB 2449, with options for remote public participation, which was seconded by Commissioner Blaustein. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

10. Presentation on the Project Development Process (Discussion)

ED Richman introduced Principal Project Delivery Manager Bill Whitney to provide a high-level overview of the typical process to develop a capital improvement project in the public sector and share examples of projects that TAM has sponsored and/or acted as the lead agency for the project.

Mr. Whitney provided information on different types of public works projects and major phases for capital improvement projects, including planning and feasibility studies, project approvals and environmental documents, right-of-way, final design, and construction.

In response to Commissioner Ravasio, Mr. Whitney explained that public agencies would welcome assistance from private design firms to advance public works projects.

In response to Commissioner Blaustein, Director of Project Delivery Dan Cherrier explained that Caltrans' Project Development Procedures Manual outlines the various segments and milestones of project development and that the timeframes vary based on a variety of factors such as the complexity of the project, the number of agencies involved and right-of-way acquisitions.

In response to Commissioner Carroll, Mr. Cherrier explained that public notification and outreach is mandated through the environmental process of project development per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and in some cases, for larger projects, public outreach is proactively started before the environmental phase of the project. Commissioner Carroll expressed concern that project notifications to landlords may not reach tenants.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters thanked staff for the presentation; commented on the importance of public outreach; and referred everyone to the Semi-Annual Project Status Report (Agenda Item 6c) for more details on current projects.

Vice-Chair Lucan asked if any members of the public wished to speak or had submitted a comment by e-mail.

Eva commented on the importance of public notification, especially when there is shared public access during the construction phase.

Mr. Smith commented on the importance of public outreach and obtaining feedback from drivers with regard to the Bellam Boulevard Off-Ramp Project; and also expressed concern that too many bicycle and pedestrian improvements will have a negative impact on traffic circulation. Mr. Smith also commented on the importance of performance bonds throughout the construction of the Tamalpais Drive Overcrossing Project.

Vice-Chair Lucan commented that often times local jurisdictions have their own public notification requirements for capital projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Approved March 23, 2023