



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
6:00 PM

MARIN COUNTY CIVIC CENTER, ROOM 330
3501 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Alice Fredericks, Tiburon Town Council
Beach Kuhl, Ross Town Council
Brian Colbert, San Anselmo Town Council, TAM Chair
Chance Cutrano, Fairfax Town Council
Dennis Rodoni, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Eli Beckman, Corte Madera Town Council
Eric Lucan, Marin County Board of Supervisors, TAM Vice-Chair
Kate Colin, San Rafael City Council
Katie Rice, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Kevin Carroll, Larkspur City Council
Mary Sackett, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Max Perrey, Mill Valley City Council
Melissa Blaustein, Sausalito City Council
Nancy Kemnitzer, Belvedere City Council
Rachel Farac, Novato City Council
Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Marin County Board of Supervisors

Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Anne Richman, Executive Director
Dan Cherrier, Director of Project Delivery
David Chan, Director of Programming and Legislation
Emily Tong, Senior Accountant
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

Chair Colbert called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Chair Colbert welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) strongly denounces hate speech and does not tolerate disruptive behavior in its meetings and asked for members of the public to refrain from making disrespectful and hateful comments.

Prior to the roll call, Chair Colbert announced that Commissioner Farac was participating remotely pursuant to the "Just cause" clause of Assembly Bill (AB) 2449; and Commissioner Farac stated that no one over the age of 18 was present at her location. Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board Jennifer Doucette conducted a roll call to confirm a quorum of the Board and provided detailed information about how the public may participate was provided.

1. Chair's Report

Chair Colbert reported on the September 12th Clean Fleet Expo; Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Task Force meetings; the upcoming International Walk & Roll to School Day on October 4th; and the participation of elected officials and staff at the recent State Route (SR) 37 corridor tour.

2. Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Marin Transit and Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit Reports & Commissioner Matters Not on the Agenda (Discussion)

MTC Report – Commissioner Moulton-Peters

Commissioner Moulton-Peters reported that Marin Transit (MT) General Manager Nancy Whelan was appointed to represent small transit agencies on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC's) Regional Network Management Council, which focuses on fare integration, transit priority services, common signage and wayfinding, and paratransit interagency travel.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters also reported on a potential 2026 transportation measure being considered to address the expected transit funding shortfall; the new generation Clipper Card; and a potential 2024 bond measure proposed by the Bay Area Housing Financing Authority.

Marin Transit Report – Commissioner Rice

Commissioner Rice reported that MT has initiated a Fare Collection Study to address the next generation of the Clipper Card system, and the need to replace outdated fareboxes on all its buses. MT is considering what functionalities are needed from new fareboxes; how passenger counting will be done in the future; and an appropriate fare policy to complement these decisions. Riders are being surveyed about their fare preferences and focus groups will be convened to delve into challenges of the current system and opportunities for improving the fare system. The study recommendations and implementation plan will be completed in early 2024, in time for the roll out of the next generation Clipper Card in the summer of 2024.

SMART Report – Commissioner Lucan

Commissioner Lucan reported that Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) secured a \$32 million federal grant for its northern rail extension to Healdsburg; and that due to low ridership, the Starlighter service has been suspended, however, it may return on a seasonal basis.

Commissioner Matters Not on the Agenda

Commissioner Moulton-Peters called attention to a recent Marin Independent Journal (IJ) editorial regarding the Town of San Anselmo's exploration of using speed cushions to slow down vehicular traffic.

Chair Colbert asked if any members of the public wished to speak or had submitted a comment by e-mail, and hearing none closed this item.

3. Executive Director's Report (Discussion)

Executive Director (ED) Anne Richman reported on the upcoming Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP) Board Workshop on October 26; National Drive Electric Week; Marin Clean Energy's (MCE's) Clean Air Day on October 4; and TAM's Clean Fleet Expo.

ED Richman also reported that TAM was awarded \$518,931 to develop a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction/Mobility Enhancement Toolkit for Marin County; and provided updates on SR2S activities and safety measures; crossing guard recruitment; and public outreach for the US 101/I-580 Multi-modal and Local Access Improvement Project.

ED Richman further reported on MTC's new programs for bridge toll debt relief for users with overdue tolls and violation penalties; and provided updates on SR 37; Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 7; and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds for SMART.

Lastly, ED Richman highlighted recent and upcoming TAM public outreach meetings and community events; and called attention to this month's California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) report.

Chair Colbert asked if any members of the public wished to speak or had submitted a comment by e-mail, and hearing none closed this item.

4. Open Time for Public Expression

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

Marin City Community Services District (MCCSD) Board member and ED of Marin City Climate Resilience and Health Justice Terrie Green expressed concern regarding air and noise pollution along the US 101 corridor through Marin City; and expressed support for a sound barrier wall.

Cool the Earth representative Irving Alatraste reported that over the past 4 months, Cool the Earth has performed monthly testing of electric vehicle (EV) fast charging stations in Marin County to better understand equitable access of the currently installed charging stations; and to test whether public charging in Marin is reliable, equitable, and able to serve Spanish-speaking residents. Mr. Alatraste also reported that approximately 93% of all EV charging occurs at single-family homes, and residents of apartments and condos typically rely on public charging infrastructure, especially Marin's low-income communities, who are primarily renters. Mr. Alatraste further reported that some chargers were inoperable during the entire four-month testing period with issues including lack of power and malfunctioning screens, payment systems, and cables. Mr. Alatraste expressed concern regarding the user experience for Spanish speakers, reporting a lack of multi-lingual interfaces on screens and apps, as well as multi-lingual customer service agents. Mr. Alatraste also expressed concern that the costs to charge were higher than charging at home. Mr. Alatraste expressed support for planning that incorporates incentives for property owners in low-income communities to install EV chargers; and educates residents in multifamily housing on new charging solutions.

MCCSD Chairman Damian Morgan commented that Ms. Green was the Founder of Marin City Climate Resilience and Health Justice organization and expressed interest for learning more about plans for community engagement during agenda item #7 – Outreach and Engagement for the CTP and Community Based Transportation Plan (CBTP).

WTB-TAM Director of Planning Matthew Hartzell commented that MTC is updating the San Francisco Bay Trail Gap Closure Report and has identified 143 gaps across the 9-county Bay Area, including 30 in Marin County. Mr. Hartzell reported that MTC ranked the gaps by taking into account equity, access to jobs, housing, parks, transit, collision history, and gap closure and network effects; and that 3 highly-ranked gaps have been identified in Marin: Bellam Blvd. and Canal Street in San Rafael, and Bridgeway in Sausalito, all of which may be eligible for funding through the Safe Routes to Transit and Bay Trail Grant Program.

Member of the Public Clayton Smith expressed concern about dependency on foreign-made buses and EV technology and its effects on the manufacturing sector in the United States. Mr. Smith also expressed concern about the cost and life span of EV batteries.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR (Action)

- a. Approve TAM Board Meeting Minutes July 27, 2023
- b. Adoption of Records Retention and Destruction Policy and Records Retention and Destruction Schedule
- c. Approval of Regional Measure 3 Allocation Request Resolution for the US 101/I-580 Multi-modal and Local Access Improvement Project
- d. Approval of Resolution 2023-16 for Project Approval and Environmental Document (PAED) Phase of the 101/580 Multimodal and Local Access Improvement Project
- e. Review and Acceptance of the Semi-Annual Project Status Report
- f. Accept Caltrans Planning Grant for Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction and Mobility Enhancement Toolkit and Authorize Local Resolution of Support

Commissioner Carroll requested to pull item 5e off the Consent Calendar to consider separately.

Commissioner Blaustein made a motion to approve items 5a through 5d, and item 5f of the Consent Calendar, which was seconded by Commissioner Carroll. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

In response to Commissioner Carroll, ED Richman explained that the environmental phase has not yet begun for the Southern Segment of the North-South Greenway (NSGW) Gap Closure Project and therefore a preferred project has not been established, whereby further analyses would be performed, including assessment of potential easements. Principal Project Delivery Manager Bill Whitney explained that funding has yet to be identified to begin the Southern Segment of the NSGW Gap Closure Project, and that any new potential facility would require environmental clearance before any negotiations regarding right-of-way could commence.

Commissioner Carroll commented that perhaps the existing right-of-way along Old Redwood Highway on the east side of the roadway could be used to develop a sidewalk or path as an alternative to the current alignment identified for the Southern Segment. Mr. Whitney explained that different alternatives could be assessed once funding is identified for the Southern Segment.

Commissioner Carroll commented on the importance of public outreach during project development activities; and that particular care should be taken to reach residents living in mobile home communities whose address or contact information may not be on file through the County Assessor-Recorder's office.

In response to a subsequent question from Commissioner Carroll, ED Richman explained that traffic studies for the US 101/I-580 Multi-modal and Local Access Improvement Project are still in progress and anticipated to be brought to the Board, along with additional project information, in early 2024. ED Richman also explained that the traffic studies account for the impact of the new Oak Hill housing development.

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

Mr. Hartzell expressed support for using the existing railroad right-of-way from Wornum Drive to Industrial Way for a portion of the Southern Segment of the NSGW Gap Closure Project.

Commissioner Rice moved to approve item 5f – Review and Acceptance of the Semi-Annual Project Status Report, which was seconded by Commissioner Sackett. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Alternative Fuels Program Update and Acceptance of the Marin Countywide Electric Vehicle Acceleration Strategy (Action)

Director of Planning Derek McGill, Associate Transportation Planner Mikaela Hiatt and consultant Christine O'Rourke presented this item, which provided an update on the Measure B Element 3 Alternative Fuels Program and recommended the TAM Board receive and accept the Marin Countywide EV Acceleration Strategy.

Ms. Hiatt provided an overview and update of the Alternative Fuels and Electric Vehicle (AFEV) Program, including Marin EV sales data; summary of the existing program; program progress to date; and recent and upcoming outreach activities, including the LIME Foundation's NextGen Trades Academy. Ms. Hiatt also reported on the FY2023-24 program Budget and upcoming regional, state and federal funding opportunities.

Ms. O'Rourke provided an overview and update on the Marin Countywide EV Acceleration Strategy, including development process; guiding principles; existing conditions and future targets; barriers to EV adoption; and next steps.

In response to Commissioner Colin, Ms. O'Rourke explained that the Acceleration Strategy includes encouragement and/or code enforcement, when applicable, for new developments to include EV charging infrastructure; and conducting outreach and providing education for existing multi-family housing owners regarding incentives and programs to facilitate the installation of EV chargers. Mr. McGill explained that the County of Marin often meets with developers and property owners regarding EV Reach codes and proposed new building codes to further encourage and facilitate EV charging installation. Mr. McGill also explained that TAM encourages all jurisdictions to reach out to Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) to discuss electrical grid constraints as Level 3 and DC Fast charging are more frequently installed.

Commissioner Colin commented that the Acceleration Strategy should include language regarding the challenges faced in both new and existing construction, as well as multi-family housing.

In response to Commissioner Cutrano, Ms. O'Rourke explained that a specific process for reaching out to multi-family housing owners is still being developed and will include leveraging existing relationships between local jurisdictional staff and landlords and owners. ED Richman explained that recent partnerships with entities such as MCE and the County of Marin could potentially focus on rebate programs for the private sector, including multi-family property owners. However, TAM's current role is to provide support for local jurisdictions' outreach efforts and provide EV and charging infrastructure rebates to the public sector.

In response to Commissioner Perrey, Mr. McGill explained that new development is one of the contributing factors to the increased concentration of EV chargers in central and northern Marin, as the installation of charging infrastructure on new facilities is often easier than retrofitting existing properties. Mr. McGill also explained that demand for EV chargers in southern Marin has grown since the 2018 EV Charger Siting Report, and that most new charging installations in southern Marin have occurred in the private sector, including commercial shopping centers.

In response to Commissioner Blaustein, Ms. O'Rourke explained that a component of the Acceleration Strategy will address general access and education for underserved communities; and also includes maintenance agreements for public charging facilities. Commissioner Blaustein commented on the importance of providing bilingual instructions at charging facilities.

In response to Commissioner Carroll, Ms. O'Rourke explained that Marin Climate and Energy Partnership (MCEP) worked with local planning and public works staff throughout the development of the Acceleration Strategy. Mr. McGill explained that planning reviews of development projects typically occur during the electrical review phase; and that as part of the permit streamlining process, EV charging stations are generally exempt from planning commission reviews. Ms. Hiatt explained that the County of Marin was

applying for \$650,000 through the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant Program for siting of chargers and public outreach in Marin's low-income and equity priority communities (EPC). Ms. O'Rourke explained that presentations for unincorporated areas of Marin have been provided through a subcommittee of the Marin County Board of Supervisors. Mr. McGill further explained that one intention of the Acceleration Strategy is to assist and support local jurisdictions' implementation of Climate Action Plans. Ms. O'Rourke explained that although the Acceleration Strategy is primarily focused on passenger vehicles, an analysis of e-bikes was conducted and concluded that high costs and lack of secure storage can be barriers to adoption.

In response to Commissioner Beckman, Mr. McGill explained that local jurisdictions' coordination with public works departments during the development of capital improvement programs provides an opportunity to incorporate EV charging into future projects.

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

Ms. Green commented on the importance of public outreach to the Marin City community.

Mr. Smith expressed concern regarding the use of electricity that is generated out-of-state; the current state of the electrical grid; and the disposal of EV batteries.

Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC) Policy and Planning Director Warren Wells commented on the barriers to e-bike adoption, including a lack of secure storage, which may be addressed through local building and zoning codes for new construction, such as those in Larkspur, San Anselmo and unincorporated Marin County.

Chair Colbert commented on the importance of sharing information amongst jurisdictions and TAM's role in advancing electrification in the public sector.

Commissioner Cutrano moved to accept the Marin Countywide Electric Vehicle Acceleration Strategy, which was seconded by Commissioner Fredericks. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Outreach and Engagement for Countywide Transportation Plan and Community Based Transportation Plan (Discussion)

ED Richman introduced consultants Bob Grandy of Fehr & Peers and Sybil Hatch of Convey, Inc. to present this item for discussion and feedback on outreach and engagement for the CTP and CBTP.

Mr. Grandy provided an overview of the engagement purpose, process and schedule. Ms. Hatch provided an overview of the TAM Board and stakeholder engagement and public outreach processes.

In response to Commissioner Colin, Ms. Hatch explained that community engagement data includes online surveys; and ED Richman explained that the CTP will incorporate travel pattern and origin-destination data.

In response to Commissioner Moulton-Peters, Ms. Hatch explained that the Equity Working Group includes representatives from Marin City; and that general public outreach will commence in spring 2024. In response to Commissioner Cutrano, Mr. McGill explained that focus groups may provide subject matter expertise and offer an opportunity to reach stakeholders that may not have been previously engaged. Commissioner Cutrano commented that perhaps the West Marin Collaborative and the Marin Promise Partnership could be added to the list of agricultural groups. Mr. McGill explained that suggestions for pop-up event locations and/or other specific comments/questions may be sent directly to TAM staff.

Commissioner Sackett commented that perhaps the CTP could include data from fitness apps and heat maps that reflect emergency medical service (EMS) calls in relation to bicycle/pedestrian injuries; and that medical centers may be another group to include in the engagement process. Commissioner Sackett also commented on the importance of using relevant data to inform and future-proof the CTP. ED Richman explained that TAM and agency partners will continue to administer, monitor and update programs in between periodic updates of the CTP. Mr. Grandy explained that the CTP will outline the tools necessary to monitor and adjust the plan as needed.

In response to Commissioner Carroll, Mr. McGill explained that outreach to the business community will include chambers of commerce, the Marin Economic Forum (MEF), and the North Bay Leadership Council (NBLC). Commissioner Carroll commented on the importance of reaching out to smaller businesses that may not be members of larger business organizations and medical service providers' transportation coordinators.

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

Ms. Green commented that MCCSD and the Marin City Council of Organizations meet monthly and are available to discuss public outreach options; and commented on the importance of reaching out to community members with special needs and/or disabilities. Ms. Green also expressed concern with the impact of periodic flooding to transportation in Marin City.

Mr. Morgan commented on the importance of prioritizing effective public outreach and engagement with the Marin City community.

Mr. Smith commented that employers located outside of urban centers should provide housing and/or transportation for employees; and inquired about the facilitation of focus groups.

8. Approval of Marin County's Project List for Plan Bay Area 2050+ (Action)

Mr. McGill presented this item, which recommends that the TAM Board authorizes staff to submit Marin County's Plan Bay Area (PBA) 2050+ Project Submittal List (Attachment B) to MTC for consideration in PBA 2050+.

Mr. McGill provided an overview of PBA 2050+, including housing and employment forecasts; Transit 2050+; project list development; programmatic categories; existing projects; resilience projects; and next steps.

In response to Commissioner Moulton-Peters, Mr. McGill explained that a project's dollar value was submitted if provided by the project sponsors; existing projects were included in PBA 2050 (the current Plan); and that projects are not required to be included in a jurisdiction's plan. Mr. McGill also explained that MTC is expecting limited revenue capacity and has not prepared a fiscal envelope for counties.

In response to Commissioner Colin, Mr. McGill explained that projects included in CBTPs typically fall under the programmatic categories and are often smaller in scale and cost less than those listed separately in PBA, which tend to be larger capacity increasing projects. ED Richman explained that the existing projects were included in the current version of PBA; and that the submission of Transit Frequency Increase and Enhancements to Priority Development Areas (PDA) and Priority Sites serves as a placeholder for future transit service.

In response to Commissioner Blaustein, Mr. McGill explained that the Countywide Signal Upgrade project would seek to advance smart signaling, however exact specifications have yet to be determined.

In response to Commissioner Carroll, Mr. McGill explained that including the US 101/I-580 Multi-modal and Local Access Improvement Project on the PBA list will provide access to regional, state and federal funds, while still allowing the development of the project to progress.

In response to Commissioner Lucan, Mr. McGill explained that the recommended Board action is to approve the addition of the three new projects as listed in Attachment B to the Marin County PBA list; and that in general, all of the projects listed are located in or serve Marin County. Mr. McGill also explained that as a transit operator, SMART may submit projects through County Transportation Agencies (CTAs) or directly to MTC. Mr. McGill further explained that the SR 37 Interim Project includes the portion of SR 37 located in Marin County; and that TAM and the County of Marin will continue to coordinate with MTC on the long-term SR 37 project. ED Richman explained that the nomenclature for various SR 37 corridor projects has changed in the past several years; and that TAM and the County of Marin will continue to work with MTC to include the current project vision in PBA.

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

Mr. Hartzell expressed concern with the Larkspur Ferry Parking Garage project; and commented on the importance of focusing on multi-modal and other transportation alternatives in order to decrease the number of passenger vehicles throughout the County. Mr. Hartzell expressed support for developing the Southern Segment of the NSGW Gap Closure Project.

Mr. Smith expressed concern about PBA's effect on local control of community development processes; and commented on the importance of public outreach and open discussion.

In response to Commissioner Lucan, ED Richman explained that the SR 37 Interim Project listed under the Existing Major Projects – Transportation section of the list is the project that is located in Marin County; and Mr. McGill explained that MTC is submitting a larger, long-term SR 37 project. Commissioner Lucan commented on the importance of nomenclature to encompass both near and long-term projects.

Commissioner Lucan moved to authorize staff to address project nomenclature and submit Marin County's PBA 2050+ Project Submittal List (Attachment B) to MTC for consideration in PBA 2050+, which was seconded by Commissioner Cutrano. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Presentation on Transportation Funding 101 (Discussion)

Director of Programming and Legislation David Chan presented this item for discussion. Mr. Chan provided an overview of transportation funding, including primary sources of funding; key decision-makers; fuel taxes; and local, state and federal funding opportunities.

In response to Commissioner Rice, ED Richman explained that it may be appropriate to incorporate analyses of current funding for near-term planning into the CTP, however long-term planning will be subject to future funding fluctuations. Commissioner Rice commented on the importance of maintaining fiscal flexibility with regard to local funding sources.

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

Mr. Smith expressed concern about the cost to repair and maintain roads and the effects of the gas tax on low-income communities and the cost of delivered goods. Mr. Smith also expressed concern about federal government spending, inflation and interest rates.

Commissioner Lucan commented on the importance of local funding and expressed gratitude to Marin County voters for approving Measures A/AA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.