



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023
5:00 PM

TAM CONFERENCE ROOM
900 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 100
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Kevin Hagerty, League of Women Voters (Vice-Chairperson)
Charley Vogt, Northern Marin Planning Area
Debbie Alley, Southern Marin Planning Area
Paul Royce, Ross Valley Planning Area
Scott Tye, West Marin Planning Area
Allan Bortel, Marin County Paratransit Coordinating Council
Vince O'Brien, Bicyclist and Pedestrian Groups
Kingston Cole, Taxpayer Groups
Kate Powers, Environmental Organizations

Alternates Present: Heather McPhail Sridharan, School Districts

Members/Alternates Attending Remotely as Public: James Schmidt, Nancy Okada

Staff Members Present: Anne Richman, Executive Director
Li Zhang, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer
Dan Cherrier, Director of Project Delivery
Derek McGill, Derek McGill, Director of Planning
Emily Tong, Senior Accountant
Grace Zhuang, Accounting and Payroll Specialist
Joanne O'Hehir, Administrative Assistant
Mikaela Hiatt, Associate Transportation Planner
Scott McDonald, Principal Transportation Planner

Vice-Chairperson Kevin Hagerty called the Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Introductions and Welcome

Vice-Chairperson Hagerty asked Accounting and Payroll Specialist Grace Zhuang to conduct a roll call to ensure a quorum. A quorum of the COC was confirmed and detailed information about how the public may participate was provided.

2. Open Time for Public Expression

No public expression was received.

3. Review and Approval of July 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Member Charley Vogt moved to approve the July 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes with the amendment that Member Kate Powers will be added to the list of members present. Member Scott Tye seconded the motion and the Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. TAM Staff Report (Information)

Executive Director (ED) Anne Richman reported that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated \$155 million from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for a State Route (SR) 37 Flood Protection Project in Marin County; and that members of the SR 37 Policy Committee and agency staff recently participated in a field tour of the SR 37 Corridor.

ED Richman also reported that Caltrans released the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Assessment (Draft EIR/EA) for the SR 37 Flood Reduction Project (between Highway 101 and Atherton Avenue) for public review and comment, and will host a hybrid public meeting on September 21, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., at the Margaret Todd Senior Center in Novato.

ED Richman reported that TAM hosted the inaugural Clean Fleet Expo at the Marin County Fairgrounds on September 12. The Expo offered an immersive electric vehicle (EV) and alternative fuels education experience for public agencies and organizations that manage fleets in Northern California. ED Richman noted that emergency responders and partners from other counties attended the Expo, in addition to beneficiaries of the TAM EV programs.

ED Richman reported that the Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) program hosted a parent volunteer luncheon at TAM's office on September 5 that acknowledged the support of all volunteers and provided an overview of activities for the year; that October 4 has been named International Walk & Roll to School Day; and that staff and the team from All Cities Management Services (ACMS) have expanded efforts to hire crossing guards throughout Marin.

Lastly, ED Richman reported that a consultant team has been hired to develop the Countywide Transportation Plan (CTP). ED Richman stated that regular updates will be provided to the TAM Board and the COC; and that the CTP is expected to be adopted by the end of 2024.

In response to Member Allan Bortel, ED Richman stated that the CTP will address the needs of all users of the transportation network.

Member Vogt expressed his support for the SR 37 Project that will ameliorate flooding of Novato Creek. He also thanked staff for working with the Novato Unified School District to ensure the presence of a crossing guard at the intersection of Novato Blvd. and Sunset.

Member Tye expressed his concern that data from TAM's Sea Level Rise (SLR) Study would not be incorporated into the SR 37 Flood Protection Project. In response, ED Richman stated that Caltrans has obtained studies specifically for the SR 37 Plan.

In response to Member Debbie Alley, Director of Planning Derek McGill stated that the Housing Elements and Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) for Marin jurisdictions will be reviewed to ensure the policies are aligned with the policies in the CTP. ED Richman added that updates for the CTP will potentially occur every 4 or 6 years.

In response to Alternate Heather McPhail Sridharan, ED Richman stated that the Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC) operates an electric bike (e-bike) education program for teens; SR2S provides information to parents; and some of the towns and cities have been working with law enforcement agencies to develop standards for e-bike users.

Member Alley provided background on the e-bike course that has been developed by MCBC.

In response to Member Powers, Mr. McGill confirmed that staff contacted Marin Climate & Energy Partnership (MCEP) to ensure sustainability coordinators in Marin County were invited to the Clean Fleet Expo.

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

5. Alternative Fuels Program Updates & Outreach Activities (Discussion)

Associate Transportation Planner Mikaela Hiatt presented this item, which included an overview of TAM's Alternative Fuels Program (AFP); EV rebates; public outreach; increased EV sales; EV charging station installations; program expenditures for FY2022-23; updates on regional, state and federal grant applications; MCEP's EV Acceleration Strategy; upcoming activities and the FY2023-24 program Budget.

In response to Member Bortel, Ms. Hiatt stated that TAM staff is not aware of instances of EV charging station vandalism. Ms. Hiatt confirmed that information on inoperable charging stations is not available but added that rebates have been processed to replace inoperable EV charging stations.

In response to Vice-Chair Hagerty, Ms. Hiatt stated that MCEP's Acceleration Strategy provides information on public EV charging stations in Marin and strategies to address the lack of EV charging stations in places such as apartment complexes, to encourage more EV drivers. Mr. McGill added that Plugshare.com provides a map of public EV charging stations in Marin.

In response to Member Powers, Mr. McGill stated that Marin Clean Energy (MCE) monitors EV charging station usage and that TAM staff does not have access to the data. Mr. McGill added that higher levels of installations in some years were the result of more capital investment. He noted that rebate programs from TAM and MCE together fund up to \$6,500 towards the installation of an EV charging station.

In response to Member Tye, Ms. Hiatt stated that staff would be able to provide a comparison of TAM funded EV charging station installations at schools and partner agencies. Mr. McGill noted that San Rafael City Schools funded additional EV charging stations as part of a major capital project. He added that schools are key sites to receive TAM funding, and Ms. Hiatt stated that TAM staff will host a school electrification webinar.

In response to Member Vince O'Brien, Ms. Hiatt stated that usage data is not tracked for EV charging stations that receive TAM funds.

Member Powers thanked staff for the informative report and Ms. Hiatt clarified the funding levels for EVs from the EV Fleet Rebate Program. In further response to Member Powers, Mr. McGill stated that TAM funded MCEP's Marin Countywide EV Acceleration Strategy to advance the electrification goals and climate action plans of local cities and towns.

Member Vogt commented on the need for signage to indicate the location of EV charging stations at the College of Marin - Indian Valley Campus; and discussed his support of the LIME Foundation, which he suggested could be considered in the COC's subcommittee's discussions on a mentorship program for high school students.

In response to Member Vogt, Ms. Hiatt clarified the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program, which provides federal funds to jurisdictions that commit to installing one DC fast charger (DCFC) every 50 miles along state and federal highways.

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

The Committee recessed for a dinner break and reconvened with all members present as indicated.

6. North-South Greenway & Cross Marin Bikeway Status Report (Discussion)

Principal Transportation Planner Scott McDonald presented the North-South Greenway & Cross Marin Bikeway Status Report, which was completed in June 2023. Mr. McDonald provided an overview of the Report, noting that 62% of the North-South Greenway (NSGW), and 89% of the Cross Marin Bikeway (CMB) have been completed. He addressed key completed improvement projects, including the Rowland Boulevard Improvement Project that was completed in 2023; provided a summary of current projects for the NSGW and feedback from the Administration, Projects & Planning (AP&P) Executive Committee; and next steps, including funding opportunities.

In response to Member Alley, ED Richman discussed the feedback from the AP&P Executive Committee. ED Richman referred to a 2017 study by the County of Marin, which discussed the engineering challenges and significant cost of opening the Alto Tunnel for cyclists; and noted that some Board Members had mentioned potential opportunities for low-cost improvements to Horse Hill Path as an alternate.

In response to Member Paul Roye, ED Richman confirmed that the bikeway improvements related to the segment between San Rafael and Fairfax; improvements that would enable cyclists to access the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge from Andersen Drive without cycling on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (Blvd.) were not included in the CMB plans; and that the County has received federal funds to study improvements for bicycle and pedestrian access on East Francisco Blvd. and Sir Francis Drake Blvd.

Member Powers commented on the opportunity to use information from the report and from other studies, including SLR studies, in the design of the NSGW to protect the path from the effects of SLR where it parallels marshland.

Vice-Chairperson Hagerty asked if any members of the public wished to speak or had submitted a comment by e-mail and hearing none, closed public comment.

Member Vogt discussed the need to increase signage from the Golden Gate Bridge to Alexander Avenue to improve safety for tourists who cycle across the Golden Gate Bridge. In response, Mr. McDonald noted that MCBC has raised the issue with Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (GGBHTD) and TAM staff will monitor any response. ED Richman confirmed that Alexander Avenue is part of GGBHTD's jurisdiction, and Member Alley stated that MCBC is working with GGBHTD on future improvements.

7. Committee Member Hot Items Report (Discussion)

Vice-Chairperson Hagerty provided an update from the first meeting of the COC Membership Structure Review Subcommittee, which convened to discuss the addition of member(s) to the COC who would represent underserved communities in Marin; a pilot mentorship program for high school students; and he stated that the Committee hopes to bring recommendations to discuss with the COC after the first meeting in 2024.

In response to Member Tye, ED Richman stated that TAM's programs should not be affected by a short-term federal shutdown.

Member Alley stated that the City of Mill Valley is the only jurisdiction in Marin that has been recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB); that Mill Valley received silver-level recognition in 2018 and has recently reapplied for recognition.

Member Vogt noted that the replacement streetlamp project on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. in Greenbrae has been completed. Member Tye commented on nighttime street paving as part of the San Rafael Third Street Rehabilitation Project.

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

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2023, to review the annual financial audit/statement.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

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