



MEETING OF THE  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN  
FUNDING, PROGRAMS & LEGISLATION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023  
2:00 PM

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present: Alice Fredericks, Tiburon Town Council  
Brian Colbert, San Anselmo Town Council, Committee Chair  
Katie Rice, County of Marin Board of Supervisors  
Mary Sackett, County of Marin Board of Supervisors  
Urban Carmel, Mill Valley City Council

Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Bill Whitney, Principal Project Delivery Manager  
Dan Cherrier, Director of Project Delivery  
Derek McGill, Director of Planning  
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  
Scott McDonald, Principal Transportation Planner

*Chair Colbert called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.*

Chair Colbert 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 Funding, Programs and Legislation (FP&L) Executive Committee was confirmed and detailed information about how the public may participate was provided.

**1. Chair's Report & Commissioner Comments (Discussion)**

Chair Colbert reported that last week, he and Commissioner Lucan, along with other elected officials from partner agencies and staff, participated in a field visit of the State Route (SR) 37 corridor hosted by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Chair Colbert also reported on the recent meeting of the Ross Valley Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) Task Force, which was attended by various stakeholders, including the department of public works staff; and included detailed information about active and green trips to specific schools.

Commissioner Fredericks reported that a similar focus was observed during the recent Reed School District's SR2S Task Force meeting, and that scatterplot maps prove to be a useful tool when analyzing active transportation behavior and trends.

In response to Commissioner Carmel, Director of Project Delivery Dan Cherrier explained that the SR2S staff has implemented new tactics and strategies to focus on increasing active transportation and active green trips to schools, which also include changes to the format of SR2S Task Force meetings countywide.

Chair Colbert commented that perhaps a meeting with SR2S staff at the conclusion of all the Task Force meetings would be appropriate.

Commissioner Carmel reported that the City of Mill Valley will be considering a proposal to rename and repurpose Mill Valley's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) to a Transportation and Mobility Advisory Committee, which will include representatives from the school district to assist in the development of site-specific strategies to increase active transportation and reduce traffic congestion to and from schools.

Commissioner Rice expressed support for the new SR2S strategies, especially now that many residents and families have established a more regular post-pandemic commute schedule; and commented on the importance of parent/caregiver volunteer participation for a successful SR2S program.

In response to Commissioner Carmel, Chair Colbert indicated that he would reach out to Marin Transit General Manager Nancy Whelan regarding a free-fare pilot program for bus route 17 in Mill Valley.

Commissioner Sackett commented on the importance of staffing (e.g., bus drivers) before ramping up school bus programs.

Mr. Cherrier commented that scatterplot maps are useful for macro analytics; and that in school districts that lack parent volunteers, SR2S is piloting a new model to use student-led ambassadors to increase participation.

## **2. Executive Director's Report (Discussion)**

Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer (DED/CFO) Li Zhang reported that TAM was awarded \$518,931 to develop a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction/Mobility Enhancement Toolkit for Marin County.

DED/CFO Zhang also reported that Caltrans released the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Assessment (Draft EIR/EA) for the SR 37 Flood Reduction Project 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.

DED/CFO Zhang further reported that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated \$155 million in federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds to Caltrans for the SR 37 Flood Protection Project in Marin County; and that SR 37 Policy Committee members from Marin, Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties recently participated in a field tour of the SR 37 Corridor.

DED/CFO Zhang reported that the SR2S program hosted a parent volunteer luncheon at TAM to provide an overview of activities for the year and materials for promotions throughout the school year; and that TAM and the Crossing Guard Management firm have expanded efforts to hire crossing guards throughout Marin.

Lastly, DED/CFO Zhang reported that TAM will host the inaugural Clean Fleet Expo at the Marin County Fairgrounds on September 12. The Expo will offer an immersive electric vehicle (EV) and alternative fuels education experience for public agencies who manage fleets in Northern California.

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. 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.

Member of the Public Clayton Smith expressed concern regarding tolls on SR 37 and commented that gas taxes should be used to cover the cost of road maintenance. Mr. Smith also expressed concern over the use of artificial intelligence that may be associated with toll collection; and inquired about the number of virtual attendees at today's FP&L Executive Committee meeting.

### **4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2023 (Action)**

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

Commissioner Sackett moved to approve the June 12, 2023 meeting minutes. Commissioner Carmel seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **5. Alternative Fuels Program Update & Outreach Activities (Discussion)**

Director of Planning Derek McGill, Associate Transportation Planner Mikaela Hiatt and consultant Christine O'Rourke presented this item for discussion.

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.

Commissioner Carmel commented that it would be helpful to know if and where obstacles to EV charger installations occur in order to address and mitigate.

In response to Commissioner Fredericks, Mr. McGill explained that with the exception of Tesla, nearly all EVs use a similar charger.

Commissioner Carmel commented on the importance of clearly identifying gaps in the County's charging network and the action(s) needed to fill those gaps; and clarified that the City of Mill Valley is in the process of considering an EV Reach Code.

Commissioner Fredericks commented that another barrier to EV adoption is the perception that the capacity of the electrical grid may not be adequate for widespread EV charging, especially during public safety power shut-offs (PSPS).

Commissioner Rice commented that gas stations are also inoperable during PSPS.

In response to Commissioner Rice, Ms. O'Rourke explained that the plan does not currently include privately held data on demand for chargers on private property; and that charging infrastructure must precede EV fleet growth. Ms. O'Rourke also explained that the plan prioritizes installing chargers along transportation corridors, often near multi-family housing; and strategies to assist multi-family building owners to use innovative charging technologies. Mr. McGill explained that MCE (formerly Marin Clean Energy) requires network chargers that monitor usage, however, that data is not shared with partner agencies.

Ms. Hiatt provided an overview and update of the Alternative Fuels and Electric Vehicle (AFEV) Program, including a summary of the existing program; Marin EV sales data; program progress to date; expenditures for FY2022-23; and regional, state and federal funding updates and opportunities. Ms. Hiatt also reported on recent and upcoming outreach activities, including the LIME Foundation's NextGen Trades Academy; and the FY2023-24 program budget.

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

Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC) Policy and Planning Director Warren Wells commented that in addition to increasing EV usage, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) recommends a 25% reduction in VMT by 2030. Mr. Wells also commented that continuing to build safe and accessible bicycle facilities will be required to encourage e-bike usage, which is integral to reducing VMT.

Mr. Smith expressed concern about the limitations of renewable energy sources for EV charging and the fate of existing fleet vehicles once agencies transition to electric fleets.

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.*

Approved November 13, 2023