



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
ADMINISTRATION, PROJECTS & PLANNING
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
3:30 PM

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

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Beach Kuhl, Ross Town Council
Chance Cutrano, Fairfax Town Council
Eric Lucan, Marin County Board of Supervisors, Committee Chair
Kate Colin, San Rafael City Council

Members Absent: Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Marin County Board of Supervisors

Staff Members Present: Bill Whitney, Principal Project Delivery Manager
Dan Cherrier, Director of Project Delivery
David Chan, Director of Programming and Legislation
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
Nick Nguyen, Principal Project Delivery Manager
Molly Graham, Public Outreach Coordinator
Scott McDonald, Principal Transportation Planner

Chair Lucan called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

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 Administration, Projects & Planning (AP&P) Executive Committee was confirmed and detailed information about how the public may participate was provided.

1. Chair's Report & Commissioners Comments (Discussion)

None.

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 Li Zhang also reported that Caltrans released the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Assessment (Draft EIR/EA) for the State Route (SR) 37 Flood Reduction Project (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 Li 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 Li Zhang reported that the Safe Routes to Schools (SR2S) program hosted a parent volunteer luncheon at TAM to provide an overview of activities for the year and provide 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 Li 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 and others who manage fleets in Northern California.

Chair Lucan 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 Lucan 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 toll fees 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 personal data that may be associated with toll collection.

Chair Lucan clarified that the funds allocated for the replacement of the Novato Creek Bridge will not be toll-funded.

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

Chair Lucan 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 Cutrano moved to approve the Minutes of the June 12, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Kuhl seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Review of the Semi-Annual Project Status Report (Action)

Director of Project Delivery Dan Cherrier presented this item, which recommends that the AP&P Executive Committee review the Semi-Annual Project Status Report and refer it to the TAM Board for approval.

Mr. Cherrier provided updates on the Marin Sonoma Narrows (MSN); SR 37; North-South Greenway Gap Closure; Highway 101 Interchange Studies; US 101/I-580 Multimodal and Local Access Improvements; Bellam Blvd Off-Ramp from Northbound US 101; US 101 & Marin City Flood Mitigation Coordination; and US 101 Part-Time Transit Lane.

In response to Chair Lucan, Principal Project Delivery Manager Nick Nguyen explained that TAM staff would research the status of the bike path closure located underneath US 101 at the Marin/Sonoma County line.

In response to Commissioner Colin, Mr. Cherrier explained that the RAISE grant funding is offered annually and could be reconsidered, however, the Bellam Blvd Offramp Improvements project would require a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance in order to proceed with such federal funding.

In response to Commissioner Colin, Principal Project Delivery Manager Bill Whitney explained that the US 101 Part-Time Transit Lane is currently entering the Project Initiation Document (PID) phase, which is anticipated to be completed in approximately one year.

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 Colin made a motion to refer the Semi-Annual Project Status Report to the TAM Board for approval. Commissioner Cutrano seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. Highway 101 Interchange and Approaching Roadway Studies Update (Discussion)

Mr. Whitney introduced project consultants David Parisi of Parametrix and Carie Montero of HNTB to present this item for discussion.

Mr. Parisi provided a project overview and background; timeline and status; project objectives; preliminary purpose and need; outreach summary and feedback received; concept refinements; potential funding opportunities; and next steps.

Mr. Whitney explained that staff will continue to develop the PIDs and supporting documents as required before entering the environmental phase(s) of the project(s); and will also continue to seek grant funding opportunities as the process continues.

In response to Commissioner Colin, Mr. Whitney explained that staff will bring this item to the TAM Board at the completion of the PID phase, which is anticipated in summer 2024. Commissioner Colin expressed support for the continued use of roundabouts.

In response to Commissioner Lucan, Mr. Whitney explained that both short and long-term components of a project could be included in the environmental phase; and Mr. Cherrier explained that multiple alternatives may be studied during the environmental phase of a project. Mr. Cherrier also explained that a viable funding source is generally required by the completion of the environmental phase.

Ms. Montero explained that one purpose of a PID is to determine project costs, including mitigation and environmental permitting.

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

WTB-TAM Director of Planning Matthew Hartzell expressed support for the proposed safety improvements to the interchanges, including multi-modal grade separations to encourage active transportation.

Mr. Smith expressed concern about potential traffic congestion and prohibitive costs associated with improvements to the highway interchanges; and commented on the importance of addressing the US 101/I-580 interchange.

Marin County Bicycle Coalition (MCBC) Policy and Planning Director Warren Wells expressed support for the proposed safety improvements to the highway interchanges; and commented that the majority of injuries sustained in accidents at these intersections involve people in motorized vehicles.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.