



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
TAM

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009
7:00 PM

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

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Al Boro, Vice Chair, City of San Rafael
Peter Breen, San Anselmo Town Council
Joan Lundstrom, Larkspur City Council
Pat Eklund, City of Novato (Alternate)
Alice Fredericks, Tiburon Town Council
Judy Arnold, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Michael Skall, Ross Town Council
Sandra Donnell, Belvedere City Council
Hal Brown, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Mill Valley City Council
Michael Lappert, Town of Corte Madera (Alternate)

Members Absent: Steve Kinsey, Chair, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Susan Adams, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Alexandra Cock, Corte Madera Town Council
Madeline R. Kellner, Novato City Council
Amy Belser, Sausalito City Council
Mary Ann Maggiore, Town of Fairfax
Charles McGlashan, Marin County Board of Supervisors

Staff Members Present: Bill Whitney, TAM Project Delivery Manager
Dan Cherrier, TAM Project Delivery Manager
David Chan, TAM Programming Manager
Li Zhang, TAM Manager of Finance and Administration
Denise Merleno, Recording Secretary

Staff Members Absent: Dianne Steinhauser, TAM Executive Director

Vice-Chair Boro called the Transportation Authority of Marin Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. TAM Annual Selection of Chair and Vice Chair and Review of Committee Appointments (Action)

Commissioner Breen nominated Commissioner Steve Kinsey to the position of TAM Chair which was seconded by Commissioner Lundstrom. There were no other nominations, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Breen nominated Commissioner Al Boro to the position of TAM Vice Chair which was seconded by Commissioner Arnold. There were no other nominations, and the motion was approved unanimously

2. Chair's Report

There was no report in light of Chair Kinsey's absence.

3. Commissioner Matters not on the Agenda

None.

4. Executive Director's Report

Li Zhang, TAM's Acting Executive Director, reported on: Reauthorization of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act- Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), project funding status for the 580/101 Connector Project, and an update from the Joint Policy Committee.

Ms. Zhang noted that the current SAFETEA-LU is set to expire on September 30 and that, given the current economic conditions, it is unlikely that a new bill will be ready. As a result, the government will, more than likely, pass a continuing resolution to keep the fund at the current funding level for the coming year. It is important to note that, again, due to the current economic status, MTC is being cautious in programming the funding for the next cycle as they did during the last two reauthorizations. As a result, federally funded programs such as TLC, HIP and the regional bike/ped programs may be impacted if the reauthorization bill is not passed in a timely manner.

Bill Whitney provided a status update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funded projects and noted that TAM staff has been tracking the development and progress of the local agency projects. He noted that Tier 1 and Tier 2 ARRA funds totaling \$5.73 million came to Marin for these projects. All projects are moving through the federal aid process within the prescribed timelines except for a project sponsored by the Town of Corte Madera. Corte Madera just submitted their project paperwork to Caltrans yesterday. TAM staff has discussed this late submittal with Caltrans and noted they have agreed to accept and process the submittal.

Regarding the I-580 to Hwy 101 merge, Ms. Zhang stated that Caltrans restriped it, on a temporary basis, changing it from one lane to two lanes. She added that the California Transportation Commission approved \$15.3 million Prop 1B funding for the 580/101 Connector Project at its last meeting.

She reported that the Joint Policy Committee met on May 15 to continue their discussion on the implementation of SB375 in the Bay Area. They revised the draft policy for further review and recommend that the regional agencies spend more time speaking with CMAs, transit agencies and other local governments with the objective of bringing a consensus recommendation of implementation policies back to the Committee by its September meeting.

Ms. Zhang concluded her report by announcing that a number of seats on TAM's advisory committees are set to expire on May 31 and that staff will be requesting the Board to formalize appointments in an item that will take place later on the agenda.

5. Commissioner Reports

a. Executive Committee

Commissioner Fredericks reported on two items that were discussed at the Executive Committee meeting of May 11 and placed on the consent calendar for this meeting: Item 6i: Review of Draft TAM FY2009-10 Annual Budget and Release for Public Comment Period the Annual Budget; and Item 6j: Review of Draft 2009 Strategic Plan Update and Open Public Comment Period for Review of Draft 2009 SPU.

Report on Item 6i: Annual Budget

The Executive Committee reviewed the Draft TAM FY2009-10 Annual Budget at its May 11th meeting and provided staff with the following comment/revision:

1. Staff was asked to re-evaluate the needs of the "Federal Legislative Assistance" line item since no expenditures have been incurred for the past two years.
2. Regarding the interest revenue that was assigned to Bike/Pedestrian Path maintenance according to the Bike/Ped Path Maintenance Policy adopted by the Board back in June 2006, Commissioner Boro reported that the City of San Rafael is intending to use this funding for the routine maintenance of the Puerto Suello Hill Bike/Ped path next year.

Based on that discussion, the Executive Committee recommended that the TAM Board review the Draft TAM FY2009-10 Annual Budget, provides comments and releases it for public comment.

Report on Item 6j: Review Draft 2009 SPU

The Executive Committee discussed some findings from this update, which notably included the possibility that debt issuance may not be needed for another year because TAM was able to secure other funds to meet the cash flow needs and close the funding gap for the Hwy 101 Gap Closure Project and the schedules for two Major Road projects have been delayed. When these Major Road projects are ready for construction, TAM may be able to use state-State Local Partnership Program funds as leverage with sales tax funds to further delay the need to issue debt.

Based on that discussion, the Executive Committee recommended that the TAM Board release the draft 2009 Strategic Plan Update for public comments.

b. Marin-Sonoma Narrows Policy Advisory Group

Commissioner Arnold reported that a meeting of this group is upcoming..

c. SMART

Vice Chair Boro reported that SMART held a meeting yesterday on a number of items including the rail car selection. Additionally, SMART's Citizens' Oversight Committee reported on a current shortfall in funding due to lower sales tax revenue and the poor conditions of the bond market.

6. Consent Calendar (Action)

- a. Approval of TAM Minutes of April 23, 2009
- b. Marin-Sonoma Narrows B3 Curve Correction Project – Mark Thomas & Co., Contract Amendment No. 1
- c. Sperry Capital Contract Amendment 1
- d. SPTJ Consulting IT Support Services Contract Amendment 2
- e. Extend Community Design & Architecture Contract for Outreach/Education of TAM's TOD/PeD Toolkit
- f. Cal Park Tunnel Rehabilitation and Multi-Use Pathway – Adopt the RM2 Allocation Request Resolution
- g. Local Strategy for Programming State-Local Partnership Program Funds
- h. Appointments to TAM's Technical Advisory Committee and Citizens' Oversight Committee
- i. Review of Draft TAM FY2009-10 Annual Budget and Release for Public Comment Period
- j. Review of Draft 2009 Strategic Plan Update and Open Public Comment Period
- k. Resolution of the Transportation Authority of Marin authorizing the Executive Director to establish the overall Annual Anticipated Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Participation Level

Commissioner Arnold moved to approve the Consent Calendar and Commissioner Fredericks seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Caltrans Report (Discussion)

Mr. Jit Pandher, Caltrans Project Manager, reported on the Hwy 101 Gap Closure Project. He stated that most of the construction work has moved to the west side of the freeway in the Puerto Suello Hill portion of this project. It is expected that Linden Lane will reopen tomorrow. Work to retrofit the east soundwall will also begin and the contractor is considering having two crews work on that portion of the project to speed things up. Mr. Pandher reported that the Central San Rafael portion of the project is completed and the state has accepted the contract.

Regarding the I-580/Hwy 101 Connector Project, Mr. Pandher stated that since funding is in place, this project will be ready to advertise in mid-June.

Caltrans had expected the Record of Decision for the Marin-Sonoma Narrows project by June, but that the deadline has been extended to July.

Vice Chair Boro reminded the Board of an inquiry heard at a previous meeting regarding a grant that the City of San Rafael had received to landscape the city street area on the inside of the east soundwall. He advised that the City was requested to hold off until the construction work was completed. He added that the City received a favorable bid for the landscaping project and that the work should begin soon.

Vice Chair Boro opened this item to public comment.

Mr. Scott Stokes commended Mr. Pandher on the completion of the Central San Rafael portion of the Hwy101 Gap Closure Project. Regarding 580/101 Connector Project, Mr. Stokes said that he has not seen the final plans and is curious about the work that will take place. He asked what the objective of the project is since the temporary restriping of that merge area which took place last month appears to be reducing congestion.

Mr. Pandher stated that the plans are available for review at the TAM office and that either TAM staff or Mr. Pandher, himself, would be available to discuss this with Mr. Stokes.

8. Hwy 101 Update (Discussion)

Connie Preston reported TAM is monitoring the significant travel time savings since the opening of the HOV lanes. Travel savings of up to 35 minutes have been recorded in the southbound direction and up to 25 minutes in the northbound direction. She thanked Tho Do, of TAM staff, for collecting the data and said that staff will make the information available to anyone who requests it..

She stated that preparation is underway for an "end of the project" celebration and will coordinate with the Marin County Bicycle Coalition and the local community on it. She will provide additional information at an upcoming meeting.

At the request of the Vice Chair, Ms. Preston agreed to provide more detailed information on the travel time savings she cited earlier in her report.

The Vice Chair opened this item to public comment.

Mr. Stokes said that "sigalert.com" is a website where instant travel times are cited and noted that travel times are slowed as a result, he believes, of not having an auxiliary lane at the Central San Rafael exit.

9. State Budget & Legislation Update (Discussion)

Gus Khouri and Andrew Antwih of Shaw/Yoder presented this discussion item. Mr. Khouri stated that the May revision to the FY2009-10 state budget was issued and that with the failure of four of the five propositions, the deficit increases to \$21.2 billion.

Mr. Antwih reported that the focus of the legislature is to respond to the May revised proposal. An expanded conference committee was announced and will meet next week to receive an overview of the problems as well as public comments. In addition to the budget cuts previously announced, the Governor is proposing an additional \$5 billion in reduction. The Legislative Analyst's Office is suggesting that the legislature evaluate the merit of suspending Proposition 42. Basically the sole

source of remaining funding for the STIP would be eliminated if Prop 42 is suspended. Additionally, there is a suggestion that the legislature review withholding, for an unspecified amount of time, disbursements of gas tax revenues for local streets and roads.

Commissioner Arnold asked if there has been a discussion of changing the "2/3" requirement for voting on the budget and Mr. Antwih responded that this discussion will go on for some time and does not provide any immediate relief to the current cash flow situation.

Commissioner Arnold then asked if Senator Leno is looking to author a bill that would allow, on a county-by-county basis, the ability to vote in a vehicle license fee. Mr. Antwih said that he is not aware of this.

Mr. Khouri finalized the budget portion of his report by stating that the LAO forecasts a \$15 billion deficit for the next 3 years due to the structural flaws of the state budget.

He then drew the attention of the Board to the 2009 State Legislative Bills Summary list that was included as part of the board packet. He noted that the SB406/DeSaulnier line item listed a "TBD" status for the TAM position and that the Board has suggested this be changed to a "monitor" position.

Commissioner Eklund advised that she sits on the Board of Directors for the League of California Cities and that its Transportation Policy Committee recommends an "oppose" position. However, at its board meeting, it was decided to postpone taking a position pending work their staff is doing with the author in an attempt to amend some language. The Board of Directors for the League of California Cities is expected to take a position at its July meeting once staff has a discussion with the author's staff. She suggested that a "watch" position is a prudent one.

Commissioner Lundstrom questioned whether TAM staff has reviewed these bills and what their recommendation is. She suggested that each of the bills on the list should be categorized under the five areas of focus adopted by the TAM Board at its March meeting.

Ms. Zhang noted that the Board may not take action on this item since it was listed as a Discussion item on the agenda and suggested that, given Commissioner Lundstrom's request for additional information, this item should be presented to the Board, again, next month.

Vice Chair Boro requested staff to place this item on the Executive Committee agenda for a more intensive discussion and to arrive at a recommendation for the full Board at the June meeting.

The Vice Chair thanked Mr. Khouri and Mr. Antwih for their report.

10. Open time for items not on the agenda

None.

By Order of Vice Chair Boro, the TAM meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Approved on:
