



**STATE ROUTE (SR) 37 POLICY COMMITTEE**

**9:30 a.m., Thursday, May 4, 2017**

**Mare Island Museum**

**1100 Railroad Ave.**

**Vallejo, CA 94592**

**MEETING AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**Chair David Rabbit  
County of Sonoma**

**2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Minutes of the March 4, 2017 SR 37 Policy Committee Meeting**

**Daryl Halls, STA**

Recommendation:

Approve SR 37 Policy Committee March 4, 2017 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

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**4. PRESENTATION**

**A. SR 37 Corridor Affordability Analysis and Financing Options**

**Jose Luis Moscovich, PFAL  
Committee Discussion**

**5. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. MTC SR 37 Transportation and Sea Level Rise Corridor Improvement Plan Update**

**James Cameron, SCTA**

Update on MTC's corridor plan and schedule.

**B. Caltrans SR 37 Public Outreach**

**Robert Guerrero, STA**

Summary of the Caltrans funded Public Outreach for the SR 37 Corridor Study.

**C. Project Implementation/Lead Agency for Segments B & C**

**Supervisor Jim Spering,  
County of Solano**

**6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS AND STAFF UPDATES**

**Group Discussion**

**7. FUTURE TOPICS**

A. Legal/Legislation and Finance Plan Policy Recommendations

B. Review Draft SR 37 Transportation and Sea Level Rise Corridor Study

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**Next SR 37 Policy Committee Meeting: 9:30, Thurs., September 7, 2017 at  
Touro University - Farragut Inn, Vallejo.**

**SR 37 Policy Committee Members:**

**Solano Elected Officials**

Bob Sampayan, Mayor City of Vallejo  
Jim Spering, MTC Commissioner  
Erin Hannigan, Solano County Board of Supervisor

**Sonoma Elected Officials**

David Rabbitt, Sonoma County Board of Supervisor  
Jake Mackenzie, MTC Commissioner  
Susan Gorin, Sonoma County Board of Supervisor

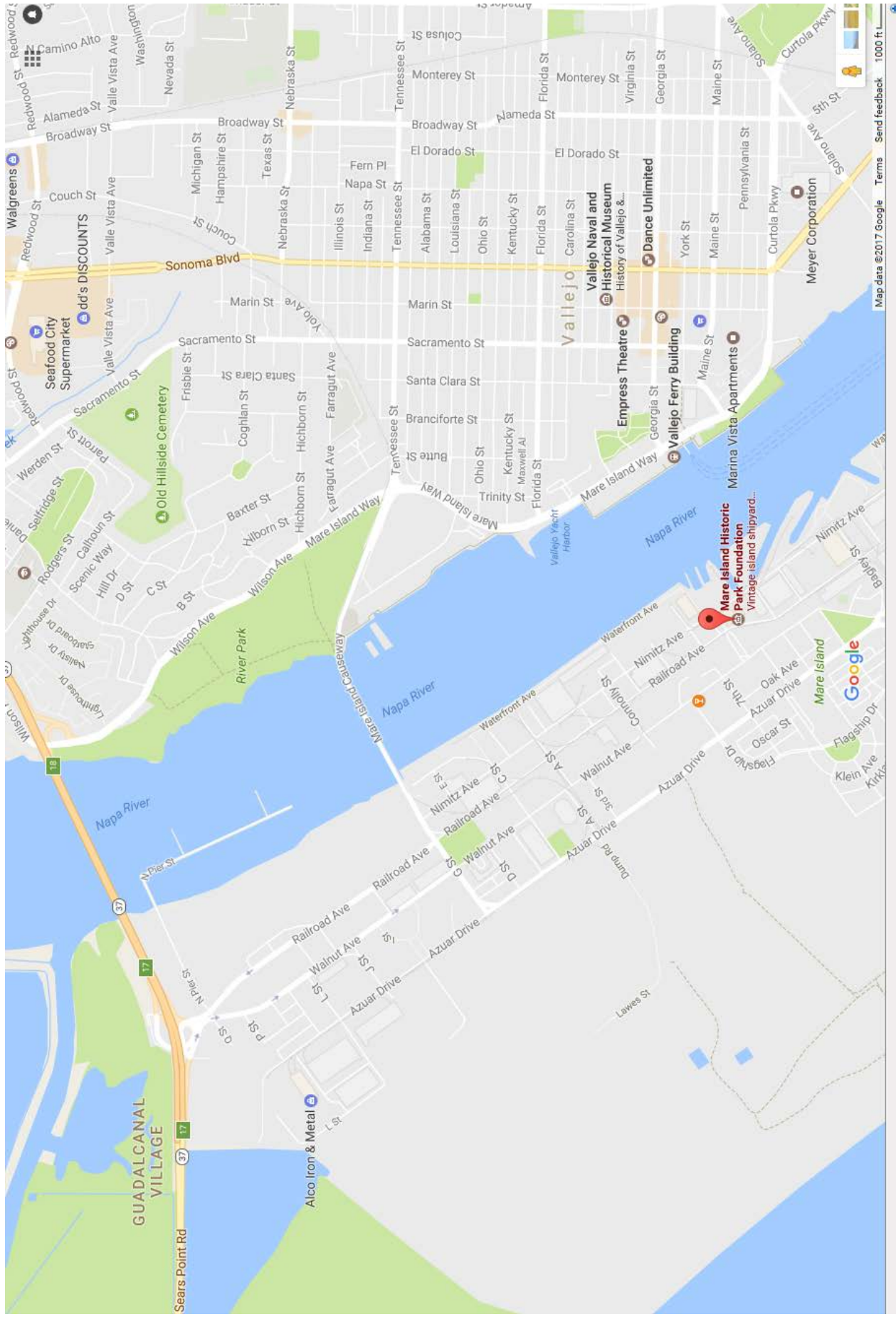
**Marin Elected Officials**

Damon Connolly, MTC Commissioner  
Judy Arnold, Marin County Board of Supervisor  
Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Councilmember, City of Mill Valley

**Napa Elected Officials**

Alfredo Pedroza, MTC Commissioner  
Belia Ramos, Napa County Board of Supervisor  
Leon Garcia, Mayor City of American Canyon

# Map to Mare Island Museum for the SR37 Meeting of Thurs., May 4, 2017





**State Route (SR) 37 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes  
 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 2, 2017  
 Farragut Inn, Touro University  
 1750 Club Drive  
 Vallejo, CA 94592**

**1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

Committee Vice Chairperson, Supervisor Erin Hannigan, called the SR 37 Policy Committee Meeting to Order at approximately 9:33 a.m.

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Judy Arnold	Marin County Supervisor
Damon Connolly	MTC Commissioner, Marin County Supervisor
Leon Garcia	Mayor, City of American Canyon
Susan Gorin	Sonoma County Supervisor
Erin Hannigan, Vice Chair	Solano County Board of Supervisors
Jake Mackenzie	MTC Commissioner, City Council, Rohnert Park
Stephanie Moulton-Peters	Councilmember, City of Mill Valley
Alfredo Pedroza	MTC Commissioner, Napa County Supervisor
Belia Ramos	Napa County Supervisor
Bob Sampayan	Mayor, City of Vallejo
Jim Spering	MTC Commissioner, Solano County Supervisor

**POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

David Rabbitt, Chair	MTC Commissioner, Sonoma County Supervisor
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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Daryl Halls	STA
Kate Miller	NVTA
Suzanne Smith	SCTA
Dianne Steinhauser	TAM

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Anthony Adams	STA
Janet Adams	STA
Madolyn Agrimonti	Sonoma Council
Melissa Apuya	Assembly Member Marc Levine
Lorena Barrera	Congressman Mike Thompson
Tom Bartee	Assembly Member Bill Dodd's Office
James Bezek	Solano County CAO
John Bly	NCECA
James Cameron	SCTA
Fidel Chavez	Carpenters Union
Kevin Chen	MTC
Richard Cimino	Marin Audubon Soc.
Birgitta Corsello	Solano County CAO
Dave Davis	ESA Inc.
Mike Davis	ICF
TJ Devtz	United Bridge Partners
Ed Diffendal	United Bridge Partners (UBP)

Bill Emlen	Solano County
Pat Ekund	City of Novato - City Council
Dick Fahey	Caltrans
Linda Figg	Figg Bridge UBP
Jean Finney	Caltrans
Rick Fraites	Marin Audubon Society
Andrew Fremier	MTC
Seana L.S. Gause	SCTA
Robert Guerrero	STA
Amy Hartman	Greenbelt Alliance
Tim Hiemstra	Napa River Realty
Kyle Jarmicki	Walsh Construction
Ken Jong	Zoon Engineering
Daniel Keen	City of Vallejo - City Manager
Richard Kerrigan	Project Finance Advisory Ltd. (PFAL)
Josette Lacey	Solano BOS
Dan McCulloch	Carpenters Union
Dan McElhinney	Caltrans
Jerry Meral	NMI
Carie Montero	Parsons Transportation Group
Jose Luis Moscovich	PFAL
Cynthia Murray	North Bay Leadership Council
Nicholas Nguyen	TAM
David Oster	Sonoma Resident
Steve Page	Sonoma Raceway
Steve Panages	Senator Bill Dodd
Elizabeth Patterson	Mayor, City of Benicia and Alternate Member
Isaac Pearlman	BCDC
Logan Pitts	Senator Bill Dodd
Kate Powers	Marin Conservation League
Barbara Salzman	Marin Audubon Society
Danielle Schmitz	NVTA
Frasier Shilling	UC Davis
Craig Tackabery	Marin County Public Works
Victoria Taylor	PFAL
Phil Vermeulen	UBP
Kendall Webster	Sonoma Land Trust
Eric Whan	City of Napa
Marc Wheeler	KIEWIT
Laurie Williams	Marin County, Novato Watershed Program

## 2. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan McElhinney, Caltrans provided a PowerPoint presentation on Hwy 37 flooding. He stated that Hwy 37 was closed for 27 days total, due to flooding and needed emergency repairs. He mentioned that a contractor was hired on February 14<sup>th</sup> and the emergency repairs were completed by February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Dianne Steinhauser, Transportation Authority of Marin, thanked Mr. McElhinney for their hard work.

Bob Sampayan, Mayor of Vallejo, thanked Mr. McElhinney for the quickness of the project completion.

Pat Ekland, City of Novato, thanked Mr. McElhinney for helping to alleviate the added traffic to City of Novato streets.

Madolyn Agramonte, Sonoma Council, stated she looks forward to the Hwy 37 project being developed and moving forward.

Steve Panages, Senator Dodd's Office, suggested we manage the two lanes that are already available utilizing lane management, rather than just focusing on expansion.

### 3. CONSENT CALENDAR

#### A. Minutes of the February 2, 2017 SR 37 Policy Committee Meeting

##### Recommendation:

Approve SR 37 Policy Committee February 2, 2017 Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Jake McKenzie, and a second by Bob Sampayan, the February 2, 2017 SR 37 Policy Committee meeting minutes were approved.

### 4. PRESENTATION

#### A. Welcome Remarks from City of Vallejo

Mayor Sampayan welcomed the Hwy 37 team to Vallejo. He spoke about Mare Island and their partnership with Lanar. He stated that Mare Island would soon be receiving 10g/sec broadband fiber internet. Mr. Sampayan noted that much of the island was being preserved to honor its heritage. He further stated that the Hwy 37 project is important to Vallejo as it will improve access to Mare Island, which currently has a sub-standard interchange facility.

#### B. SR 37 Recent Flood Occurrence and Sea Level Rise Observations

Dr. Fraser Shilling began his presentation by thanking his partner, who recently retired, Katie Benouar. The overarching question, "Is this the new normal?" was the theme of his presentation. Dr. Shilling stated that the primary reason for Hwy 37 flooding recently was that private levees overtopped during the storms. He stated that this was expected to happen, but not for many years to come. Dr. Shilling noted that the model being used to project flooding predicted flooding in some places accurately, while missing other places. He stressed that the model can be used as a guide, but it is not necessarily a guarantee. Dr. Shilling stated that the main issue related to levees was erosion. He provided an example of Tolay Lagoon that eroded 3ft in 4 years. Dr. Shilling ended his presentation by providing additional questions that need to be answered, one of which was how deep the bedrock is along the corridor. Overall, he noted the following:

- critical infrastructure is eroding , showed area where state owned levee was at risk
- modelling must be accompanied by monitoring
- transit and rail probably not addressed enough
- develop resilient landscapes
- highway does not have to live here
- consider adapting horizontally
- listed of unknowns that are recommended to be addressed:
  - depth to bedrock
  - landscape ground elevation
  - adaptive structures are connected to what?
  - what is happening in and under the marshes
  - how fast are changes happening out there
  - are the predictive models working?

Rich Cimino asked Dr. Shilling's opinion of a fill levee vs. a causeway with pilings, something similar to the Yolo By-Pass. Mr. Cimino noted that this area was critical marsh environment, unmitigated noise is a concern if a higher structure is built, marsh will become all water, and piling would cause erosion if frequent pilings. Dr. Shilling stated that the higher the structure the further the noise from the road travels, which can disrupt surrounding animal life.

Barbara Salzman inquired upon the frequency of the marsh flooding. Dr. Shilling showed photo of an area that had been vegetated in 2004 which is now inundated and lost the vegetative cover due to sea level rise along with storm energy frequent and more intensive storms. He mentioned that El Niño pushed water against the coast with water 8-10 inches higher than before May. Dr. Shilling stated that this type of event will happen more frequently with a new normal of these occurrences.

## **5. INFORMATION ITEMS:**

### **A. SR 37 Transportation and Sea Level Rise Corridor Improvement Plan**

Andrew Fremier and Kevin Chen, MTC, presented on the need for a corridor improvement plan. Mr. Fremier stated that he was asked by the 4 North Bay commissioners to find money for design. He stated that MTC wants to shift the project funding paradigm. He stated that MTC is putting together an accelerated process to find design alternatives, along with pricing and sea level rise considerations. Kevin Chen showed a slide of all 3 segments of Hwy 37 and stated that each segment has different issues and constraints. Mr. Chen noted that MTC was seeking to get the most capacity out of the existing infrastructure along with ideas for expansion. Additional considerations include:

- Bus on shoulder
- Bicycle facilities
- Toll road options
- 4 Lane segment B
- Interchanges

Mr. Chen stated that Phase I (Corridor Plan) would be done by July 2017 and Phase II (Alternative Development for Priority Segment) would be completed by November 2017 and the DAA by January 2018.

Supervisor Erin Hannigan thanked MTC for their commitment to this corridor.

Supervisor Jim Spring asked how United Bridge Partners proposal fit into this effort and whether or not we can accelerate our relationship with them. Mr. Fremier stated that we need something to weigh their proposal against and that the study would also provide options for near-term solutions.

Supervisor Jake MacKenzie questioned the schedule for completion and asked if MTC is certain that they can accomplish this in the timeframe provided. Mr. Fremier responded that Caltrans must be engaged to help keep the schedule and noted that they are on board.

Supervisor Judy Arnold expressed her satisfaction that this effort was moving forward, but requested funding for segment A.

Cynthia Murry, North Bay Leadership Council, stated that she was concerned that this study was not including flooding on Hwy 101 and questioned options about rail service.

Pat Ekland questioned if a new alignment was needed due to sea level rise.

Mayor Elizabeth Patterson asked what timeline MTC was looking at for life cost analysis. Mr. Chen stated that the model goes to year 2040.

### **B. Marin Flood Control District**

Craig Tackabery, Marin County Public Works, discussed the Marin flood control district and showed maps indicating public vs private levees around Hwy 37. He stated that Marin is considering a parcel based ballot measure for the Novato area in November 2017 to improve the function and capacity of Novato Creek. He also mentioned that a county-wide sea level rise vulnerability assessment was expected to be released in the Spring of 2017.

Jim Spering asked if there was a money problem and if Marin could fix the noted issues with additional resources. Mr. Tackabery stated that there are three issues with the public and private bayland levees: continued bay mud settlement, deferred maintenance due to inadequate resources, and sea level rise. He said their focus in the Novato Creek planning is to protect private property, and is not focused on the State Highway system.

Mr. Spering stated that segment A was important and asked if they could identify the project needed. Mr. Tackabery stated that a good opportunity is to study this Segment at the same time as the other segments proposed in the prior agenda item by MTC. Mr. Tackabery agreed to develop a draft scope of work for consideration by the Policy Committee.

Suzanne Smith asked if Marin was going to dredge Novato Creek to address flooding. Mr. Tackabery stated that SF Bay sediments accumulate in the tidal areas and that it is not typically financially feasible to dredge all these sediments, except in some areas for navigation purposes. He said the Flood Control District does some dredging as maintenance further upstream near the north/south SMART line to reduce flooding.

### **C Bay Area: Resilient by Design Challenge**

Allison Brooks, Bay Area Regional Collaborative, presented on the Resilient by Design Challenge. She stated that there was \$5.8M available through the Rockefeller foundation. She stated that the goal was to identify 10 project sites that could benefit projects related to climate change. She mentioned that they were seeking creative design solutions that have a range of benefits. Mrs. Brooks stated that each design team would have \$250,000. In addition, Ms. Brooks note the following:

- Range of benefits to occur after design solutions selected
- teams will be matched with sites
- regional educational opportunity; learn from these teams and apply across the bay
- community engagement, infrastructure financing is one element
- Staff hired by Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC) to administer the program, they will soon develop specificity around site selection, then develop design teams that fit together and fit the site too
- technical team identified 30 sites around Bay Area that BARC believes are the most vulnerable
- not interested if there is not momentum already for the site and a lot of enthusiasm
- teams/ individuals will submit to call for proposals, a selection process/ competition director will manage

Jim Spering asked if there was a goal to have a project in every Bay Area County. Mrs. Brooks responded that yes, they are trying to have a project in every county. She suggested that people visit [resilientbayarea.com](http://resilientbayarea.com) to see the 30 project sites that have already been identified.

Council Member Stephanie Peters asked how design teams will be chosen. Mrs. Brooks said that there will be an open competition.

Diane Steinhauser asked if public agencies could apply. Mrs. Brooks replied with a yes.

**6. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. SR 37 Affordability Analysis and Financial Road Map**

Jose Luis Moscovich, Richard Kerrigan, and Victoria Taylor, PFAL presented on the SR37 affordability analysis and financial road map. Mr. Kerrigan presented multiple scenarios covering financing options ranging from traditional public financing to P3 opportunities. He also presented options for tolling revenue and how much various amounts would yield over a time period. Mr. Moscovich presented the policy timeline and flowchart. He stated that the further this project goes and the more levels government know about it, the more interest others are going to have in the project; which will provide the committee with more options.

Dr. Shilling asked if there is a possibility to assess the need, not the structure. Mr. Moscovich said that they need to answer “What are the goals?” and that not everything is feasible with limited resources. He stated that questions like these take time and can delay the process.

Erin Hannigan, stated that she liked having different toll rates at different locations of entry onto Hwy 37 as not everyone will drive the entire stretch.

Jake Mackenzie asked if this was an action item. Daryl Halls, Solano Transportation Authority, said yes, but only to accept the report.

Daryl Halls stated that the reason they conducted this study was to see options for financial potential.

Recommendation:

Approve SR 37 Affordability Analysis and Financial Road Map.

On a motion by Jake Mackenzie, and a second by Judy Arnold, the SR 37 Policy Committee unanimously approved the recommendation.

**7. COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND STAFF UPDATES:**

None.

**9. FUTURE TOPICS**

A. Legal/Legislation and Finance Plan Policy Recommendations

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Next SR 37 Policy Committee Meeting: 9:30, Thurs., May 4, 2017 at the Mare Island Museum, 1100 Railroad Ave. Vallejo, CA 94592.**