



MEETING OF THE  
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN  
TAM

February 28, 2019  
7:00 PM

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

Members Present:

Alice Fredericks, Tiburon Town Council, TAM Vice Chair  
Bob McCaskill, Belvedere City Council  
Brian Colbert, San Anselmo Town Council  
Damon Connolly, Marin County Board of Supervisors  
David Kunhardt, Corte Madera Town Council  
Dennis Rodoni, Marin County Board of Supervisors  
Eric Lucan, Novato City Council  
John Reed, Fairfax Town Council  
Judy Arnold, Marin County Board of Supervisors, TAM Chair  
Kathrin Sears, Marin County Board of Supervisors  
Katie Rice, Marin County Board of Supervisors  
Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Mill Valley City Council  
P. Beach Kuhl, Ross Town Council  
Ray Withy, Sausalito City Council

Members Absent:

Dan Hillmer, Larkspur City Council  
Gary Phillips, San Rafael City Council

Staff Members Present

Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director  
Bill Whitney, Principal Project Delivery Manager  
Dan Cherrier, Deputy Executive Director  
David Chan, Manager of Programming and Legislation  
Derek McGill, Planning Manager  
Helga Cotter, Accounting Manager  
Li Zhang, Chief Financial Officer  
Molly Graham, Public Outreach Coordinator  
Nick Nguyen, Principal Project Delivery Manager  
Scott McDonald, Senior Transportation Planner

Chair Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**1. Chair's Report (Discussion)**

ED Steinhauser welcomed Bob McCaskill to his first TAM meeting and administered the swearing-in.

- a. Letter of Appreciation to Commissioner Stephanie Moulton-Peters as the outgoing TAM Chair

Chair Arnold read and presented a letter of appreciation to Commissioner Moulton-Peters.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters thanked the board and she commented on her experiences and expressed pride in TAM's accomplishments over the last few years. She expressed confidence in Chair Arnold's leadership. ED Steinhauser expressed appreciation on behalf of the staff and presented a gift to Commissioner Moulton-Peters.

b. **Appointments to the Executive Committee (Action)**

Chair Arnold appointed Commissioners Kuhl, Lucan, Rice, Moulton-Peters, and herself as chair for the Programming and Projects Executive Committee; and Commissioners Colbert, Connolly, Phillips, Sears, and Vice Chair Fredericks as chair for the Finance and Policy Executive Committee. Chair Arnold noted that other changes to the committee structure would be presented at the next board meeting.

Chair Arnold finalized her report by thanking ED Steinhauser for an excellent presentation at the Marin Economic Forum board meeting.

2. **Commissioner Matters Not on the Agenda (Discussion)**

There were none.

3. **Executive Director's Report (Discussion)**

ED Steinhauser reported on a closure on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge due to falling concrete coming from the upper deck. She emphasized this was not a structural issue and was due to pieces of concrete joint material spalling off due to one deck section interacting with the deck on the other side of the expansion joint. ED Steinhauser reported on how this will delay the opening of the new upper deck bike lane to late June or early July. She expressed appreciation for the Bay Area Toll Authority and Caltrans for taking action quickly. ED Steinhauser stated TAM is making great progress with Contra Costa County, BATA, and Caltrans in looking at the potential for operating the new lane as a multi-use lane for vehicles and bicycles. She stated the foundation loading study has been agreed to by Caltrans and BATA and that BATA will fund the study. She noted that TAM will coordinate with BATA on the traffic study.

ED Steinhauser reported that the eastbound Highway 37 lanes are open, while the westbound lanes remain closed due to the recent storm. She reported on the flood response and levee maintenance efforts. Caltrans will provide temporary repairs as soon as the waters recede. There was concern about water entering Hwy 101, but so far it has not been affected.

Commissioner Reed commented on the public requests for protective railing on the bike paths along the side of the connector from I-580 westbound entering Sir Francis Drake. He stated he supported the idea and hoped TAM would request it of Caltrans. ED Steinhauser stated a meeting with Caltrans and BATA is scheduled tomorrow. She believed all the agencies were in agreement on the usefulness of the barrier, but stated the funding is in question. Commissioner Moulton-Peters asked about the estimated cost, and ED Steinhauser suggested that with a partnership approach it could be constructed for around \$1 million.

4. **Commissioner Reports (Discussion)**

a. **Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Report**

Commissioner Connolly reported that the retirement of MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger had been celebrated at the recent MTC meeting. He commented on the resolution honoring Mr. Heminger on the consent

calendar. Therese McMillan is starting as the new Executive Director. He added that MTC has a new board chair, Scott Haggerty of Alameda County, and a vice chair, Alfredo Pedroza of Napa.

b. Marin Transit Report

Commissioner Connolly gave an update on the status of the electric bus pilot project. So far one bus has been put into passenger service and will operate on a variety of routes.

c. SMART

Commissioner Lucan reported that SMART has reached the 1 million passenger milestone. A SMART board workshop is planned soon on larger policy items. He thanked ED Steinhauser for the Highway 37 update and noted the commuter rail between San Rafael and Santa Rosa had a slight delay this morning but everything is running smoothly now. The levee situation on 37 only affected the freight line.

**5. Open Time for Public Expression**

Cindy Winter continued her report on the Bain Analysis of the effect of autonomous taxis on the auto industry. She stated that a decline in demand for traditional vehicles is expected but the need for regular replacement of autonomous taxis will provide a way for the auto industry to adapt. However, there is still a reluctance to embrace AV technology among the auto industry.

**6. CONSENT CALENDAR (Action)**

- a. Approve TAM Board Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2019
- b. Resolution of Appreciation for MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger
- c. Design Funding Amendment for Highway 101 Marin-Sonoma Narrows (MSN) B1-Phase 2 and A4 Contracts
- d. Review and Approval of the Recommended Funding Plans for TAM's Pension and OPEB Liabilities
- e. Adopt the 2019 Legislative Platform
- f. Acceptance of Revisions to the TAM Financial Management and Accounting Procedures
- g. Acceptance of Revisions to the TAM Human Resources Policies and Procedures
- h. Approve Resolution Authorizing the Executive Director Certify Right-of-Way for TAM Sponsored Projects on the State Highway System
- i. Authorize up to \$50,000 for hiring support from County of Marin for filling vacant positions at TAM

Commissioner Withy corrected the minutes of January 24, Item 6a, noting that he was present for the meeting but the minutes reported him as absent.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters moved to approve the Consent Calendar as amended, which Vice Chair Fredericks seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**7. Allocate Measure A Interest Funds to Yellow School Bus Service in Marin County (Action)**

ED Steinhauser introduced Manager of Programming and Legislation David Chan, and Nancy Whelan, General Manager for Marin Transit to present this item which recommended that the TAM Board authorize the allocation of Measure A Interest funds of \$1.1 million to Marin Transit for supporting Yellow School Bus Service. Mr. Chan provided background on the Measure A Interest Funds and the amount accumulated, and discussed the projects they have been used for in the past. He stated the action tonight is to allocate \$1.1 million in interest funds, which had been approved pending the passage of Measure AA and approval by both the TAM board and Marin Transit on the scope of the project. Ms. Whelan reviewed Marin Transit's role in school transportation, planned improvements

using Measure AA funds, and the formula for calculating distributions. She presented the scope and priorities of the allocation request.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters thanked Ms. Whelan for her work and for the presentation. She also acknowledged Commissioner McCaskill and expressed appreciation for his contributions to the expanded Yellow School Bus Task Force representing the Reed School District.

Commissioner Rice thanked Ms. Whelan and Marin Transit staff. She commented on the incredible impact of school bus service on congestion relief.

Commissioner Kunhardt asked if cost per student was one of the criteria for allocating funds. Ms. Whelan stated it is one of the metrics. The goal of all the metrics is to capture the entire range of costs and revenues for each of the programs. She noted that the cost per student can vary depending on several factors.

Commissioner Kunhardt asked if the costs for the indicated programs would be fully funded by Marin Transit or if the local agencies would still have to come up with matching funds. Ms. Whelan stated one of the threshold criteria is 20% local matching funds from a source outside of Measure A/AA and fares. Commissioner Kunhardt asked whether the funds mostly come from cities or school districts citing Corte Madera's \$25,000 contribution, and Ms. Whelan stated it depends on the program. She noted there is a range of contributions from cities and mentioned that Tiburon contributes \$200,000 and Mill Valley's \$70,000 contribution while Fairfax and San Anselmo contribute approximately \$10,000. She noted that the San Rafael City School District contributes approximately \$400,000.

Chair Arnold opened and closed the Item for public comment with no speakers coming forward.

Commissioner Rice moved to allocate Measure A Interest Funds to the support of Yellow School Bus Service in Marin County, which Commissioner Rodoni seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Approve Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Cooperatively Determine and Implement Mutual Responsibilities in Delivering Resilient State Route 37 Program Projects (Action)**

ED Steinhauser introduced Principal Project Delivery Manager Nick Nguyen who presented this item which recommended that the TAM Board move to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperatively determine and implement mutual responsibilities in delivering the multi-agency *Resilient State Route 37 Program* projects, and to authorize the TAM Board Chairperson to execute the MOU.

Mr. Nguyen reviewed the background of the SR37 Policy Committee formed by TAM in conjunction with the congestion management agencies (CMAs) of Napa Valley, Solano, and Sonoma; Caltrans; and MTC/BATA. Over the last four years, the committee has been working to develop a cooperative strategy for improvements to SR37. Mr. Nguyen reported that MTC is preparing to begin environmental review for the interim Segment B project adding capacity with a reversible third lane. Mr. Nguyen also reviewed the \$100 million RM3 funding plan approved by the committee and outlined in the MOU. He noted \$58 million is allocated to future projects which will be developed and vetted through the Policy Committee. He reviewed currently planned and potential future projects in each segment along the corridor, noting that all future projects would be coordinated with Caltrans' State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects. He stated that for the portion of the route in Marin County, Segment A, TAM would receive \$3 million to study levee and roadway improvements. Segment A covers SR 37 from Hwy 101 to SR 121.

Meanwhile, the County of Marin has completed an RFP process to select a consultant to prepare a smaller study for Segment A1 which covers the Hwy 101 to the Petaluma River Bridge area. This smaller study will help form the scope of the larger \$3 million study that will begin once RM3 funds are available. Mr. Nguyen finalized his

comments by noting that the MOU provides for the hiring of a Corridor Director within MTC and discusses a possible tolling option.

ED Steinhauser commented on the factors and challenges impacting this corridor, including congestion and sea level rise. She discussed the tradeoff of spending more money on major projects like raising the road versus being able to do more smaller projects within the projected future funding. She also noted that RM3 funds are still on hold. Chair Arnold asked if the RM3 funds that were on hold were accruing interest. ED Steinhauser stated staff would find out.

Chair Arnold asked for more details on the funds needed for the interim Segment B project. Mr. Nguyen stated the \$20 million would include the detailed design and environmental clearance for the reversible lane project. He added that if the total is not needed for that effort, the funds could be reallocated.

Commissioner Lucan commented on a report given by Senator Mike McGuire at the Marin County Mayors and Councilmembers meeting, concerning a potential future project by Caltrans addressing flooding. He asked if this was the same as the SR37 projects. ED Steinhauser stated to her understanding, Caltrans' strategy was to implement the short-term solution packages that have worked in the past, in this case by installing a waterproof barrier system, but she would be pleased to hear of a long-term solution. Mr. Nguyen noted one of the goals is to study the area and develop projects that are integrated and multi-purpose projects; i.e., ones that have multiple benefits such as a sea-level rise resiliency project and an eco-restoration project which is environmentally beneficial.

Commissioner Rodoni wanted to make sure the feasibility study would take into account not only the cost of levees, but the construction time, long-term maintenance costs, and the life cycle of the levees as well, in order to accurately compare it with the cost and benefit of raising the roadway.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters stated she was encouraged to hear about integrated solutions and spoke about the length of time it has taken to get to this point.

Commissioner Connolly moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Cooperatively Determine and Implement Mutual Responsibilities in Delivering *Resilient State Route 37* Program projects, which Vice Chair Fredericks seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **9. Highway 101 Phase-One Ramp Metering Project Update (Discussion)**

ED Steinhauser reported that Caltrans is beginning construction of ramp metering in Marin County, on northbound 101 from Spencer Ave, through Sir Francis Drake, with future phases to follow. She introduced Principal Project Delivery Manager Bill Whitney. Mr. Whitney gave an overview of the goals and elements of modern ramp metering as one tool to manage congestion. He explained that Caltrans is running the ramp metering and TAM's role will be to provide public outreach on the benefits of ramp metering and facilitate discussions with local agencies. He noted modern ramp metering technology is able to detect and mitigate backups on surface roads caused by the metering and detailed other strategies for managing congestion on surface roads.

Vice Chair Fredericks asked if TAM contributed funding to this project. Mr. Whitney stated that it is one of Caltrans' SHOPP projects funded through SB1. Commissioner McCaskill asked if the strategies discussed to address surface congestion were funded and Mr. Whitney stated they were included in the current scope of work.

Mr. Whitney stated that the project is environmentally cleared and reviewed the project timeline for the first phase corridor which can be implemented now. The first phase is the northbound corridor from the Golden Gate Bridge to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Phase 2 consists of the remaining northbound on-ramps and all southbound on-ramps. Phase 2 is not expected to be funded for work until 2026/27, but TAM is working with Caltrans to see if the priorities can be shifted so the project is completed earlier.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters asked when the Marin-Sonoma Narrows project would be underway and asked if they could be coordinated. ED Steinhauser stated depending on the outcome of the RM3 funds and TAM's ability to attract additional funding, construction should start on the Narrows completion in Marin by January 2020 and will likely be done by 2023. She noted that Caltrans is aware of the timeline and is considering how best to time the activation of the ramp metering with the opening of the Marin-Sonoma Narrows, if possible.

Mr. Whitney reviewed the results of the preliminary ramp metering assessment study and the anticipated travel time savings. He reviewed the project timeline and noted that while construction is underway, Caltrans will conduct traffic analysis to determine the optimal metering rate on each onramp. The activation of the metering should begin in late spring or early summer of 2020. Mr. Whitney discussed the outreach plans during the project to inform the public of the changes and planned closures.

Commissioner Sears asked if TAM would be able to suggest revisions to the draft project map, noting some mistakes and needed clarifications in the onramps being metered, including Alexander, Monte Mar, and Rodeo. Mr. Whitney provided clarifications and stated staff would pass those suggestions along to Caltrans.

Commissioner Kunhardt asked if there was an estimate of the construction and outage time for each onramp. Mr. Whitney stated not yet, but that staff has requested an invitation to the initial construction meeting to review the detailed schedule so that TAM can provide detailed notice of closures and detours.

Commissioner Kunhardt asked if there was an update on the 101/580 north to eastbound connection, noting it affects congestion on onramps in Corte Madera, and essentially, functions as a ramp meter. ED Steinhauser stated a proposed schedule for the kickoff of the direct connector project would be brought to the board later this spring.

Commissioner Withy expressed concern about existing congestion entering Hwy 101 in Sausalito at intersections such as Bridgeway, noting most of the congestion is caused by traffic coming off of Hwy 101 to Mill Valley as Sausalito traffic is attempting to get onto the freeway. He stated it will be difficult to present the project positively when residents are already concerned about congestion on the onramps. He also agreed with Commissioner Sears that metering on Rodeo does not make sense and expressed concern it would be seen as a waste of taxpayer money.

Commissioner Moulton-Peters asked if Caltrans could study strategies and solutions for this unique section of the Bridgeway/Tam Junction area of Sausalito. ED Steinhauser stated staff has worked on some of this with Caltrans and would be glad to present the information gathered. Commissioner Withy stated that any information would be very helpful.

Chair Arnold asked about the southbound ramp metering, particularly at the junction of 37 and 101. Mr. Whitney stated it would be included in Phase 2.

#### **10. Caltrans Report (Discussion)**

ED Steinhauser noted that Tony Tavares, the new Caltrans District 4 Director, will visit the TAM board meeting in April.

Chair Arnold reminded everyone of the new start time at 6:00 p.m. next meeting and thanked the board for their flexibility. She also noted that the final Citizens' Oversight Committee report is available and encouraged the board members to distribute it in their jurisdictions.

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.*