



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Administration, Projects & Planning
January 13, 2020
3:30 PM

TAM CONFERENCE ROOM
900 FIFTH AVENUE
SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Alice Fredericks, Tiburon Town Council, Committee Chair
Brian Colbert, San Anselmo Town Council
Gary Phillips, San Rafael City Council
Kate Sears, Marin County Board of Supervisors

Members Absent: Damon Connolly, Marin County Board of Supervisors

Other Commissioners Present: Judy Arnold, Marin County Board of Supervisors
Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Mill Valley City Council

Staff Members Present: Anne Richman, Executive Director
Bill Whitney, Principal Project Delivery Manager
Dan Cherrier, Principal Project Delivery Manager
David Chan, Manager of Programming & Legislation
Derek McGill, Planning Manager
Grace Zhuang, Accounting and Administration Specialist
Helga Cotter, Senior Accountant
Li Zhang, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer
Molly Graham, Public Outreach Coordinator
Nick Nguyen, Principal Project Delivery Manager
Scott McDonald, Senior Transportation Planner

Chair Alice Fredericks called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

1. Chair's Report (Discussion)

Chair Fredericks noted she did not have a report.

2. Commissioner Comments (Discussion)

There were none.

3. Executive Director's Report (Discussion)

Executive Director (ED) Anne Richman provided information on staff's coordination with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) at a recent Marin Public Works Association (MPWA) meeting regarding funding opportunities and upcoming grants. She also provided an update on Phase 1 of the Ramp Metering project, her participation in the FASTER (Freedom, Affordability, Speed, Transparency, Equity, Reliability) Technical Advisory Group, her attendance at the annual Focus on the Future Conference, the ribbon-cutting ceremony for a portion of the Marin Sonoma Narrows project that was held on December 11, 2019, numerous outreach opportunities in which TAM participated, and the annual fundraising effort for 10000 Degrees during TAM's 2019 holiday party.

4. Open time for public expression

No one from the public came forward to speak.

5. Approval of the Minutes from October 14, 2019 Meeting (Action)

Commissioner Phillips moved to approve the Minutes of the October 14, 2019 meeting, which Commissioner Sears seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Review the January 2020 Project Status Report (Action)

ED Richman discussed the project fact sheets that were included in the packet. she stated that the report would be presented by Principal Project Delivery Managers Nick Nguyen, Bill Whitney, and Dan Cherrier with the request that the Committee review the Project Status Report and refer it to the TAM Board for review and acceptance.

Principal Project Delivery Manager Nick Nguyen started the project presentation to the Committee. Mr. Nguyen discussed the MSN project, the 17-mile High Occupancy Vehicle Lane (HOV), noting that construction has been completed on the segment from San Rafael to Novato, in addition to the Landfill Project, which included new frontage roads and a Class 1 bike path. Mr. Nguyen showed a brief video of the projects.

Mr. Nguyen explained that the final segment in Sonoma is under construction, and he discussed funding shortfalls relating to the final segment in Marin, between Atherton Avenue and Olompali State Park. Mr. Nguyen explained that staff from TAM, MTC and Caltrans are currently discussing strategies to close the funding gap.

Principal Project Delivery Manager Bill Whitney used a slide presentation to provide updates to the North-South Greenway project, including the newly completed bike path from San Pedro Road to the SMART station. Mr. Whitney explained that the project related to the southern section has been put on hold pending completion of the northern segment for reasons relating to funding.

Mr. Whitney explained that the bike lane from Andersen to Rice has been completed and that construction should begin in the spring or summer of 2020 on the segment from Rice Drive to Second Street.

Mr. Whitney provided an update on the Class IV bike lane on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, noting that the Board has allocated funds for design and construction to complete the connection from Francisco Blvd. East to Andersen Drive. In response to Commissioner Moulton-Peters, Mr. Whitney confirmed the lane would be bi-directional.

Commissioner Phillips noted that the City of San Rafael has a funding shortfall for the downtown segment from Second Street to Rice Drive, albeit the project is substantially funded.

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Commissioner Moulton-Peters commended Mr. Whitney on his presentation and suggested he included all segments of the North-South Greenway project on the map for the TAM Board meeting.

Principal Project Delivery Manager Dan Cherrier discussed planned improvements to the Bellam Boulevard intersection, including a third lane from the HWY 101 offramp. Mr. Cherrier discussed project delays due to various causes, the expiration of a right of way agreement with the property owner of Marin Square, and possible funding sources.

In response to Commissioner Colbert, Mr. Cherrier stated that staff hopes the design and renegotiation of the right of way agreement will be completed by May 2020.

Commissioner Phillips expressed a hope that the project will be able to proceed, particularly since traffic congestion might be increased on the completion of Marin Square's renovation project.

Mr. Cherrier discussed the three main options under consideration for the Northbound HWY 101 to Eastbound I-580 Direct Connector project, which included a low speed option and a more expensive hillside option.

In response to Commissioner Phillips, Mr. Cherrier confirmed there should be sufficient funds from RM3 for the low speed option, while there would be a shortfall for the hillside option. They also discussed the benefits of considering designs that could not be fully funded and Mr. Cherrier confirmed that the two alternative designs must be considered as part of the environmental process.

Commissioner Phillips discussed whether it would be practical to include an alternative design that could not be funded entirely, and Mr. Cherrier explained that cost is not a primary factor in the environmental process. Commissioner Moulton-Peters discussed the practical reasons for including the third design, noting that the site is not aesthetically pleasing.

Commissioner Sears led a discussion on the possibility of reducing the overall number of design options to present to Caltrans to streamline the process and save time and money.

ED Richman suggested that staff provide more information to the commissioners taking part in the Direct Connector Ad Hoc Committee meeting on February 27, 2020 before approaching Caltrans with a view to reducing the design options for consideration.

In response to Commissioner Phillips, Mr. Cherrier confirmed that Caltrans staff did not raise immediate objections to any of the designs presented early in the process, although they expressed aversion to the low speed option.

Mr. Nguyen provided an update on State Route (SR) 37. He discussed preparations for flooding that have been undertaken, including raising the road by 1 foot, and he confirmed that Caltrans' environmental process for the corridor has been expanded to include the section between Black Point and Sears Point. Mr. Nguyen also discussed a grant that was provided to Marin County by Caltrans for an adaptation study of the segment in Marin.

Mr. Whitney provided an overview of the Measure AA Interchange Study. He explained that the purpose of the study is to identify which interchanges and access routes warrant further studies to pursue future funding for improvements.

Commissioners Sears and Fredericks commented positively on the project status report. Commissioner Colbert suggested shortening the slide presentation for the Board meeting for reasons he discussed. Commissioner Phillips noted that there should be emphasis on how and when projects will be undertaken for the benefit of the general public.

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Commissioner Phillips moved to recommend approval of the January 2020 Project Status Report and refer it to the full TAM board for acceptance, which Commissioner Sears seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

DRAFT