



MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Funding, Programs & Legislation
January 11, 2021
2:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Judy Arnold, County of Marin Board of Supervisors, Committee Chair
Beach Kuhl, Ross Town Council
Katie Rice, County of Marin Board of Supervisors
Eric Lucan, Novato City Council
Susan Cleveland-Knowles, Sausalito City Council

Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Anne Richman, Executive Director
Dan Cherrier, Principal Project Delivery Manager
David Chan, Manager of Programming & Legislation
Denise Merleno, Executive Assistant
Derek McGill, Planning Manager
Helga Cotter, Senior Accountant
Li Zhang, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer

Chair Arnold called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Chair's Report (Discussion)

Chair Arnold welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting as allowed by Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, asked Denise Merleno, Executive Assistant, to conduct a roll call. Ms. Merleno conducted the roll call and reported that there was a quorum of the Committee.

2. Commissioner Comments (Discussion)

None.

3. Executive Director's Report (Discussion)

Executive Director (ED) Anne Richman highlighted items in her report including Senate Bill (SB) 743, which requires agencies to analyze vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process for new development projects. ED Richman stated that staff has developed the TAM Demand Model (DM), which will provide estimates of existing and forecasted VMT in Marin County.

ED Richman reported a slight increase in sales tax revenues during the period of July 2020 through December 2020, compared to the same period in 2019, noting that a detailed report will be provided at the January 28, 2021 Board Meeting.

ED Richman reported on continued public outreach for the 101-580 Direct Connector Project, which included meetings with staff and the City Council at the City of San Rafael, and a stakeholder meeting that has been scheduled for January 20, 2021. She also reported that TAM would be providing technical resources through TAM's website as part of the Alternative Fuels Program, which relate to plug-in and zero-emission vehicles, and will include a parking lot study that identifies potential locations for Electrical Vehicle (EV) charging stations.

ED Richman reported on the release of a Caltrans District 4 Draft Pedestrian Plan for public review and comment, which includes a map-based survey to help the agency enhance its data. She noted that Caltrans has also released the Bay Area Bike Highway Study's online survey to assist in defining the best bike superhighway practices.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles requested that staff forward the study relating to the Alternative Fuels Program to the commissioners.

Chair Arnold asked staff if any member of the public wished to speak or had submitted a comment by e-mail, and hearing none, she closed this item to public comment.

4. Open Time for Public Expression

Chair Arnold asked if any member of the public wished to speak or had submitted a comment by e-mail, and hearing none, she closed this item.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 12, 2020 (Action)

Commissioner Lucan moved to approve the Minutes of October 12, 2020, which was seconded by Commissioner Kuhl. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion was unanimously approved.

6. Adopt the 2021 Legislative Platform (Action)

ED Richman introduced Gus Khouri, TAM's Legislative Consultant, who presented this item, which asked the Committee to review the Draft 2021 Legislative Platform and refer it to the TAM Board for adoption. Mr. Khouri provided an update on the election results, noting that in California the Democrats would have sufficient members to pass legislation requiring a two-thirds majority vote. He stated that the State Budget was introduced on January 8, 2021.

Mr. Khouri discussed a \$4.5 billion stimulus plan by Governor Newsom, of which \$1.5 billion will be set aside for clean trucks and a rebate/incentive program to encourage the purchase of EVs, including \$300 million for EV charging infrastructure. He discussed an estimated \$1.5 billion funding reduction generated by gas tax and vehicle registration fees through FY2024-25, noting that the \$40 million TAM received under the Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) competitive grant program should not be affected.

Mr. Khouri clarified the Transportation Action Plan in response to Commissioner Rice's question. He stated that the Plan's goal is to abolish single-occupant gas-powered vehicles, noting that an executive order has been issued that will prohibit the sale of gas-powered passenger vehicles by 2035. Mr. Khouri discussed the Plan in relation to the 2020 – 2021 Legislative Platform.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles requested that staff continue to keep the commissioners updated on changes to state legislation that would affect TAM's projects and programs.

Mr. Khouri discussed TAM's state legislative platform, including the primary importance of attracting funds for infrastructure improvements and mobility needs. He discussed the need for revenue sources besides gas tax, funding for climate change goals, an emphasis on equity, and the agency's need to work with regional partners, such as the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), to fund projects.

Mr. Khouri discussed a desire among agencies for legislation allowing Bus-on-Shoulder projects, the need to protect funding for agencies that provide transportation services for the most vulnerable during the Shelter in Place Order and to enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety with infrastructure investments. He discussed similarities between the state and federal platforms and expressed a hope that stimulus infrastructure funding will be delivered.

Mr. Chan confirmed that TAM's partner agencies have reviewed the platform and have raised no objections.

Commissioner Lucan and staff discussed the addition of EV tax credits to the platform.

Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles requested that relevant legislation be added to the document for tracking. She suggested other categories to be considered besides climate change to advance the agency's equity goals, and also suggested TAM consider whether it would be appropriate to take a position on issues relating to Seamless Bay Area. Mr. Khouri confirmed that a bill matrix would be provided when the FP&L Executive Committee reviews the platform before presentation to the Board for adoption.

In response to Commissioner Rice, Mr. Khouri stated that he would work with staff to enhance the language relating to the vulnerability of the transportation network to climate change.

TAM Vice-Chair Alice Fredericks stated that the agency might need to consider the funding effects of the state's support for the provision of housing near job centers. She noted that the agency is eligible for certain funding opportunities because of the need for people to travel to and from Marin for work.

Chair Arnold asked staff if any member of the public wished to speak or had submitted a comment by e-mail, and hearing none, she closed this item to public comment.

Commissioner Rice moved to recommend that the TAM Board adopt the Draft 2021 Legislative Platform with modifications, which was seconded by Commissioner Cleveland-Knowles. A roll call vote was conducted, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.