STATE ROUTE 37 POLICY COMMITTEE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 5, 2019
Napa Valley Transportation Authority Offices
625 Burnell Street, Napa, CA

MEETING AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS
   Chair David Rabbitt

2. OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

3. CONSENT CALENDAR
   3.1. Minutes of the June 6, 2019 SR 37 Policy Committee Meeting*
        Recommendation:
        Approve June 6, 2019 SR37 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
        Drew Nichols, SCTA

4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS
   4.1. Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) 8th Toll Bridge legislation
   Andrew Fremier, MTC
   4.2. FASTER Bay Area
   Daryl Halls, STA
   4.3. Plan Bay Area 2020 update
   Andrew Fremier, MTC
   4.4. Status of 2020 SHOPP and beyond
   Tony Tavares, Caltrans
   4.5. Segment A Caltrans work*
   Kelly Hirschberg, Caltrans
   4.6. Segment B Interim Improvements Update
   Kevin Chen, MTC

5. PRESENTATION ITEMS
   5.1. Grand Bayway - SR37 Public Access Study Update -
   Erik Prince, Atlas Lab &
   Allison Brooks, BARC
   5.2. Segment A1 (Marin County) Corridor Adaptation Study*
   Dan Dawson, Marin County

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS / STAFF UPDATES
   All
7. FUTURE TOPICS
   BATA Expenditure Plan
   FASTER Expenditure Plan
   Plan Bay Area 2050 Project Performance
   AA for the Bay – restoration projects in San Pablo Bay
   MTC/Caltrans – Ultimate Environmental Phase Discussion and Segmentation
   Caltrans SHOPP Project Updates
   SB-1 Planning and Adaptation Grant work underway
   Alternative Modes and TDM - Implementation

8. ADJOURNMENT
   Next SR 37 Policy Committee Meeting 9:30, Thurs., January 16, 2020 at a location to be determined.

* Materials included

Future Meeting Schedule (Pending Approval)
9:30AM, January 16, 2020
9:30AM, March 5, 2020
9:30AM, June 4, 2020
9:30AM, October 1, 2020

SR 37 Policy Committee Members:

SCTA
- David Rabbitt, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
- Jake Mackenzie, MTC Commissioner
- Susan Gorin, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

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

TAM
- Damon Connolly, MTC Commissioner
- Judy Arnold, Marin County Board of Supervisors
- Eric Lucan, Councilmember, City of Novato

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

MTC
- Therese McMillan, Executive Director

Caltrans
- Tony Tavares, District 4 Director
State Route (SR) 37 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
9:30 a.m., Thursday, June 6, 2019
Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) District Office
Petaluma, CA

1. Call to Order/Introductions
Vice Chair Erin Hannigan called to order the State Route 37 Policy Committee at 9:54 a.m.

Policy Committee Members Present:
- Erin Hannigan, Vice Chair, Supervisor, County of Solano
- Judy Arnold, Supervisor, County of Marin
- Damon Connolly, MTC Commissioner, Supervisor, County of Marin
- Leon Garcia, Mayor, City of American Canyon
- Susan Gorin, Supervisor, County of Sonoma
- Eric Lucan, Mayor, City of Novato
- Bob Sampayan, Mayor, City of Vallejo

Policy Committee Members Absent:
- David Rabbitt, Chair, Supervisor, County of Sonoma
- Jake Mackenzie, MTC Commissioner, Councilmember, City of Rohnert Park
- Alfredo Pedroza, MTC Commissioner, Supervisor, County of Napa
- Belia Ramos, Supervisor, County of Napa
- Jim Spering, MTC Commissioner, Supervisor, County of Solano

Executive Directors Present:
- Daryl Halls, Solano Transportation Authority
- Suzanne Smith, Sonoma County Transportation Authority
- Dianne Steinhauser, Transportation Authority of Marin

Executive Directors Absent:
- Kate Miller, Napa Valley Transportation Authority
2. Opportunities for Public Comment
N/A

3. Consent Calendar
   3.1. Minutes of the March 3, 2019 SR 37 Policy Committee Meeting

The minutes for the March 3, 2019 State Route 37 Policy Committee were recommended, and approved unanimously, following a motion by Supervisor Judy Arnold, and a second by Mayor Bob Sampayan.

4. Presentation Items
   4.1. San Pablo Bay Active Transportation Access Study – SB-1 Planning Grant

Erik Prince, Common Ground, presented to the committee on the SB-1 Planning Grant awarded from Caltrans and the related work for the San Pablo Bay Active Transportation Access Study.

This work, known as the Grand Bayway, is based on a competition that worked with the Bay Area Resilient by Design.

A set of principles were developed and described to the committee: Identity, Adapting Ground, Mobility, and Expand the Constituency.

Common Ground is looking at an additional grant to expand the scope of this project. Initially the project would address only Segment B, this additional grant would consider the entire corridor from Highway 101 in Marin County to Highway 29 in Solano County.

The scope of the project was described to the committee. The analysis will aim to:
   - Develop a set of bike/e-bike, pedestrian and water recreation options that balance public access and protection of sensitive habitats;
   - Confirm trail design principles, guidelines, and routing alternatives to complete a continuous San Francisco Bay Trail alignment;
   - Identify opportunities to increase awareness and environmental education in the Baylands; and
   - Deliver prudent and strategic near-term trail and access options.

The presentation today is intended to introduce to the committee the project and Mr. Prince described the upcoming public outreach events to help develop a comprehensive set of trails in the region. Updates will be presented to this committee as they become available.

The project website is available, https://stateroute37.wixsite.com/thegrandbayway, to see previous work, interactive maps, and to understand the region and scope.

Steve Kinsey further spoke on with the different studies and work that have been conducted in this corridor and highlighted the importance of continued coordination.

In terms of the entire corridor, staff will continue to develop trail design guidelines and criteria for the selection of trails.

Mr. Kinsey acknowledged the sensitivity of the habitat areas and sea level rise.

There will be a preliminary public access demand analysis to begin to associate what level of activity would be occurring in the corridor to justify the investment of active transportation.

Regarding Segment B, work will continue with local working groups and other partners to develop a draft purpose and a needs statement for active transportation.

Lastly, will be working with Caltrans regarding the SHOPO projects to identify opportunities and see how public access/active transportation will be addressed in these listed projects.

Executive Director Daryl Halls commented that Solano Transportation Authority will be conducting an Active Transportation Plan and expressed the interest to meet and discuss any potential overlap with this project.
4.2. STA – Water Transit Study

Anthony Adams, Solano Transportation Authority, presented to the committee on the Water Transit Study.

The purpose of the study was to identify options to expand or create ferry service for Solano County by looking at Vallejo, Benicia, and Rio Visa, ridership projects, feasibility, and the related costs for infrastructure improvements that would be required.

This study also included the feasibility of ferry service between Marin and Solano Counties that would run parallel to Highway 37.

There was a focused analysis for service between Larkspur and Vallejo. Initial ridership projects suggested that Larkspur-bound ridership from Vallejo is 18% of San Francisco bound ridership. The primary reasons that explain this low demand include similar distance, driving times, and more dispersed employment areas in Larkspur.

Notwithstanding, new service to Larkspur is feasibly, especially when considering a private-operator model using smaller vessels such as water taxis or boats that carry less than 100 passengers.

It would be difficult, however, to meet the 40% farebox recovery required by WETA and landslide improvements would be needed at Larkspur to accommodate WETA ferries. Vallejo would need no improvements.

There is interest expressed by private operators that could provide service to Larkspur. With this, there would be no need for improvements to accommodate the vessels, can target employers and service smaller communities, and federal transit regulations would not be required.

The study recommended further engagement of private operators.

Mayor Bob Sampayan asked about classifications and that small-boats are consider less than 100 passengers.

Mr. Adams confirmed, and larger vessels are considered 100+ passengers. Smaller boats have less draft associated and enter smaller ports, such as Benicia. There was also an interest to look at Richmond and Martinez.

Supervisor Susan Gorin commented on where this idea has come from, such as whether passengers or employers are requesting this type of service, and asked what would happen once passengers arrive to terminals.

Mr. Adams responded the first and last mile solutions will be identified, include park-and-ride systems, carpooling, or Lyft/Uber that could be subsidized.

4.3. Ride Amigos

Anthony Adams further reported to the committee on Ride Amigos as an option for transportation demand management on the corridor.

Mr. Adams recalled the previous findings from the Napa Valley Transportation Authority SR 37 Transit Study. The referenced study was presented to the committee on March 7th, 2019.

On-demand and pooling is suggested, as opposed to fixed route service, given the many point-to-point locations for riders.

Furthermore, there are Park and Ride systems along the corridor that have capacity and opportunity to be expanded for carpooling.

There is an interest to facilitate formal and casual carpooling along this corridor and to provide streamlines app-based incentives for users.

Lloyd Nadal, Solano Transportation Authority, spoke on Ride Amigos, an online, mobile platform that allows TDM program management and data entry sources.

From the user’s standpoint, origin and destination locations are entered, and Ride Amigos will log the trips and provided an opportunity for riders to have access the various incentive programs available.
Mr. Nadal further spoke on the tools available on the platform, including trip planning with alternative mode options listed, ridesharing, incentive programs, and real-time data that has the ability to pair with third-party apps such as Waze.

Mr. Nadal further explained the next steps. In the near-term, partnering with the four North Bay transportation agencies to apply for a Pilot Trip Reduction Program to pilot the SR37 Corridor TDM Program and to establish a pilot universal incentive program for SR 37 commuters. The SR 37 Fairgrounds Drive Six Flags/North Vallejo bus stop will be operating July 1st with Solano Express Red Line Service.

In the longer-term, Mr. Nadal explained a SR 37 Corridor express bus service to be deployed with the Segment B interim infrastructure improvements and to further expand the corridor’s Park and Ride system.

Dianne Steinhauser commented on the Marin commute program that began in January. This program has received interest by employers in Marin and Ms. Steinhauser spoke on the various first-last mile programs.

Supervisor Judy Arnold also noted that over 2,300 trips using Non-single occupancy vehicles have been used.

Supervisor Susan Gorin commented on the topic and suggested this option for Sonoma County.

Executive Director Daryl Halls added that work is ongoing to have all four counties together so the entire corridor is on the same platform.

4.4. Passenger Rail Service Novato to Suisun City – Study

Bill Gamlen, Chief Engineer - SMART, presented to the committee on the feasibility study for passenger rail service to Suisun City.

Mr. Gamlen explained the purpose of the study. The California State Rail Plan, published September 2018, had named SMART as a potential east-west connector to Amtrak’s Capital Corridor.

The report examined the technical feasibility of implementing passenger rail service between Novato and Suisun City and serves to document the existing physical condition of the rail corridor.

This study further identified potential infrastructure and environmental challenges and examine schedules and cost estimates. The corridor is owned by SMART from Novato to the Napa River; Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) owns the tracks from American Canyon to the Suisun City.

Passenger rail service in this corridor is feasible.

Mr. Gamlen explained the two options described in the feasibility study. Option 1: Rapid Deployment – Basic Service and Option 2: Higher Level of Service.

These options include infrastructure improvements which can be built upon in the coming decades with “scalability” to increase service with the addition of vehicles.

Option 1:

Option 1 considers utilizing the existing operating freight railroad with eight one-way trips per day with the potential capacity to serve 2,100 passengers (based on an assumed length of trains).

The infrastructure improvements aims to maximize re-use of the existing along this rail corridor. This would include upgrading the tracks to a Class 3 track to allow speeds up to 60 MPH, replace Black Point Bridge over the Petaluma River with a used bridge, and replace 28 existing timber bridges. Mr. Gamlen noted that this work would stay within the existing rail embankment.

Additional infrastructure elements needed include new signals and train control, three intermediate stations, passing sidings, a shared maintenance facility.
The Black Point Bridge was constructed in 1911 and repairing is not a viable option. The study entertained either repurposing a used bridge, or construct a new bridge over the Petaluma River. However, the vertical lift bridge over the Napa River remains in good condition requiring only a minor set of upgrades.

Mr. Gamlen further explained the vehicle assumptions that includes a fleet primarily of pre-owned locomotives and coach cars and the potential sites (Sonoma Raceway, Schellville, Napa/American Canyon area) for stations.

Regarding the environmental work that is needed, it is assumed that an appropriate level of environmental/permitting review will be conducted since the railway is already in operation and Option 1 stays within the railroad envelope at the (conceptual) cost ranging from $10 to $15 million. This option would take four years to construct for revenue operation at the cost from $780 to $900 million. This is a significant capital project.

**Option 2:**

Option 2 is a more robust evaluation, with more frequency and higher speeds.

The service scenarios includes a total of ten round trips per day with a potential to carry 5,400 passengers (based upon assumed length of trains).

Regarding infrastructure improvements, this option would construct the track to a Class 4 railway that permits up to 79 MPH, replacement of the Black Point Bridge and 20 existing timber bridges, construct four passing sidings, and add new signals/train controls.

Mr. Gamlen further outlines the assumptions for vehicles. This option considers new locomotives and coach cars or Diesel Multiple Unites (DMU’s). Mr. Gamlen also introduced the alternative vehicle technology that could be considered. These options include hydrogen fuel cell, battery, or an electrical multiple unit vehicles.

Option 2 envisions six years to construct and implement passenger rail service at the (conceptual) cost ranging from $1.1 to $1.3 billion.

The next steps include evaluating the operating plan, refine the project scope, explore station locations, investigate shared track/corridor opportunities, and prepare the Environmental Report and preliminary engineering.

Mayor Bob Sampayan encouraged SMART to look into the tracks that run through Vallejo that would provide another opportunity for connectivity.

Mayor Sampayan further asked about the track repairs after the recent flooding. Mr. Gamlen responded the rail line is fixed and is operational.

Vice Chair Erin Hannigan added that there are rail tracks by the Vallejo ferry building.

Supervisor Susan Gorin commented this is an option to extend rail service through Napa Sonoma Valleys onward.

Supervisor Gorin Service championed for service to begin as quickly as possible and asked how service will be affected by the winter weather. Mr. Gamlen responded that the railway does face the similar challenges as Highway 37 experiences in the wetlands areas, however a full study on those effects has not been conducted.

Supervisor Gorin further asked about other options that would include the need to elevate the tracks given bay level rise and wetland challenges and if service would been to be stopped for the construction. Mr. Gamlen responded that there would be a parallel track while the elevated track is under construction and that most of the major infrastructure work will be completed prior to the introduction of service.

Mayor Elizabeth Patterson pointed out that doing Option 1 does not prevent doing Option 2 in the
future and added a study by Nelson Nygaard illustrated connections to Benicia and Vallejo.

Mr. Gamlen responded the options are independent options and not as a phased approach.

Mayor Eric Lucan asked what about the challenges that would be faced to construct the railway to a Class 4, citing the replacement of Black Point Bridge.

Mr. Gamlen responded that the bridge will need to be replaced entirely either by bringing in a used bridge, or replace entirely that would permit the ability for a Class 4 railway.

Mr. Gamlen further noted that this study does not distract SMART from providing service to Cloverdale; the SMART Board of Directors are committed to providing service to Cloverdale before going east. This was the first step of the State to look at the feasibility and is up to the State to carry this project to the next level.

Mayor Leon Garcia arrived at 10:48 AM.

Executive Director Daryl Halls noted that decisions on station locations are at the county level.

Supervisor Judy Arnold added that the Marin County Board of Supervisors has sent a letter to the State supporting the next step in this study and noted that looking at the differences between the Highway 37 project, the rail project comes out less, unless it is a Private-Public Partnership.

5. Discussion/Information Items

5.1. SR 37 Project Coordination Opportunities

5.1.1. Segment A1 (Hwy 101 – Atherton in Marin) Update

Kelly Hirschberg reported on the resubmitted SHOPP amendment request that will allow the initiation of the environmental review phase for the preliminary phase that would start the ultimate and interim scope for SR 37.

Work is aimed to begin in fall 2019 and is currently waiting for CTC staff approval.

5.1.2. Transportation Permitting Task Force (AB1282) Update

Kelly Hirschberg recalled at the March 7th, 2019 meeting the presentation on AB1282 and the related task force. Highway 37 was selected as one of two mega projects through this program and Ms. Hirschberg updated the committee on the upcoming schedule for the task force.

Supervisor Judy Arnold expressed thanks to Caltrans for the understanding that one cannot do anything on Highway 37 without addressing the flooding in Novato.

5.2. Segment A1 – SB-1 Planning Grant – Update (TAM)

Executive Director Dianne Steinhauser introduced Nick Nguyen and Dan Dawson, County of Marin, for the Segment A1 update and related planning grant to study the Novato Creek area.

Nick Nguyen recalled the presentation on March 7th that reported on the kickoff of this project.

Dan Dawson reported the first part of the study is completed. The focus currently is to look at the numerous studies already completed to date and distill the information for common themes, issues, and gaps identified.

To date, a Technical Advisory Committee group has been complied and will report to the Policy Committee in the fall on the findings.

5.3. Segment A1 and A2 – SB-1 Planning Grant Award

Ashely Nguyen announced that MTC/SCTA has received a Climate Adapting grant to do an environmental stakeholder outreach for Segment A.

Ms. Nguyen thanked all who were apart of the grant application.

6. Committee Member Comments/Staff Updates
Executive Director Suzanne Smith announced the retirement of Executive Director Dianne Steinhauser.

7. Future Topics
   - Segment B Interim Improvements Updates
   - AA for the Bay – restoration projects in San Pablo Bay
   - MTC/Caltrans – Ultimate Environmental Phase Discussion
   - Caltrans SHOPP Project Updates
   - SB1 Planning and Adaption Grant work underway
   - Alternative Modes and TDM - Implementation

For the committee’s interest.

8. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 11:06 a.m.
ITEM 4.5 - Segment A Caltrans work

Updates on State Route 37 Improvement (Segment A)

Location Map

Project Schedule

June 2019 – Fund Allocation for Environmental Phase (PA&ED)

Early 2022 – Public Circulation of Draft Env. Document

Early 2023 – Env. Clearance & Project Approval (PA&ED)

Project Funding:

$10M: Environmental Phase (PA&ED)

Project Description:

The Long Lead project proposes to reconstruct State Route (SR) 37 to address Sea Level Rise (SLR) and recurring flooding while including Complete Streets features to address multi-modal bicycle and pedestrian use.

Purpose and Need:

The purpose of this project is to address recurring flooding and future SLR impacts to the existing SR 37 in Marin County. Flooding on SR 37 occurs during seasonal rain and high tide events, causing delays and closures. Over time, the existing road could erode and get inundated permanently, resulting in the loss of a safe, reliable transportation corridor.

Status:

Started the environmental phase of the project.

Working with HQ and CTC on extending the eastern conform to SR 121 Junction.
Near Term Improvements, Before Winter 2019/20

- Completed with initial paving east of Novato Creek to raise the westbound SR 37.
- Continue to work on drainage system work to install culvert and slide gates, target to complete within this month.
- Monitoring weather/storm event for deployment of rubber bladder and tractor pump.
Highway 37 Corridor Adaptation Study
SR37 Policy Committee Meeting
December 5, 2019
Study Scope

- Collect previous studies and synthesize contents related to Highway 37 Segment A-1.
- Identify additional information needed to identify the “Preferred Approach”.
- Provide guidance to Caltrans and MTC regarding Approach Alternatives and priority “Next Steps” to protect the corridor from flooding resulting from high tides, sea level rise, and storm surge.
Planning for a Resilient Future Report

Key Findings/Transportation

- Segment A-1 has the lowest roadway elevations in the entire corridor
- Caltrans High Risk Design standards require raising the roadway by 18 to 22 feet
- Interchanges require reconfiguration at U.S.101, Atherton Avenue, Hanna Ranch Road, and Marsh Drive
- California State Rail Plan recommends linking SMART with Capitol Corridor trains by 2040
- Napa Transit study identified feasible micro-transit and 2 express bus routes after Segment B widening
Novato’s Baylands are a priority for restoration and expanded watershed connectivity

Widening the Novato Creek crossing and increasing tidal marsh would reduce flooding and benefit Bay ecology

In 2016, County Flood District adopted a plan to reduce flooding and restore marshlands

Coastal Conservancy is restoring 1600 acres of marshland southeast of Bel Marin Keys

Marin County is designing 194 acre marshland restoration between Novato Creek and Deer Island

Novato Sanitary is approved to move its summer irrigation fields to new BMK V Phase 2 lagoon
Outreach Process
TAG Meeting #1 April 18, 2019
TAG Meeting #2 June 6, 2019
Property Owner Meeting August 22, 2019
City of Novato Meeting August 27, 2019
   SCTA Meeting September 5, 2019
   SMART Meeting September 6, 2019
Novato Sanitary District September 10, 2019
   Caltrans Meeting October 10, 2019
   TAG Meeting #3 November 12, 2019
Community Meeting November 21, 2019

Technical Advisory Group
   County of Marin
   Transportation Authority of Marin
   Marin County Flood Control District
   Bel Marin Keys CSD
   Caltrans
   California Coastal Conservancy
   City of Novato
   Pacific Gas and Electric
   Sonoma County Transportation Authority
   SMART
   Novato Sanitary District
Planning for a Resilient Future

Segment A-1 Key Challenges

- Urgent public interest to prevent Highway 37 flooding
- Increasing frequency of flooding / Climate Change
- Highly Sensitive Environmental Setting
- Few Mobility Options currently available
- Long-term ecosystem management
- Funding
Planning for a Resilient Future

Flooding Resulting from “Do Nothing”
Planning for a Resilient Future

Caltrans Long Term Study Options

SHOPP grant is targeted to identify a preferred approach by 2023
Conceptual Design Approaches

Vision 1 – Hold the Line

This Vision has 100 year protection for road, rail, new Bay Trail, and sewage facilities by reconstructing levees in their current location. It has the most fill, most flood water pumping, and the least marshland.
Conceptual Design Approaches

Vision 2 – Move the Line

This Vision has 100 year protection for existing road, rail, and new Bay Trail by relocating the levee bayside of the rail. Sewage irrigation sites are restored to tidal marsh south of SR37, but flood water pumping remains a necessity. New connector road from Bel Marin Keys to SR37.
Conceptual Design Approaches

Vision 2 – Move the Line

Transportation facilities protected by levees
This Vision has 100 year protection for road, rail, and new Bay Trail on a shared causeway, has the greatest marsh restoration and flood protection with the least flood water pumping, but the most sewage facility modification.
Conceptual Design Approaches

Vision 3 – Multi-Beneficial

Elevation 30 feet

Image from State Route 37 – Segment A Sea Level Rise Corridor Improvement Study
This Vision has 30 year protection for road and new Bay Trail by constructing floodwalls at the ROW edge, while a long-term plan is designed and funded. Sewage irrigation sites are restored to tidal marsh south of SR37, but flood water pumping remains a necessity.
Conceptual Design Approaches

Vision 4 – Mid Century Option
## Conceptual Design Approaches

### Vision Comparison

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<th>Vision</th>
<th>Sea Level Rise Protection</th>
<th>Enhances Env. Resources</th>
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For more information, please contact
Dan Dawson, Marin County DPW
415.473.6287
ddawson@marincounty.org