

RESILIENTSR37



STATE ROUTE 37 POLICY COMMITTEE

9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 4, 2021

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting will be conducted entirely by teleconference pursuant to the provisions of the Governor's Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-35-20, suspending certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act.

State Route 37 Policy Committee members will be video-conferencing into the meeting via Zoom. Members of the public who wish to listen to the State Route 37 Policy Committee meeting may do so via the following platform:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82526551149?pwd=ajVvUzcvdXNVQlpLbEttZzZWNINzUT09>

Webinar ID: 825 2655 1149

Passcode: 036132

Call in: (669) 900-9128

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public comment on specific agenda items will be allowed during the meeting via Zoom by using the raise hand function. Verbal comments from call-in participants not using the Zoom Video platform may do by pressing *9 (star 9), or by notifying Drew Nichols at drew.nichols@scta.ca.gov and identifying the item number, your name and phone number from which you will be calling. Please include "Public Comment" in the email subject line. The moderator will then ask for your comment.

Public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes. Public comment on items not on the regular agenda must be submitted in electronic written format as provided under Item 2 below.

MEETING AGENDA

ITEM

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair David Rabbitt

2. OPPORTUNITES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

As authorized by Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-35-20, all public comment must be submitted in electronic written format. Please submit public comment by email before 8:00AM on 1/7/2021. Include "Public Comment" and the meeting name in the subject line of your email and limit written comments to three hundred (300) words.

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Send comments to Drew.Nichols@scta.ca.gov and they will be shared with all Board members and identified by the Clerk verbally at the meeting.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 3.1. Minutes of the January 7, 2021 SR 37 Policy Committee Meeting* **Drew Nichols, SCTA**
Recommendation:
Approve January 7, 2021 SR37 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

4. DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 4.1. Public Engagement in April | John Goodwin, MTC & Vince Jacala, CT |
| 4.2. Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) | Stefan Galvez, CT |
| 4.3. US 101 to SR121 – Design Alternative Analysis (DAA) | Ashley Nguyen, MTC |
| 4.4. US 101 to SR 121 – Flood Reduction | Kelly Hirschberg, CT |
| 4.5. Sears Point to Mare Island - Congestion Relief | Kevin Chen, MTC |

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS / STAFF UPDATES

All

6. FUTURE TOPICS

Tolling Legislation and Expenditure Plan
AA for the Bay – restoration projects in San Pablo Bay
MTC/Caltrans – Ultimate Environmental Phase Discussion
Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP)
Alternative Modes and TDM – Implementation including a ridesharing program.

7. ADJOURNMENT

* Materials included

Future Meeting Schedule

9:30 AM, June 3, 2021

9:30 AM, October 7, 2021

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SR 37 Policy Committee Members:

SCTA

David Rabbitt, Sonoma
County Board of Supervisors

VACANT, 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 Supervisor s

Eric Lucan, Councilmember,
City of Novato

STA

Erin Hannigan, Solano County
Board of Supervisors

VACANT, Mayor, City of Vallejo

Jim Spering, MTC
Commissioner

MTC

Therese McMillan,
Executive Director

Caltrans

Dina El-Tawansy,
District 4 Interim Director

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State Route (SR) 37 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes 9:30 a.m., Thursday, January 7, 2020 Zoom Video Conferencing

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chairman David Rabbitt called to order the State Route 37 Policy Committee at 9:41 a.m.

Policy Committee Members Present:

David Rabbitt, Chair	Supervisor, County of Sonoma
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
Jake Mackenzie	MTC Commissioner
Alfredo Pedroza	MTC Commissioner, Supervisor, County of Napa
Robert McConnell	Mayor, City of Vallejo
Jim Spering	MTC Commissioner, Supervisor, County of Solano
Belia Ramos	Supervisor, County of Napa

Policy Committee Members Absent:

Executive Directors Present:

Janet Adams, Solano Transportation Authority
Kate Miller, Napa Valley Transportation Authority
Anne Richman, Transportation Authority of Marin
Suzanne Smith, Sonoma County Transportation Authority

2. Opportunities for Public Comment

N/A

3. Consent Calendar

3.1. Minutes of the October 1, 2020 SR 37 Policy Committee Meeting

The minutes for the December 5, 2019 State Route 37 Policy Committee were recommended, and approved unanimously, following a motion by Jake Mackenzie, and a second by Eric Lucan.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Aye: Arnold; Connolly; Garcia; Gorin; Hannigan; Lucan; Mackenzie; McConnell; Pedroza; Rabbitt; Ramos; Spring.

Nay:

Abstain:

Absent:

4. Discussion/Information Items

4.1. Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL)

Stefan Galvez reported on the Planning and Environmental linkages.

This is a federal process that integrates both planning and environmental phases to help streamline project delivery. Caltrans seeks to establish buy-in from the transportation agencies and stakeholders.

Caltrans have reached out to about 120 stakeholders along the corridor and held a number of technical working groups.

Mr. Galvez commented on the topics that received most feedback, e.g., resiliency, adaptation, congestion, equity, tribal coordination, safety among various others.

Public outreach is a key component and will continue to share through this committee key dates on efforts related to this project. The first public outreach meeting is sought to be held in early spring. The PEL process is expected to continue through 2022.

Supervisor Spring commented on public outreach and equity elements, asking how will these be addressed in public meetings

Mr. Galvez responded that equity is important for Caltrans, as is with other partner agencies alike, and will continue to look for opportunities to inform decisions that will provide a good baseline of equitable outcomes.

Spring further asked if this will be presented at these meetings, or if the public is encouraged to provide their input.

Mr. Galvez responded that input from the community is welcomed, and will include a combination of the two.

Supervisor Spring further asked to expand on the funding opportunities.

Mr. Galvez responded that seeking funding is part of the PEL, as well as developing a cohesive, sequenced program for all the different projects.

4.2. US 101 to SR 121 – Design Alternative Analysis (DAA)

Kevin Chen reported the US 101 to SR 121 design alternative analysis is off to a good start.

A forum to collect public input has been created for this portion of the corridor. The first forum will be an environmental technical working group comprised of scientists, regulatory agencies, and environmental experts.

A larger stakeholder group comprised of participants with environmental interest was also held.

The first environmental working group meeting was held on November 3rd, 2020 and the groups discussed the project's purpose, need, identify range of alternatives, and develop the evaluation criteria for the proposed alternatives.

On December 8, 2020, the stakeholder workshop was held to define the purpose, need, objectives, and criteria.

4.3. Sears Point to Mare Island – Congestion Relief

4.3.1. EIR Scoping meeting comment summary

Kevin Chen reported the comments that were omitted in EIR scoping meeting comment summary has been addressed, and all commented submitted are received. This was caused due to a technical error with accessing the email account created for this specific project.

The updated list of the comment letters received is provided on the agenda, and can be found here: https://scta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/SR-37_Summary-Scoping-Comments_10-26-2020-WithLetters.pdf

4.4. Caltrans Project Updates

Kelly Hirschberg reported on Caltrans project's updates. The presentation can be found at the following link: <https://scta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/4.4-SR37Policy-Jan2021.pdf>

Supervisor Spering asked about the drainage culvert work, wondering if that is part of a larger project to address the flooding.

Ms. Hirschberg responded this will be broken into two parts: the interim to address the flooding, and connecting to the resilient program of the entire corridor.

Supervisor Gorin asked how will staff conduct outreach for the SR 37/121 intersection and flooding improvements.

Ms. Hirschberg responded that outreach will be conducted as part of the PEL process, as well as project update/presentations to local boards/commissions and the public.

Supervisor Connolly asked about the timing for the Marin projects.

Hirschberg responded the EIR is set to be completed by 2022 and construction will begin 2024.

Dina El-Tawansy emphasized the importance of SR 37 to Caltrans.

4.5. SR 37 Solano Fairgrounds Updates

Janet Adams presented to the committee on the SR37/Fairground Drive project update. The presentation can be accessed at the following link: https://scta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/4.5-SR37_Fairgrounds-Dr-Overview.pdf

Vice Chair Hannigan commented that there is a similar project in Reno, and this is an exciting project that increases pedestrian safety and makes this intersection much easier for commuters.

4.6. Solano County Access Plan Presentation

Janet Adams introduced Allan Calder and Nicole Braddock to present on the Solano SR 37 Public Access Plan.

The presentation can be accessed at the following link: https://scta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/4.6-1.7.21-SR37-Policy-Committee_Solano-Public-Access.pdf

Supervisor Gorin commented this is exactly the type of project to be funded by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, and encouraged to apply to the grants.

Public Comment:

Joe Greene Heffern wondered when the public access plans, as well as the Diverging Diamond Interchange plan, might be provided to the Bicycle/Pedestrian Access Advisory Committees.

Secondly, Mr. Heffern further asked about the plan to involve the public, particular the disadvantaged communities, in these meetings.

Harry Englebright complimented the efforts of STA for bringing together a large diverse group of individuals to discussed these projects, and is supportive of these projects. This is a good starting point.

Steve Birdlebough commended the work to improve public access.

Maureen Gaffney thanked STA for convening the group, and thanked Ms. Braddock and Mr. Calder for their presentation.

STA has been a great partner to the Bay Trail over the past years and Ms. Gaffney supported the comments by Mr. Englebright.

David Schonbrunn asked how staff is approaching the question of protecting wildlife while providing public access.

A member of the public named “Schultze” commented on a recent excursion along SR 37 with his wife, commenting on the wonderful existing access points available to the public that have signage, handicap accessibilities, etc. between SR 121 and Mare Island.

Ben Botkin thanked STA for this study and conveyed enthusiasm for the public access points identified in the study.

This area is significant region for water access and currently there is limited opportunities to explore the “Everglades of the Bay.”

There are many opportunities to allow the public to experience this wildlife refuge that is in our backyard. COVID has really highlighted the importance of this access available to members of the Bay Area community.

Philip Sales thanked for the presentation and commented on the excitement of the trail construction from Wilson Avenue to the City of American Canyon in 2022. There still remains gaps on the corridor to address, however this is a great start to connect to Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco Bay Trail.

Mr. Sales commented further on funding opportunities that has come up over the previous years.

Christina Ratcliff thanked all involved for this work, effort, and outreach that went into this process, and is looking forward for continued work on this.

Jessica Davenport expressed appreciation for this plan, and added the San Francisco Bay

Restoration Authority has funded the City of American Canyon to do planning for the wetlands which include water trail sites.

5. Action Items

5.1. Funding Update – Tolling Legislation

Andrew Fremier updated the committee on the SR 37 tolling legislation. The request is to defer action on this item.

Mr. Fremier recalled last year staff worked on consensus language, however, due to COVID, Senator Dodd decided to pull the legislation. The legislation will likely be brought back next year.

Relative to funding, it is important to recognize the struggles at the Bay Area Toll Authority with accessing funding to bring design work. Staff will continue to seek any and all funding available to keep this work moving forward.

Supervisor Judy Arnold offered support to keep this work going, citing the importance of this project to Novato and Marin County.

6. Committee Member Comments/Staff Updates

N/A

7. Future Topics

- Tolling Legislation and Expenditure Plan
- AA for the Bay – restoration projects in San Pablo Bay
- MTC/Caltrans – Ultimate Environmental Phase Discussion
- Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP)
- Alternative Modes and TDM – Implementation including a rideshare program

Included for the committee’s interest.

8. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10:54 a.m.