



Committee Members Present

Laurie Davies, Chair
Lisa A. Bartlett, Vice Chairwoman
Barbara Delgleize
Michael Hennessey
Gene Hernandez
Tim Shaw
Gregory T. Winterbottom

Staff Present

Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Ken Phipps, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Laurena Weinert, Clerk of the Board
Sara Meisenheimer, Deputy Clerk of the Board
James Donich, General Counsel
OCTA Staff and members of the General Public

Committee Members Absent

None

Call to Order

The February 21, 2019 regular meeting of the Legislative and Communications Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Davies at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Director Delgleize led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Public Comments

No public comments were received.

Special Calendar

2. Sacramento Advocate Presentation

Moira Topp, Sacramento Advocate, reported on the following:

- The bill introduction phase and the deadline to introduce bills is tomorrow. About 2,300 bills were introduced and many bills are considered “spot” bills.
- There are not a lot of transportation themes; however, there are many bills related to housing and homelessness which connects to transportation.
- Bills that the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) is engaged on including:
 - Toll reform activity and cleaning up the toll collection process.
 - Legislation to move OCTA collective bargaining claims under the Public Employee Relations Board.
- The Governor has not appointed a Transportation Agency Secretary or a California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Director; however, he has selected his internal staff.



2. (Continued)

- Two main issues being discussed by both the Executive and Legislative branch:
 - South Dakota verses Wayfair, Inc., decision and understanding who gets taxed for online sales and what happens to the tax allocations.
 - Senate Bill 1 programs and having legislation adjust the programs to have equitable distribution.
- The Governor introduced his budget and proposed to continue with the Central Valley segment of High-Speed Rail.
- The President made an announcement to not provide California with the federal funds for the High-Speed Rail.

A discussion ensued regarding:

- California High-Speed Rail:
 - It would take a vote by the people to repurpose the monies and various ideas have been made to make High-Speed Rail more accommodating.
 - Reasons behind connecting the High-Speed Rail to only the Central Valley segment and what riders it is trying to serve. Updates will continue to be brought back to the Legislative and Communications Committee.
- Orange County has a new leadership team and there will continue to be an overlap between housing and transit in the future.
- Scaling back federal dollars on a project where the money has already been allocated could lead to an investigation, but it will take some time to figure out what could happen.
- Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett's meeting with the California State Association of Counties, the Governor's proposal to withhold transportation dollars if housing goals are not met, and the need to streamline projects to get through the process faster.

3. Committee Meeting 2019 Schedule

Committee Chair Davies presented this item and stated the Legislative and Communications Committee meetings will remain on the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), added that typically the Committee does not meet in December, but it is preferred to keep it on the calendar.

A motion was made by Director Hernandez, seconded by Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett, and declared passed by those present, to approve the 2019 Legislative and Communications meeting schedule.



4. Roles and Responsibilities of the Legislative and Communications Committee

Darrell E. Johnson, CEO, presented this item and there was only one word changed in the second to last bullet.

A motion was made by Director Hernandez, seconded by Director Hennessey, and declared passed by those present, to approve the Roles and Responsibilities of the Legislative and Communications Committee.

Consent Calendar (Item 5)

5. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett, seconded by Director Hennessey, and declared passed by those present to approve the minutes of the Legislative and Communications Committee meeting of January 17, 2019.

Director Hernandez abstained from the vote due to not serving on the Legislative and Communications Committee at that time.

Regular Calendar

6. State Legislative Status Report

Jaymal Patel, Associate Government Relations Representative, reported on the background of Assembly Bill (AB) 252 related to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assignment program, and AB 28 which provided the limited waiver of sovereign immunity set to expire on January 1, 2020.

A discussion ensued regarding:

- OCTA does not have to engage with the federal government on highway projects; subject to NEPA, because the federal government delegates this authority to the state.
- Clarification on the California Environmental Quality Act and NEPA and the idea of having direct federal highway administration oversight on highway projects versus delegating NEPA review to Caltrans.
- Attachment B of the Staff Report includes the bills that OCTA is monitoring.



6. (Continued)

A motion was made by Director Delgleize, seconded by Director Hernandez, declared passed by those present, to adopt a SUPPORT position on AB 252 (Daly, D-Anaheim) which would allow California to continue to perform federal environmental responsibilities for highway projects under the National Environmental Policy Act indefinitely.

7. Federal Legislative Status Report

Dustin Sifford, Senior Government Relations Representative, reported on the following:

- Update on the appropriations process.
- The President signed legislation to fund the remainder of the federal government through the fiscal year.
- Summary of the Long-term Transportation Funding Outlook report:
 - Revenues into the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) are about \$42 billion a year.
 - The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act authorized about \$57 billion per year in federal transportation funding.
 - The most challenging transportation item Congress must deal with is the status of the HTF.
 - Staff will continue to monitor additional proposals and other items that Congress should consider related to infrastructure funds.
- Nicole R. Mason was nominated to serve as the Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration.
- The President emphasized the need to act on infrastructure and issued an Executive Order to encourage the use of project components manufactured within the United States (Buy America requirements).
- Referenced a hearing on infrastructure investments held by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

A discussion ensued regarding:

- Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett requested to keep the Legislative and Communications Committee posted on a potential federal gas tax increase.
- A summary of Mr. Johnson's, CEO, conversations with Congressman Rouda and Congressman Lowenthal while he was in Washington, D.C., and an upcoming tour of the Interstate 405 (I-405) Improvement Project with Congressman Rouda.
- Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett met with Congressman Rouda yesterday and stated he wants to get money for transportation funding and be helpful to OCTA.



7. (Continued)

- OCTA is in a good position to identify its needs since the Board-adopted the Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Next 10 Delivery Plan.

Following the discussion, no action was taken on this receive and file information item.

Discussion Items

8. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Darrell E. Johnson, CEO, reported on the following:

- This afternoon, OCTA will provide a tour and briefing of the I-405 Improvement Project for Congressman Rouda and on Friday, February 15th, a tour and briefing of OC Streetcar Project will be provided to Representative Correa.
- On Tuesday, February 12th, the new parking structure at the Orange Metrolink Station opened and Chairman Shaw and Directors Murphy, Hennessey, Hernandez, and Winterbottom all attended. Other attendees included former Directors Cavecche and Murray, Metrolink, Hill International, and Bomel Construction.
- The American Public Transportation Association released their annual report on transit agencies with the most vanpools trips and California has the top four agencies listed, along with OCTA ranking eighth in the nation.

9. Committee Members' Reports

Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett asked if OCTA is tracking the temporary license plates and the amount of additional revenues. Mr. Johnson, CEO, stated there is not enough data to see if there is a trend, but OCTA is monitoring it. People are getting more creative on where they place the paper plate to avoid paying the toll fees.

Director Delgleize asked if there is an update on scooters. Mr. Johnson, CEO, stated OCTA does not have any authority on the approval of the scooter guidelines and each city will need to take its own path forward.

10. Closed Session

There are no Closed Session items scheduled.



11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of this Committee will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2019**, at the Orange County Transportation Authority Headquarters, 550 South Main Street, Board Room - Conference Room 07, Orange, California.

ATTEST

Laurie Davies
Committee Chair

Sahara Meisenheimer
Deputy Clerk of the Board