



Committee Members Present

Laurie Davies, Chair
Michael Hennessey
Tim Shaw

Committee Members Absent

Lisa A. Bartlett, Vice Chairwoman
Barbara Delgleize
Gene Hernandez
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

Call to Order

The January 16, 2020 regular meeting of the Legislative and Communications (L&C) Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Davies at 9:12 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Director Hennessey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Public Comments

Craig Durfey, Garden Grove resident, provided comments about bringing safe routes to schools, the importance of green space and health in our community, and asked the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) for a letter of support for a memorial dog park. Mr. Durfey asked for support of the military since his family served in the military.

Special Calendar

2. Conference Call with State Legislative Advocate Moira Topp

Moira Topp, Sacramento Advocate, reported on the following:

- The month of January is especially busy since new bills are introduced, and members can continue leftover bills from last year by the end of January.
- This the second year of a two-year session.
- February 21, 2020 is the deadline for all new bills to be introduced.
- The Governor released his \$222.2 billion budget last Friday and the expenditure plan is a 2.3 percent increase from last year.
- The Governor's priorities in the budget included: housing and homelessness, emergency response due to the wild fires, healthcare affordability, and climate resilience.

2. (Continued)

- In terms of transportation, it is a status quo budget.
- The Governor is proposing \$1 billion to be used towards the Climate Catalyst Fund which could also be used towards transit purchases.
- There is a growing link between homelessness and transportation. An example is the California Department of Transportation and the litter abatement program.
- Two-year bills being heard this month are:
 - Senate Bill (SB) 732; and
 - SB 50.
- Assembly Bill 1350 is being introduced this year by Assemblywoman Gonzalez to require transit agencies to provide youth transit passes.

A discussion ensued regarding SB 50 and the possibility of getting additional amendments along the way.

Consent Calendar (Item 3)

3. Approval of Minutes

Due to lack of quorum, the minutes of November 21, 2019, will return to the February 20, 2020 Legislative and Communications Committee meeting for consideration.

Regular Calendar

4. State Legislative Status Report

Kristin Jacinto, Manager of State and Federal Relations, provided opening comments, introduced Alexis Leicht, Associate Government Relations Representative, and reported on the following:

- Overview of the California High-Speed Rail (CHSR) Project and the Governor focusing on the Central Valley segment of the project.
- Concerns among legislature members in Sacramento and transportation agencies across the state on whether the CHSR investment would also be made in the other rail segments.
- The federal government stated they would begin retracting funding because the CHSR project was not meeting its original intent.
- The Assembly Transportation Committee held an oversight hearing last November to review the CHSR investment in the Central Valley segment and whether there are opportunities to invest more in rail improvements throughout the state.

4. (Continued)

- Metrolink was asked to submit information to the Assembly Transportation Committee and California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) on what investments that could be made to benefit future high-speed rail on the Metrolink system.
- The CHSRA embarked on analysis to compare investment opportunities to other parts of the state.
- Assembly Member Daly has written correspondence to request more funding to be directed to the Anaheim to Burbank segment.
- The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority has been discussing the impacts of the 2028 Olympics and where funding could be used for rail improvements.

A discussion ensued regarding:

- A summary of Proposition 1A, the demarcations in Federal Railroad Administration safety procedures about trains going above 25 miles per hour and 125 miles per hour, and grade separations.
- Funding from high-speed rail could benefit grade separations between Anaheim to the Los Angeles Union Station.
- A reference to Attachment D in the Staff Report.
- The CHSRA wants to go forward with the Central Valley segment without any plans of future funds.
- Part of the conversations that some legislators have is questioning where the funding has been committed to already and how Proposition 1A can be used state-wide.
- Director Hennessey requested that OCTA take the position to not use the funds towards the environmental work and instead, divert the funds to other rail projects.
- Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), provided comments on southern California not being successful with High-Speed Rail, how OCTA can figure out how to get investment in the southern California rail system, and the definition of “book ends” in the urban areas of Anaheim, Los Angeles, and Burbank (within Proposition 1A).

Due to lack of quorum, no action was taken on this item, and it was moved to the Board of Directors meeting on January 27, 2020, without a committee recommendation.

5. Federal Legislative Status Report

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

- Two funding bills were enacted:
 - A month-long continuing resolution which repealed \$7.6 billion rescission of transportation funding that was authorized by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act.
 - A yearlong transportation funding bill was signed at the end of December and the funding package includes resources for transportation programs.
- The funding bills include tax provisions like the Alternative Fuel Excise Tax Credit.

A discussion ensued regarding:

- The "US Debt clock" website and its financial statistics such as:
 - \$23 trillion is the national debt.
 - The country has spent \$4.5 trillion.
 - The deficit in a year is \$1 trillion
 - The economy is at 3.5 percent.
 - The Dow Jones Industrial Average.
- The national debt is not a tier one issue; however, OCTA is monitoring.
- California does not have a problem getting revenue; however, the state has a problem spending it.

No action was taken on this receive and file information item.

Discussion Items

6. Chief Executive Officer's Report

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

- On Saturday, January 25th at 10:00 a.m., OCTA will be hosting an equestrian ride at the Trabuco Rose Preserve in Trabuco Canyon to give the horse-riding community an opportunity to explore the open space. Horses are not provided.
- On Friday, January 31st at 10:30 a.m., OCTA will host an event at the Santa Ana base to celebrate the beginning of a zero-emissions bus fleet and the completion of the hydrogen fueling station.
- On Saturday, February 1st at 8:00 a.m. at the Irvine Metrolink Station, OCTA will be hosting the annual Lunar New Year event. The event encourages people to take the train to Los Angeles (LA) for LA's 121st Golden Dragon Parade. The train leaves at 9:28 a.m.



7. Committee Members' Reports

There were no Committee Members' Reports.

8. Closed Session

There were no Closed Session items scheduled.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of this Committee will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2020**, 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