

MINUTES

State Route 91 Advisory Committee Meeting

Committee Members Present

Bob Magee, Chairman
Tim Shaw, Immediate Past Chairman
Gene Hernandez, Vice Chairman
Brian Berkson, RCTC
Berwin Hanna, RCTC
Mark A. Murphy, OCTA
Karen Spiegel, RCTC
Donald P. Wagner, OCTA

Michael Hennessey, OCTA, Alternate

Ryan Chamberlain, Caltrans
District 12, Ex-Officio
Ray Marquez, SBCTA, Ex-Officio

Committee Members Absent

Kevin Jeffries, RCTC
Harry S. Sidhu, OCTA
Wes Speake, RCTC, Alternate
Michael Beauchamp, Caltrans
District 8, Ex-Officio

Staff Present

Darrell E. Johnson, OCTA, Chief Executive Officer
Anne Mayer, RCTC, Executive Director
Ken Phipps, OCTA, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Kirk Avila, OCTA, General Manager, 91 Express Lanes
Michael Blomquist, RCTC, Toll Program Director
Laurena Weinert, OCTA, Clerk of the Board
Martha M. Ochoa, OCTA, Assistant Clerk of the Board
Steve DeBaun, RCTC, Legal Counsel
James M. Donich, OCTA, General Counsel
OCTA and RCTC Staff
Members of the General Public

Call to Order

The March 6, 2020 regular meeting of the State Route (SR) 91 Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) was called to order by Committee Chairman Shaw at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Member Hanna led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Public Comments

No public comments were received.

Special Calendar

2. Election of New State Route 91 Advisory Chair

Committee Chairman Shaw opened nominations for the office of Committee Chair.

A motion was made by Member Hernandez, seconded by Member M. Murphy, and declared passed 7-0 by those present, to elect current Committee Vice Chairman Bob Magee as the Chairman for the State Route 91 Advisory Committee.

Members Spiegel and Wagner were not present to vote on this item.

3. Election of New State Route 91 Advisory Committee Vice Chair

Newly-elected Committee Chairman Magee opened nominations for the office of Committee Vice Chair.

A motion was made by Member Shaw, seconded by Member M. Murphy, and declared passed 7-0 by those present, to elect Member Gene Hernandez as the Vice Chairman for the State Route 91 Advisory Committee.

Members Spiegel and Wagner were not present to vote on this item.

Consent Calendar (Items 4 through 7)

4. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Hernandez, seconded by Member Hanna, and declared passed 6-0 by those present, to approve the minutes of the State Route 91 Advisory Committee meeting of June 7, 2019.

Member M. Murphy abstained as he was not in attendance at the June 7, 2019 meeting for this item.

Members Spiegel and Wagner were not present to vote on this item.

5. Joint 91 Express Lanes Status Reports

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Hernandez, seconded by Member Hanna, and declared passed 7-0 by those present, to receive and file the 91 Express Lanes Status Reports for the months of April 2019 through December 2019.

Members Spiegel and Wagner were not present to vote on this item.

6. Orange County Transportation Authority Fiscal Year 2018-19 91 Express Lanes Fund Financial Statements

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Hernandez, seconded by Member Hanna, and declared passed 7-0 by those present, to receive and file the Orange County Transportation Authority Fiscal Year 2018-19 91 Express Lanes Annual Financial Statements.

Members Spiegel and Wagner were not present to vote on this item.

7. Fiscal Year 2018/19 Riverside County Transportation Commission 91 Express Lanes Annual Financial Statements

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Hernandez, seconded by Member Hanna, and declared passed 7-0 by those present, to receive and file Fiscal Year 2018-19 Riverside County Transportation Commission 91 Express Lanes Fund audited financial statements.

Members Spiegel and Wagner were not present to vote on this item.

Regular Calendar

There were no Regular Calendar items scheduled.

Discussion Items

8. Back-Office System/Customer Service Center Update

Kirk Avila, General Manager, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), 91 Express Lanes, provided a PowerPoint presentation update as follows:

- Procurement Highlights;
- Services Procured; and
- Upcoming Schedule.

No action was taken on this information item.

9. 91 Express Lanes 6C Transition Status

Jennifer Crosson, Toll Operations Manager, Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), 91 Express Lanes, provided a PowerPoint presentation update as follows:

- Title 21 – CA State Regulation;
- Milestones;
- Account Policy Changes;
- 6C Transponders;
- 91 Express Lanes Roadside System;
- 91Expresslanes.com & Customer Materials;
- Back Office Software;
- Exchange of Current Customers Transponders Underway;
- Exchange Process;
- Step One: Receive Notice;
- Step Two: Visit Online Wizard;
- Step Three: Mail New Sticker Transponders; and
- Questions.

A discussion ensued regarding transponder exchange process, cut-off date and proper disposal.

No action was taken on this information item.

10. 91 Express Lanes Eastbound County Line Access Restriping

David Thomas, Toll Project Manager, RCTC, 91 Express Lanes, provided a PowerPoint presentation on this item as follows:

- Background;
- Proposed Restriping; and
- Next Steps.

A discussion ensued regarding the color of the solid striping.

No action was taken on this information item.

11. State Route 91 Corridor Projects Update

Kia Mortazavi, Executive Director of Planning, OCTA, provided a PowerPoint presentation on this item as follows:

- State Route 91 Corridor Overview;
- Recent Improvements;
- Planned Improvements;
- SR-91 Improvements (SR-57 to SR-55);
- 6th General Purpose Lane Addition (SR-241 to SR-71);
- SR-241/SR-91 Tolloed Express Lanes Connector;
- 91 Corridor Operations Project;
- SR-71/SR-91 Interchange Improvements;
- 15/91 Express Lanes Connector; and
- Next Steps.

A discussion ensued as follows:

- Member Shaw stated that California State University, Fullerton teachers, students, employees commuting via rail to the Metrolink station in the City of Fullerton might help relieve congestion on the SR-91.
- Member Chamberlain thanked RCTC and OCTA staff and the leadership on both agencies on behalf of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). He noted the strong partnership, and consensus-based decisions on one of the most complex corridors anywhere in the state.
- Member Spiegel commented regarding the partnership between Orange and Riverside Counties on the projects, appreciates working with colleagues across the county lines, and complimented staff. She thanked Anne Mayer, Executive Director, RCTC and Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, OCTA, their team, and Caltrans.

No action was taken on this information item.

Chairman Magee announced that staff would like Discussion Item 13 "Toll Program Director's Report - Riverside County Transportation Commission" to be presented prior to item 12 on the agenda.

State Route 91 Advisory Committee Meeting

13. Toll Program Director's Report - Riverside County Transportation Commission

Michael Blomquist, Toll Program Director, RCTC, reported on the following:

- RCTC's mid-February traffic volumes increased over 4 percent and toll revenue increased approximately 21.2 percent over this time last year.
- Staff from OCTA, RCTC, Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) are meeting biweekly to move forward the 241/91 Express Lanes Connector project development and the operations planning work. The areas of focus were highlighted.
- Two contracts related to the 91 Express Lanes will be presented at the next RCTC Board of Directors (Board) meeting for Board approval were highlighted.

12. General Manager's Report - Orange County Transportation Authority

Kirk Avila, General Manager, OCTA, 91 Express, reported on the following:

- Traffic volumes increased 3 percent fiscal year to date, through mid-February.
- Revenues related to the traffic volumes, have increased approximately 5 percent.
- Since RCTC's segment opened in March of 2017, most of OCTA's growth has occurred on the westbound direction.
- Ridership continues to grow based upon the growth in the economy, as well as the opening on the Riverside county side.
- At the next Advisory Committee meeting in June, staff will bring forward the annual SR-91 Implementation Plan. The plan provides details on the projects, status of the projects, and it is required to be submitted annually to the state legislature.
- Introduced Martha Ochoa as OCTA's Assistant Clerk of the Board, who will also support the Advisory Committee. Ms. Ochoa has worked for several elected officials in Orange County and most recently, she served as the Clerk of the Board for the TCA.

Mr. Avila introduced Darrell E. Johnson, CEO, OCTA, and Anne Mayer, Executive Officer, RCTC, who recognized retiring OCTA employee, Ken Phipps, Deputy CEO, for his 27 years of dedicated service to not only OCTA, but the residents of Orange and Riverside County.

14. Committee Members' Reports

Member Shaw commented on Mr. Phipps retirement, stated that when he first joined the OCTA Board, Mr. Phipps was the Finance Director and had been in that position during the great recession, and obviously had a lot of challenges there. Mr. Phipps likes to be in the background, been a great Deputy CEO to OCTA's CEO. Member Shaw wished Mr. Phipps the best in retirement.

Vice Chairman Hernandez, thanked his colleagues for the vote of confidence for the Vice Chairman election. In addition, stated that Mr. Phipps has been a mystery, an enigma, so to speak, but now can see he is just a plain golf guy who is very competitive.

Anne Mayer reported on RCTC updates as follows:

- The RCTC authorized the release of a draft traffic relief plan to the public for review and comments.
 - Available for review at TrafficReliefPlan.org.
 - In the first month for public review, over 2,500 completed surveys were submitted, as well as over 5,000 comments.
 - Conducting telephone townhalls, and outreach to the communities.
 - In June, RCTC Board will finalize the traffic relief plan and make a determination whether or not to put a half cent sales tax measure on the ballot of 2020.
- Next week's RCTC Board meeting, the commission will consider refinancing of the 91 Express Lanes debt:
 - When RCTC built the \$1.4 billion project, it had significant amount of debt in both Measure A debt toll revenue bonds as well as a Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovative Act (TIFIA) loan.
 - Considering a \$725 million refinancing of the debt which will save the overall cost by reducing the term of the debt, able to pay off the TIFIA loan, and would place the commission in control of all surplus revenue along the corridor.
 - The project has been generating traffic and revenues beyond expectations and it provides an opportunity to refinance and put some savings back into the corridor.

Vice Chairman Hernandez welcomed Ms. Ochoa on board who worked with his son for an elected official.



MINUTES

State Route 91 Advisory Committee Meeting

15. Closed Session

There were no Closed Session items scheduled.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Friday, June 5, 2020**, at the:

City of Corona - City Hall
400 South Vicentia Avenue
Council Chambers - First Floor
Corona, California.

ATTEST

Bob Magee
Committee Chairman

Martha M. Ochoa
Assistant Clerk of the Board