



MINUTES

Legislative and Communications Committee Meeting

Committee Members Present Via Teleconference:

Laurie Davies, Chair
Lisa A. Bartlett, Vice Chairwoman
Barbara Delgleize
Michael Hennessey
Gene Hernandez
Donald P. Wagner

Staff Present

Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
Jennifer L. Bergener, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Laurena Weinert, Clerk of the Board
Sara Meisenheimer, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Committee Members Absent

None

Via Teleconference:

James Donich, General Counsel

Call to Order

The October 15, 2020, regular meeting of the Legislative and Communications (L&C) Committee was called to order by Committee Chair Davies at 9:01 a.m.

Roll Call

The Deputy Clerk of the Board conducted an attendance Roll Call and announced that there was quorum of the L&C Committee.

Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Chair Davies led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Public Comments

No public comments were received.

Special Calendar

2. Conference Call with State Legislative Advocate Moira Topp

Moira Topp, State Legislative Advocate, reported on the following:

- This marks the end of the legislative session.
- The Legislature sent 428 bills to Governor, he vetoed 56, and signed 372. Usually, the total number of bills is up to 1,200. Due to the change in schedule because of the coronavirus (COVID-19), it has put a damper on legislation.
- A lot of the bills' focus has been on COVID-19, wildfire, homelessness and housing, and that focus will continue into 2021.

2. (Continued)

- The Governor and his administration have been active in the environmental agenda and has put out several executive orders, such as:
 - Executive Order N-79-20 – directs the California Air Resources Board to develop regulations that would meet 100 percent of in-state sales of passenger vehicles to be zero emissions by 2045.
 - Executive Order N-82-20 – conserves 30 percent of California's land by 2030.
- Some view that the Governor is using the Executive Orders as an opportunity to showcase his authority and to cut the legislature out of the policymaking process.
- The Legislature has been active in oversight hearings, especially in response to wildlife and the employment development department.
- Assembly Republican leadership changes include: Assemblywoman Marie Waldron (R-Escondido) and Assembly Member Heath Flora (R-Ripon).
- The moderate Democrats leadership changes include: Assemblywoman Blanca Rubio (D-West Covina) and Senator Maria Elena Durazo (D-Los Angeles).
- An open seat remains for the Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.
- If there is a change to the administration in Washington, D.C., members of the legislature, Congress, and high-ranking members of administration could pursue presidential appointments.

A discussion ensued regarding:

- Opportunities for various legislative caucuses to inform the Governor's actions on bills.
- Assembly Bill 5 and if there is an additional review after the Governor signs the bill.
- The referendum process and the money bail system being an example of that on the ballot.
- How strong the Executive Orders are and if they can be reevaluated. It will be more of a private conversation on how far some of executive orders can go.



Consent Calendar (Items 3 and 4)

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Director Hernandez, seconded by Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 6-0, to approve the minutes of the Legislative and Communications Committee meeting of August 20, 2020.

4. Agreement for Rideshare and Vanpool Marketing, Design, and Advertising Services

A motion was made by Director Hernandez, seconded by Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 6-0, to:

- A. Approve the selection of Brown Marketing Strategies, Inc. to provide rideshare and vanpool marketing, design, and advertising services.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-0-2206 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and Brown Marketing Strategies, Inc. in the amount of \$570,000, to provide rideshare and vanpool marketing, design, and advertising services for a two-year term, with a one-year option term.

Regular Calendar

5. Agreement for State Legislative Advocacy and Consulting Services

Lance Larson, Executive Director of Government Relations, provided opening comments and introduced Kristin Jacinto, Manager of State and Federal Relations, who reported on the following:

- Background on the current state legislative advocacy contract with Platinum Advisors, LLC and a subcontract with Topp Strategies, LLC (Topp Strategies).
- Overview of the procurement process and the recommendations.
- Moira Topp, who is the State Legislative Advocate from Topp Strategies, would continue to serve as the primary representative in Sacramento for the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA).
- OCTA would continue to seek a response to COVID-19 impacts, project funding, and work on several issues with coalitions.

5. (Continued)

A motion was made by Director Wagner, seconded by Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 6-0, to:

- A. Approve the selection of Topp Strategies, LLC, as the firm to provide state legislative advocacy and consulting services.
- B. Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Agreement No. C-0-2369 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and Topp Strategies, LLC, in the amount of \$420,000, for a two-year initial term, effective January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2022, with two, two-year options, to perform state legislative advocacy and consulting services.

6. Federal Legislative Status Report

Lance Larson, Executive Director of Government Relations, provided opening comments and introduced Dustin J. Sifford, Senior Government Relations Representative, who reported on the following:

- Overview of the wide gap on stimulus bills that Congress is considering.
- The House passed an amended version of the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act, which includes funding for transportation, but the proposal is not to be enacted in its current form.
- Congressional leaders are trying to compromise on the next phase of a stimulus relief, but it is not close to being completed.
- The House passed a continuing resolution through December 11th, which includes a one-year extension of surface transportation programs.

A discussion ensued regarding if there is a change in leadership and how it will affect transportation funding. The election results will immediately impact the COVID-19 relief negotiations, whereas the surface transportation reauthorization discussions will most likely take place next year. Any developments will depend on how quickly congressional leadership wants to act.

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

7. Draft 2021-22 State and Federal Legislative Platforms

Lance Larson, Executive Directors of Government Relations, provided opening comments and introduced Kristin Jacinto, Manager of State and Federal Relations, who reported on the following:

- Referenced Attachments A-D in the Staff Report, summarized the recommendation, and noted that in November this will be brought back to the L&C Committee for the final adoption.
- If any issues arise throughout the year, staff can bring this back to be updated as needed.
- Most of the changes in these platforms represent a larger effort to streamline the platforms and make the state and federal platforms more consistent.
- In the State Legislative Platform, there is a new Key Policy Issues section which matches what is done in the Federal Legislative Platform.
- The following priorities were included in both the State and Federal Legislative Platforms:
 - COVID-19 response efforts;
 - Economic stimulus funding;
 - How equity is addressed;
 - Added a principle on workforce development; and
 - Several provisions were removed like the principle related to National Environmental Policy Act delegation authority.
- In the Federal Legislative Platform, a provision was added related to tolling requirements. OCTA wants to ensure they are involved in the discussions related to how revenues generated from toll facilities are used and how the effectiveness from these facilities are measured.

A motion was made by Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett, seconded by Director Hennessey, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 5-0, to direct staff to continue developing the initial drafts of the 2021-22 State and Federal Legislative Platforms and prepare subsequent drafts for final approval.

Director Wagner was not present to vote on this item.



8. Update on Diversity Outreach and Inclusion Efforts

Ted Nguyen, Senior Section Manager of Public Outreach, provided a PowerPoint presentation as follows:

- Beyond Business and Translations;
- Delivering for Dynamic Demographics;
- Engagement Activities for Transportation;
- Cultural Celebrations;
- Multilingual COVID-19 Rapid Response;
- Surveying Hard-to-Reach Audiences;
- Diversity Community Leaders Group; and
- Creating Future Meaningful Outcomes.

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

Discussion Items

9. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), reported on the following:

- On Tuesday, October 13th, a CEO Connection telephone townhall took place for the operations employees at the bases.
- This afternoon, a virtual CEO Connection via Microsoft Teams will take place for OCTA's administrative employees.

10. Committee Members' Reports

There are no Committee Members' Reports.

11. Closed Session

There were no Closed Session items scheduled.



12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of this Committee will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2020**, at the Orange County Transportation Authority Headquarters, Conference Room 07, 550 South Main Street, Orange, California.

ATTEST

Laurie Davies
Committee Chair

Sahara Meisenheimer
Deputy Clerk of the Board