



Committee Members Present

Via Teleconference

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

Staff Present

Jennifer L. Bergener, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Allison Cheshire, Interim Deputy Clerk of the Board
Sara Meisenheimer, Deputy Clerk of the Board

Via Teleconference

Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer
James Donich, General Counsel

Committee Members Absent

None

Call to Order

The January 21, 2021 regular meeting of the Legislative and Communications (L&C) Committee was called to order by Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett 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:

- Introduction of bills in the 2021-22 legislative session
 - Introduction started in December 2020
 - Deadline is February 19
- Budget
 - Governor released \$227 billion budget on January 8
 - Recognizes a \$15 billion surplus
 - Proposal includes a portion of this to build-up the rainy-day fund
 - \$14 billion economic recovery
 - Including \$2.4 billion in near-term economic stimulus proposals, titled Golden State Stimulus

2. (Continued)

- \$1.5 billion is proposed for acceleration of zero emission vehicle infrastructure, which will be highly competitive
 - Excise taxes lower than projections
 - \$1.5 billion reduction through 2024-25
 - Recent federal COVID-19 relief bill
 - Provided \$10 billion for highway projects
 - Department of Finance expects \$900 million to come to California
 - Transit assistance
 - Policy relief on farebox recovery
 - Governor may support making those changes permanent or extending requirements
- Eviction moratorium bill
 - Set to expire January 31, 2021
 - Possible extension
- Senate Transportation Committee Chair
 - Senator Lena Gonzalez
- Assembly Transportation Committee Chair
 - Assemblywoman Laura Friedman

Director Delgleize asked for additional information on the eviction moratorium bill. Ms. Topp responded that there have been discussions about the bill and will most likely focus on residential side within the Governor's proposed budget. Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett commented that the County would soon be receiving \$60 million for the rental assistance program.

Consent Calendar (Items 3 and 4)

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Director Hernandez, seconded by Director Delgleize, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 5-0, to approve the minutes of the Legislative and Communications Committee meeting of November 19, 2020.

4. Amendment to Agreement for Bus Advertising Revenue Program

A motion was made by Director Hernandez, seconded by Director Delgleize, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 5-0, to authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute Amendment No. 4 to Agreement No. C-5-3076 between the Orange County Transportation Authority and Outfront Media Group, LLC, to eliminate the minimum annual guarantee and adopt a payment term based solely on a 70 percent revenue-sharing arrangement through December 2021.



Regular Calendar

5. State Legislative Status Report

Kristin Jacinto, Manager of State and Federal Relations, reported on the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) efforts to inform state guidance related to vaccine prioritization. The State has formed several committees to guide the review and distribution of vaccines within the state. One of the primary committees that has informed this effort is the Community Vaccine Advisory Committee (CVAC), which is charged with ensuring distribution recognizes equity, economic, and well-being considerations. OCTA has been working with transportation partners, including the California Transit Association, to submit comment letters to advocate for transportation frontline workers to be considered a priority group for vaccine distribution, given their interactions with the public on a regular basis. This advocacy led to a recommendation that transportation workers be included in Phase 1B of the vaccine distribution plan.

The CVAC met yesterday, and there was a robust discussion regarding the inclusion of people age 65 and over, as a priority focus of vaccine distribution and potential delays throughout the state that exists for essential workers getting the vaccine. Orange County still has a lot of discretion and input on their own prioritization efforts and OCTA staff is working closely with the County to ensure OCTA employees are included in those efforts.

Ms. Jacinto also reported that Liane Rudolph has been appointed the new Chair of the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Staff will continue to work with CARB on several transportation topics, specifically related to electric vehicle deployment as it pertains to transit and on the continued implementation of Senate Bill 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008).

No action was taken on this receive and file item.

6. Federal Legislative Status Report

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

- Congress passed an end-of-year bill providing both annual appropriations and one-time stimulus funding.
- Annual transportation funding bill provides relatively straightforward funding for formula and competitive programs.
- The emergency-designated stimulus funding will benefit both highway and transit programs.

6. (Continued)

- \$14 billion in Federal Transportation Administration funding that will mostly flow through Section 5307 and 5337 formula programs under an unprecedented funding distribution.
 - \$10 billion in Federal-aid highways funds that have flexible set of eligible uses to broadly include items like operating costs, administrative leave, and revenue losses.
- The bill also contains some specific labor provisions, including allowing contractors to receive funding and changes to paid and sick leave. These changes expire in March 2021, so additional policy changes may be forthcoming.
- The bill did not include funding for state and local governments or liability protections.

A discussion ensued regarding the use of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding for operating costs by contractors.

No action was taken on this receive and file item.

Discussion Items

7. Chief Executive Officer's Report

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

Vaccine Update

- Working through the County's Emergency Operations Center, yesterday OCTA sent a bus to transport medical workers from the Disneyland POD to a senior center in Santa Ana to administer the vaccine
- Transportation workers are in the prioritization of Tier 2 Phase 1B. To prepare for that, OCTA conducted a survey of the two employee work groups - administrative and professional staff and operations staff.
 - 70 percent of professional staff said they would be willing to accept the vaccine immediately
 - About half of the operations staff has indicated that they would be willing to accept the vaccine immediately

A discussion ensued among the Directors and staff regarding vaccine access, availability, and distribution. Committee Vice Chairwoman Bartlett commented that anyone interested in more information can contact her office or any Orange County Board of Supervisors staff.



8. Committee Members' Reports

There were no Committee Members' reports.

9. Closed Session

There were no Closed Session items scheduled.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of this Committee will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 18, 2021**, at the Orange County Transportation Authority Headquarters, Conference Room 07, 550 South Main Street, Orange, California.

ATTEST

Lisa A. Bartlett
Committee ViceChairwoman

Allison Cheshire
Deputy Clerk of the Board