



Committee Members Present

Via Teleconference

Lisa A. Bartlett, Chairwoman
Gene Hernandez, Vice Chairman
Barbara Delgleize
Michael Hennessey
Mark A. Murphy
Harry Sidhu
Donald P. Wagner

Staff Present

Jennifer L. Bergener, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Allison Cheshire, Interim Deputy Clerk of the Board
Sahara 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 March 18, 2021 regular meeting of the Legislative and Communications (L&C) Committee was called to order by Committee Chairwoman Bartlett at 9:03 a.m.

Roll Call

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Director Hennessey 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:

- March through May is the busiest time in terms of bills and the budget.
- The Governor and Legislature continue to work on early action items such as: eviction moratorium, Golden State Stimulus package/small business relief, and Family and Medical Leave Act.
- Next step will be handling any necessary legislation to implement the newest federal stimulus bill that just passed.
- Overview of the following:
 - SB 261 (Allen, D-Santa Monica)
 - Expanding relief for transit agencies due to the impacts of the coronavirus.



2. (Continued)

- Changes in the Legislature which include:
 - Vacancies in the State Assembly and Senate
 - An appointment from the Governor for State Attorney General.

A discussion ensued regarding AB 339 (Lee, D-Milpitas) and SB 274 (Wieckowski, D-San Francisco). Darrell E. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), commented that the bills have been on the Orange County Transportation Authority's (OCTA) watch list and, if a position was desired, it could go to the Executive Committee in April.

Director Wagner commented that he would like to recommend amending staff recommendations under Item 4, to recommend that the Board of Directors take an oppose position on AB 339 and SB 274. James Donich, General Counsel, commented that the path Director Wagner is considering is fully compliant and up to the Board of Directors' discretion.

Consent Calendar (Item 3)

3. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Director Hennessey, seconded by Committee Vice Chairman Hernandez, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 7-0, to approve the minutes of the Legislative and Communications Committee meeting of February 18, 2021.

Regular Calendar

4. State Legislative Status Report

Kristin Jacinto, Manager of State and Federal Relations, reported on the following:

- Overview of AB 1499 (Daly, D-Anaheim), which would extend design-build authority for highway projects indefinitely. OCTA originally sponsored a similar bill related to the Interstate 405 Improvement Project.
- Overview of SB 261, which would revise the SB 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008) process, extend it out beyond year 2035, and include further emission reduction requirements.
- OCTA has been seeking to have transit workers integrated into the state vaccine guidelines and was announced by the Governor that transit was included as a priority effective Monday, March 15, 2021.

4. (Continued)

Director Wagner commented that he supports staff recommendations, and as discussed earlier under Agenda Item 2, he would like to propose an additional recommendation to staff recommendations presented today and include an oppose unless amended position on AB 339 and SB 274.

A motion was made by Director Wagner, seconded by Director Murphy, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 7-0, to:

- A. Adopt a SUPPORT position on AB 1499 (Daly, D-Anaheim), which would remove the sunset date on existing design build authority for highway projects.
- B. Adopt an OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED position on SB 261 (Allen, D-Santa Monica), which would require metropolitan planning organizations to meet vehicle miles traveled reduction targets as part of the regional transportation plan.
- C. Adopt an OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED position on AB 339 (Lee, D-Milpitas), and SB 274 (Wieckowski, D-Fremont), which would revise the Ralph M. Brown Act requirements for local agencies.

5. Federal Legislative Status Report

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

- Federal Stimulus Package signed into law:
 - \$30.5 million is included for transit funding to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, with approximately \$26 billion would flow through most reliable federal transit formula program.
 - \$1.675 billion in supplemental funding for Capital Investments Grants. OCTA is expected to receive approximately \$9.4 million to be allocated to the OC Streetcar project.
 - Due to procedural rules, certain policies, like paid leave, were not included.
- Congress will continue to work on surface transportation reauthorization, with the current legislation expiring at the end of the federal fiscal year.

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



6. Agreement for Public Communications and Community Outreach Consultant Services for the State Route 55 Improvement Project Between Interstate 405 and Interstate 5

This item was deferred to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the L&C Committee on April 15, 2021.

Discussion Items

7. Chief Executive Officer's Report

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

- Public transit workers in California are eligible for the coronavirus vaccine beginning Monday, March 15, 2021.
- OCTA is seeking applicants for the Taxpayers Oversight Committee. The recruitment is done by the Orange County Grand Jury and applications are due May 2, 2021.
- Today is Transit Driver Appreciation Day and all employees, including Board Members, were sent a postcard and face covering in appreciation of their hard work over the past year.

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 9:42 a.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting on this Committee will be held at **9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2021**, at the Orange County Transportation Authority Headquarters, Conference Room 07, 550 South Main Street, Orange, California.

ATTEST

Lisa A. Bartlett
Chairwoman

Allison Cheshire
Interim Deputy Clerk of the Board