



MINUTES

Legislative and Communications Committee Meeting

Committee Members Present

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

Staff Present

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

Committee Members Absent

None

Via Teleconference

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

Call to Order

The June 17, 2021 regular meeting of the Legislative and Communications (L&C) Committee was called to order by Committee Chairwoman Bartlett at 9:02 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

Director Wagner 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:

- Following the Governor's release of his May Revision, legislative leaders released their plan. They released a deal and adopted the legislative analyst numbers which were in line with a strong projection of surplus.
- The Constitution requires the legislation to pass a balanced budget by June 15, 2021.
- On Tuesday, the Legislature did meet their constitutional obligation and passed a balanced budget.



2. (Continued)

- In the weeks to come, there will most likely be amendments to the budget or “budget bill juniors.”
- No trailer bills have been released and they will most likely bundle them all in a final discussion.
- The Governor did propose \$11 billion for its transportation surplus.
- The deadline for all bills to leave their house of origin was on June 4, 2021 (for Assembly and Senate bills).

Consent Calendar (Items 3 through 5)

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 May 20, 2021.

4. Citizens Advisory Committee Annual Update and Member Appointments

A motion was made by Director Hennessey, seconded by Committee Vice Chairman Hernandez, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 7-0, to receive and file the Citizens Advisory Committee status report.

5. Special Needs Advisory Committee Annual Update and Member Appointments

A motion was made by Director Hennessey, seconded by Committee Vice Chairman Hernandez, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 7-0, to receive and file the Special Needs Advisory Committee status report.

Regular Calendar

6. State Legislative Status Report

Lance Larson, Executive Director of Government Relations, provided opening comments and introduced Alexis Leicht, Associate Government Relations Representative, who reported on the following:

- Background on Assembly Bill (AB) 1282 (Chapter 643, Statutes of 2017) and how the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) supported legislation to establish a Transportation Permitting Task Force.

6. (Continued)

- The final report given to the Legislature described a variety of challenges and found that mitigation is one of the many culprits of the delay and inefficiency in transportation project delivery.
- In response to the report, Senate Bill (SB) 790 (Stern, D-Calabasas) was developed and creates a new compensatory environmental mitigation program.
- SB 790 would allow OCTA to work with the Department of Transportation on potential wildlife connectivity improvements as a part of future transportation projects. It is supported by the Ventura County Transportation Commission, along with a variety of other stakeholders.

Director Delgleize expressed her support for this bill and is happy that OCTA is committed to improving mitigation issues.

A motion was made by Director Delgleize, seconded by Committee Vice Chairman Hernandez, and following a roll call vote, declared passed 7-0, to adopt a SUPPORT position on SB 790 (Stern, D-Calabasas), which would create a new mitigation credit program for transportation projects that include wildlife connectivity benefits.

7. 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:

- An overview of the surface transportation reauthorization bills in both the House and Senate.
- The House bill is expected to be considered on the floor later this month, although the Senate has yet to draft a transit title. As such, it is unclear how the two chambers will potentially compromise on a reauthorization proposal.
- The key questions staff is tracking is whether Congress combines the reauthorization and infrastructure efforts into one package and if so, how much are they going to spend?
- There are many unknowns on the splits between reauthorization, or annual funding, and the one-time infrastructure spending.

7. (Continued)

A discussion ensued regarding:

- Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act and if a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) fee would be implemented on large trucks, regardless of the type of truck it is. Based on Congressional hearings, the issue has been discussed, but Congress has not made clear policy decisions. Staff will provide more information on these discussions. industry to address that topic.
- How a federal proposal would interact with VMT program in California, and if large trucks will still have to pay five cents per mile regardless of where they travel.
- The infrastructure proposal is outside of the regular normal surface reauthorization process and it is creating a flurry of activity and discussion.
- Nuria Fernandez is the newly nominated Federal Transit Administrator confirmed. She was most recently the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority.

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

Discussion Items

8. Marketing and Communications Update

Stella Lin, Department Manager of Marketing and Customer Engagement, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

No action was taken on this information item.

9. Chief Executive Officer's Report

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

- OCTA is continuing to move forward on the South Orange County Multimodal Transportation Study and on June 15, 2021, staff had an engaging discussion with several elected officials from south county, including Committee Chairwoman Bartlett and Director Muller. OCTA will be hosting a series meeting to get feedback and tonight at 5:30 p.m., OCTA will host a telephone townhall that will also be simulcast in Spanish. A recording of the presentation will be made available on OCTA's website following the meeting.



9. (Continued)

- On June 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., OCTA will host a stakeholder roundtable via Zoom. Staff will also be promoting an online survey as well as a virtual meeting room. For people to learn more about the study, the survey will stay open until July 12, 2021. All of this information is available at octa.net/southocstudy.

10. Committee Members' Reports

Committee Chairwoman Bartlett inquired about the recent coach operator assaults on the buses. Mr. Johnson, CEO, responded since ridership has increased, coach operator assaults have increased. He also stated that this will be discussed at the Executive Committee meeting.

11. Closed Session

There were no Closed Session items scheduled.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

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

ATTEST

Lisa A. Bartlett
Committee Chairwoman

Sahara Meisenheimer
Deputy Clerk of the Board