



SWAT

Danville • Lafayette • Moraga • Orinda • San Ramon & the County of Contra Costa

SUMMARY MINUTES
June 6, 2011 – 3:00 p.m.
Orinda City Hall
Sarge Littlehale Community Room
22 Orinda Way
Orinda, California

Committee Members Present: Amy Worth, City of Orinda (Chair); Mike Metcalf, Town of Moraga (Vice Chair); Dave Hudson, City of San Ramon; Don Tatzin, City of Lafayette; Gayle Uilkema, Contra Costa County; Karen Stepper, Town of Danville

Staff members present: John Cunningham, Contra Costa County; Richard Yee, City of Orinda; Lori Salamack, Town of Moraga; Tai Williams, Town of Danville; Lisa Bobadilla, City of San Ramon; Leah Greenblat, City of Lafayette; Andy Dillard, Town of Danville; Carol Yates, Contra Costa County District II Supervisor's Office; Janice Carey, City of Orinda; Jill Mercurio, Town of Moraga

Others present: Hisham Noeimi, CCTA; Ross Chittenden, CCTA

1. **CONVENE MEETING/SELF INTRODUCTIONS:** Meeting called to order by Chair Worth at 3:05 p.m.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
3. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENT:** None
4. **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:** Andy Dillard recorded the minutes. Extra agenda packets were made available.
5. **CONSENT CALENDAR:**
 - 5.A **Approval of Minutes:** SWAT minutes of May 2, 2011
ACTION: Tatzin/Metcalf/unanimous

End of Consent Calendar

6. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS:

- 6.A Consider and Approve the CMAQ Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Capital Project for the SWAT Subregion:** Tai Williams presented this item. It was explained that the SWAT TAC had reached consensus on recommending a single, proposed project approach for the Lamorinda area for the utilization of CMAQ Safe Routes to School (SR2S) funds. The proposed project consists of the construction of a pedestrian pathway on Moraga Way in the City of Orinda. Via a motion, Mike Metcalf commented that the Lafayette Fee and Financing Authority (LFFA) and the Lamorinda Project Management Committee (LPMC) has discussed and approved a recommendation of support for the Moraga Way Pedestrian Pathway project, and further explained that LFFA would work on formulating a financing agreement with the City of Orinda for a reciprocal funds exchange.

ACTION: Metcalf/Tatzin/Unanimous

- 6.B Presentation on the Bay Area Regional Express Lane Network and “Backbone Concept”:** Ross Chittenden, CCTA staff provided a detailed and lengthy presentation on the Bay Area Express Lane “Backbone” Network that is currently being developed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). MTC is seeking support from the Bay Area CMA’s for the development of such a network. SWAT engaged in a lengthy discussion throughout the presentation, and had several comments, inquiries, and concerns related to network operations, costs, impacts, effectiveness, and sustainability associated with an Express Lane Network:

- Several questions and inquiries were raised in regards to the operating technologies of High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, including technologies that support dynamic pricing;
- Inquiries were raised in regards to the effect of Express Lanes on transit operations and service;
- It was presented that express lanes have been identified as a “proven tool for managing traffic”. Committee members had questions as to how this has been measured, or quantified through studies, in arriving at this conclusion;
- Concerns whether there is sufficient excess capacity to “sell” and sustain proposed HOT lanes, as proposed, throughout the region;
- Concerns regarding the business model upon which the system is proposed to be built upon. With an estimated 50% administrative overhead, it would appear to be an inefficient and unjust method of taxation;
- It was stated that the business model only works with an increase in the required vehicle occupancy for carpoolers, and as such there were concerns with how this would impact the utilization of HOV lanes, and whether HOT lanes would achieve the intended goal of higher vehicular occupancy or alternative transportation modes;
- There were general concerns regarding operating costs and the sustainability of Express Lanes;
- It was questioned if there will be defined performance parameters for determining the trigger for constructing HOT lanes;

- Concerns that funds required to install HOT lanes may shift funds away from projects that could be used to complete high-priority HOV gap closures, and which have been identified in congestion mitigation strategies such as the State Route 24 Corridor System Management Plan/Freeway Performance Initiative Study;
- There were inquiries related to operating agreements, either in the form of JEPAs or other types of joint agreements, that would be required across the Network for the purpose of controlling operations, maintenance, and revenues;
- Concerns were raised regarding defined ingress/egress points of HOT lanes, and it was stressed that a continuous access network should be considered rather than pre-defined, single ingress/egress points of access;
- The construction and completion of all identified HOV gap closures should be in place and seamless before supporting the construction of HOT lanes;
- It was questioned what the implication would be of initially supporting the conceptual development of an Express Lane Network for the Bay Area.

A summary of comments will be forwarded to the Authority on behalf of SWAT. As additional information on the development of the Bay Area Express Lane Network becomes available, Authority staff will return to SWAT with updates.

ACTION: None

6.C Review 2011 Measure J Strategic Plan Update: Hisham Noeimi, CCTA staff provided a brief presentation on the 2011 Measure J Strategic Plan and projections. It was reiterated that due to the economic downturn, the initially projected Measure J revenues have fallen short, and project funding caps had been reduced to 66%. Revenues projected in the 2011 Strategic Expenditure Plan have again been reduced by approximately 3-4% due to lower than expected revenues in 2009 and 2010. However, there is an expected increase in revenues for 2011, and would be the first increase in three years. With the commitments to the Caldecott Tunnel project, the cap set for the remaining projects in the SWAT region is approximately 34%. However, it is anticipated that there will be cost savings with the Caldecott Tunnel project that will be fed back into the SWAT program category once the project has been completed, and will be realized in the next Strategic Expenditure Plan update. At that time, it will need to be determined which projects/programs any additional revenues/savings should be placed. In relation to the current projections and funding caps, Mike Metcalf asked what the potential impacts were to the Lamorinda School Bus and TRAFFIX Student Transportation Programs. Hisham Noeimi explained that the programs are funded based on a fixed percentage of sales tax revenue, and caps are not applied as they are for project categories. Tai Williams pointed out that SWAT will want to consider conducting policy-level discussions, around the time of the next Strategic Expenditure Plan update, in order to prioritize projects and/or adjust funding caps. The 2011 Strategic Expenditure Plan will go to the Authority Board for final adoption in July.

ACTION: None

7. **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** The following written communication items were made available:

- CCTA summary of actions from Board meeting of 5/18/11
- TRANSPLAN summary of actions from Committee meeting of 5/12/11
- WCCTAC summary of actions from Committee meetings of 4/27/11 and 5/27/11
- TRANSPAC summary of actions from Committee meeting of 4/21/11
- Town of Danville – Notice of Preparation of EIR for General Plan Update
- Contra Costa County – Notice of Preparation of Draft EIR for Proposed New Farm Project

ACTION: None

8. **DISCUSSION: Next Meeting** – Andy Dillard announced that the next SWAT meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 11th due to the 4th of July holiday.

ACTION: None

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, July 11, 2011** at Orinda City Hall, Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA.

ACTION: Meeting adjourned by Chair Worth at 4:45 p.m.

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Agendas, minutes and other information regarding this committee can be found at: www.cccounty.us/SWAT