

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Land Use and Transportation Committee Meeting Notes: May 2, 2012

Present: David Schnapf, chair; Priscilla Bull, Nona Dennis, Don Dickinson, Randy Greenberg, Jana Haehl, Karen Nygren, Roger Roberts, Susan Stompe, Ann Thomas, Don Wilhelm, Doug Wilson. Met at MCL, 9 to 11 AM.

Agenda. Approved with transportation discussion to be the first item. **April 4, 2012 Meeting Notes:** Approved with one edit.

Transportation. As there was a short agenda, most of the meeting was a general discussion on several transportation issues with Karen and Don W providing most of the input.

School Transportation. This topic came up as student drop-off and pick-up is a major contributor to traffic congestion during the morning peak hour and at mid-afternoon. The Safe Routes to School program has been effective in reducing vehicular traffic to and from schools by providing safe walking and biking routes for young students in many county schools. Wendy Kallins may be invited to attend a future committee meeting to review the program. 2) Crossing guards are funded separately from the educational budget so may not be affected by the success or failure of the Governor's tax measure on the November ballot. 3) School buses were discontinued long ago in most districts and although some high school students take public transit, state and federal law prohibit public transit buses from also serving as school buses for elementary students.

Narrows Construction. Design of this project, to add lane capacity on Hwy 101 between Novato and Petaluma, is almost completed. Karen and Don W stated concerns that the current design has been changed from what was originally planned and includes some environmentally problematic features: tree removal, shoulders widened with concomitant filling, reconstruction of bridge, frontage road on east side of 101 would go through wetlands. Susan noted the only element of the widening that is funded so far is the extension of the frontage road and she suggested discussing with Supervisors or staff changes made and whether or not the public had been duly informed if they differed from what was described in the EIR. Committee agreed to ask Jit Pandher, Principal Project Delivery Person with the Transportation Authority of Marin, to a Land Use Committee meeting to review the project for us. Either a special meeting or the next regular meeting would be suggested – Don W will contact Jit and ask him for available dates/times.

Measure A Funds. These have been used for several purposes and are still available for large road projects on Miller Avenue in Mill Valley and on sections of Novato Blvd.

Samuel P Taylor/SFD. Work will be done August through October. There will be no widening of the existing roadway, and no redwoods and only a few madrone trees will be removed. Due to costs not all culverts will be replaced; instead many of the storm drains will be slip lined.

Greenbrae Corridor/101 Interchange. There has been consensus on plans for the northbound direction but Corte Madera has opposed proposed projects in the southbound direction. These include a 57-foot high flyover between SFD and Wornum Drive which would funnel traffic onto Tamal Vista Blvd. The town is in talks with Caltrans about this flying ramp and TAM doesn't have the funding or a completed EIR for the southbound proposal so it may be open to change. Committee agreed to support Corte Madera's efforts to at least get another alternative, one more acceptable to the town, studied in the EIR. Jana will draft a letter.

SMART/AB1962. This bill, authored by Michael Allen, would delete the provision in the legislation creating SMART that requires the rail district to comply with the design review process of the local jurisdiction in which any rail transit facilities are to be constructed.

San Rafael Airport Sports Complex. Consideration was re-scheduled to May 29 at the San Rafael Planning Commission. The postponement was induced by a letter San Rafael received from the CalTrans aeronautical division citing new precautions for sports facilities near airports, especially sports involving children. This may create new liability issues for San Rafael.

MTC/Priority Conservation Area Funding. Former MCL board member Michelle Passero sent a suggested letter for MCL to send to MTC regarding Priority Conservation Area funds not going to road projects. **M/S/C – That MCL send a letter to MTC supporting funding for PCAs, but not for road projects.** David offered to draft the letter and circulate it to the committee before sending it.

Local Coastal Plan. The hearing scheduled for May 22 has been cancelled because of staff changes at the Coastal Commission. The August and September hearings remain as scheduled.

Port Sonoma/Carneros project. David announced that Sonoma has sent out an RFP for an EIR on the project.

Solar Panel Proposal in Wetlands. Nona brought up a proposal for solar panels over a marsh in Novato area. The North Marin Unit will discuss this at the next meeting.

Notes: SS and AT