

January 28, 2021

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

FROM: Anne Richman, Executive Director

RE: Executive Director's Report – Agenda Item 4 (Discussion)

## **Local**

### **Small Safe Pathway Project**

In October 2019, the TAM Board allocated Measure AA funds in the amount of \$4,461,000 to 13 large projects and \$700,000 to 14 small projects from the Fourth Cycle Safe Pathways to Schools Call for Projects. Small Safe Pathway projects are considered small scale safety projects that are relatively inexpensive and quicker to implement than large Safe Pathway projects.

Included in the allocations was \$50,000 for San Rafael's Fifth Avenue/River Oaks Road Small Safe Pathway Project adjacent to Sun Valley Elementary School. The improvements for the project include new curb ramps on the south side of Fifth Avenue, west of River Oaks Road, new landing on the north side of Fifth Avenue, high-visibility yellow crosswalk striping, advance yield lines and yield signage, and additional red curb to improve sightlines.

San Rafael completed the project in August 2020 approximately 35% under budget. The unused funds will return to the Measure AA Category 3.3 Small Safe Pathway for future programming.



### New Resources to Support EV Adoption



TAM is pleased to release new technical resources to support adoption of plug-in and zero-emission vehicles, including E-bikes in Marin County. The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Marin County, and TAM supports efforts to reduce pollution and congestion in the County.

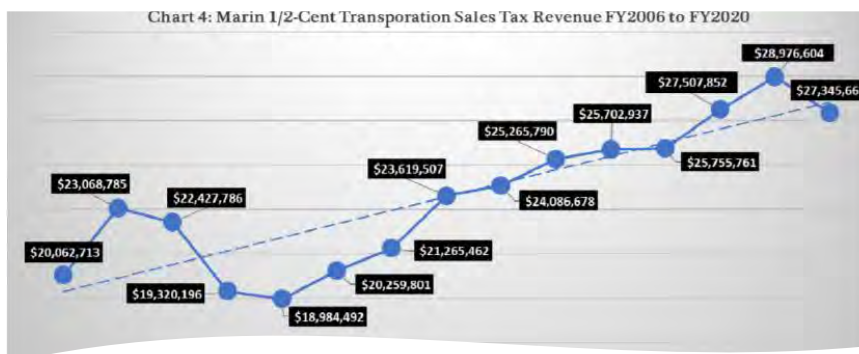
- [An E-bike Study](#) that provides context on the technology and identifies potential strategies to support E-bike adoption in Marin County.
- [A Parking Lot Study](#) that identifies potential locations for EV charging stations on public property.
- [A Public Agency Toolkit](#) that provides a comprehensive how-to guide for public agencies to install EV charging stations and convert their fleet to cleaner technologies.

### North South Greenway Multi-Use Pathway Project – Northern Segment

Construction is about to commence on the gap closure project extending the Greenway over Corte Madera Creek. TAM has been the sponsor of this complex project for the last five years and we are very pleased to have reached this milestone. A new 12' wide multiuse path will replace the sub-standard 4' sidewalk adjacent to the northbound highway off ramp to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. The project has been developed in partnership with the City of Larkspur and Caltrans. The Caltrans construction division will administer and provide oversight of the project as this is an asset on the state highway system. The contractor is expected to mobilize in the middle of February so the public will begin to see activities shortly thereafter.



### Sales Tax and Vehicle Registration Fee Revenue Updates



As staff reports in the second quarter financial report, last March the Board adopted a revenue estimate of \$24.75M for FY2020-21, about a 10% drop from the final FY2019-20 revenue collection level of \$27.43M, due to the unprecedented economic disruption and long-term uncertainty caused by COVID-19. However, current indicators suggest that sales tax collection in Marin hasn't been negatively impacted since the Shelter in Place (SIP)

order has brought more taxable spending home as well as created new taxable spending that now is possible with many Marin residents working from home, such as home improvement and landscaping projects, etc. Based on the disbursement received as of December 31, 2020 and the unique character of this economic disruption, staff believes there is a good chance that we can exceed the budget level and collect close to what was collected in FY2019-20 due to the relatively stable taxable sales base in the County.

At the FY2021-2022 Transit Revenue Forecast Roundtable hosted by MTC on January 25, staff from the California Department of Finance (DOF) shared data that supports strong sales tax collection for the current year and for FY2021-22 statewide but warned about potential negative growth after that. DOF staff also pointed out that San Mateo, San Francisco, and Alameda counties have seen some of the largest drops in sales tax revenue due to their reliance on daily commuters, tourism, convention, events, etc.

DOF staff also provide an update on various motor vehicle revenues. Since TAM's Measure B Vehicle Registration Fee is a flat fee, based on the number of vehicles registered in the County, no major revenue change is expected as reported before.

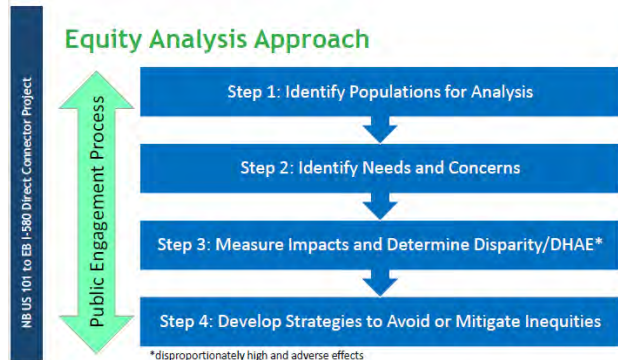
### Vehicle Miles Traveled Interactive Map on TAM Website



SB 743 (Steinberg, 2013) updated the way transportation impacts are measured as part of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for new development projects. Lead agencies are now required to analyze Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as part of the transportation impact analysis requirements under CEQA. To support local lead agencies to meet these requirements, TAM has developed an activity-based model, the TAM Demand Model (TAMDM) to provide estimates of existing and forecasted VMT per capita in Marin County. The [TAM website now includes a webmap](#) of existing (2015) and forecasted (2040) estimates of VMT per capita as resources to support cities and towns.

### Marin 101-580 Project Outreach and Stakeholder Working Group Update

Outreach continues for the Marin 101-580 Direct Connector Project, including recent meetings with the City of San Rafael staff and City Council, the Canal Alliance, Multicultural Center of Marin, an equity educator from UCB, a local public art leader, the Marin Conservation League, and the Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods. Stakeholder Working Group meeting #4 was held on Wednesday, January 20. The meeting focused on equity issues and ways to ensure equity considerations are included throughout the project development process. The presentation is available on the [Marin 101-580 project webpage](#) on the TAM website.

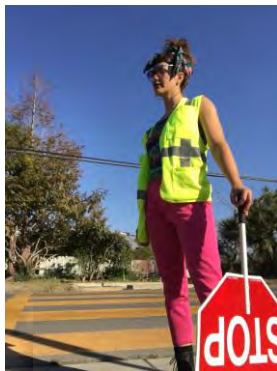


### East Blithedale Rehabilitation Project Moves Towards Construction in 2021

The East Blithedale Avenue Rehabilitation Project in Mill Valley is moving towards an anticipated kick-off of project construction for Phase 1 (Highway 101 to Camino Alto) in Summer of 2021. This project is partially funded through TAM's Major Roads program. The Mill Valley City Council received a project update at their January 7 meeting and the City maintains a [webpage](#) with details and presentation materials.



### Crossing Guard of the Year – Meredith Groves



In 2020, Meredith Groves was selected as Crossing Guard of the Year for her positive attitude and professional attention the safety of students crossing the road to school. In her role, she was also a town greeter, providing smiles and waves to community members as they traveled by the school. John Carroll, Superintendent of the Bolinas-Stinson Unified School District, noted that the crossing guard is often the first person students encounter as their school day begins, and Ms. Groves always made children feel safe and welcome. Mr. Carroll and school board trustees commended her attention to safety and welcoming nature as a crossing guard.

## Regional

### Plan Bay Area 2050: Final Blueprint Analysis Released

MTC and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) have released the [Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint](#) — a major milestone in the development of Plan Bay Area 2050, the Bay Area's long-range plan to guide transportation investments and growth of the nine-county region for the next generation.

The Plan Bay Area 2050 Final Blueprint, which is made up of the strategies, growth geographies, and regional growth forecast, was approved by MTC and ABAG.



## Caltrans District 4 Draft Pedestrian Plan

The Caltrans District 4 Draft Pedestrian Plan is available for public review and comment. As part of the public review period, Caltrans is conducting an additional map-based survey. This survey will be used to check and enhance the data that has already been collected and analyzed.

The following are links to the survey and plan elements:

- [Public survey](#)
- [Draft Report](#)
- [Story Map](#)



TAM staff has also distributed this information to local public works and planning departments along with the TAM Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and has encouraged further sharing of the materials. Staff has also shared locations from local bicycle and pedestrian plans with Caltrans to consider adding into the District 4 Pedestrian Plan.

## Caltrans Bay Area Bike Highway Study Website Launch & Survey

Caltrans has initiated a Bay Area Bike Highway Study and launched the Bike Highway Study website: <https://d4bikehighwaystudy.org/>. The site features an online survey, which will be open for 6-8 weeks and will help define the bike highway best practices. This study builds on the recommendations included in the 2018 Caltrans District 4 Bike Plan and the 2017 California State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Toward an Active California.



## Federal

### COVID Relief Package December 2020



On December 21, 2020, Congress approved a combined \$2.3 trillion COVID relief package which was then signed by the President. The package includes funding for transportation. Some of the key transportation highlights include:

- o \$14 billion in supplemental funding to public transit, of which \$975 million will go to the Bay Area to assist the region's transit operators

- Determining the distribution to specific operators rests with MTC
- The package also includes:
  - \$678 million in Section 5311 funds (Formula grants to rural areas) which are distributed directly to Caltrans
  - \$50 million for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities program, also distributed at the state level
  - \$2 billion for the Capital Investment Grant program, FTA's major transit expansion program
  - \$10 billion for Highway Infrastructure Program (public transit and bicycle and pedestrian improvements are eligible under this category)
    - California's formula portion of approximately \$900 million will be distributed to Caltrans and a portion could also be suballocated to regions
    - Caltrans is awaiting further guidance from FHWA
    - Backfilling the SHOPP and STIP from lost gas tax revenues is under consideration
    - COVID relief funds are highly flexible and allowed to be used for operating purposes as well as backfilling for lost toll revenue
  - Extra \$2 billion in General Fund monies for a Highway Infrastructure Program, focused on capital, that includes the key set-asides, among others:
    - \$1 billion for bridge replacement and rehabilitation (capped at \$6 million per state)
    - \$640 million for Surface Transportation Program (STP) supplemental funds and alternative fuel charging infrastructure
    - \$50 million for a competitive program for railroad grade crossings
    - MTC is analyzing the legislation to determine how much of this supplemental highway funding will come to the Bay Area for programming
  - \$1 billion for National Infrastructure Investments, known as the BUILD program, formerly known as the TIGER Program
    - Competitive program
    - Award floor of \$5 million, a cap of \$25 million and limits states to receiving no more than 10% of the funds