



DRAFT MINUTES

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

1. Roll Call

Chair Avalos called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

Present at Roll Call: Commissioners Avalos, Campos, Cohen and Mar (4)

Absent at Roll Call: Commissioner Kim (entered during Item 3) (1)

2. Approve the Minutes of the February 10, 2015 Meeting – ACTION

There was no public comment.

The minutes were approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Campos, Cohen and Mar (4)

Absent: Commissioner Kim (1)

3. State and Federal Legislative Update –ACTION

Mark Watts, State Legislative Advocate for the Transportation Authority, presented the item.

Chair Avalos asked about the status of Assembly Bill (AB) 1138, which would prevent high-speed rail from moving forward. Mr. Watts responded that it would likely fail similar to efforts last year.

Chair Avalos asked if Governor Brown was likely to support AB 228. Mr. Watts replied that the California Department of Finance was likely to oppose it over concerns about loan repayment.

Chair Avalos asked if AB 464 would have to be passed by the legislature only and not the voters. Mr. Watts responded in the affirmative since it was statutory legislation. Chair Avalos asked if the bill would modify the required voter threshold for local sales tax measures. Mr. Watts responded that another bill would address that concern.

Mr. Watts said a bill similar to AB 516, which would require temporary license plates, failed last year. Chair Avalos asked if the bill would require an appropriation. Mr. Watts stated that there probably would be one as the bill imposed a state mandate.

Commissioner Campos asked what staff was doing to protect local interests in AB 194. Tilly Chang, Executive Director, replied that she had communicated with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and other agencies to seek stronger language than “consult” to protect local interests. She added that managed lanes were already authorized in the East Bay and South Bay, and she wanted to improve upon this. Commissioner Campos asked how MTC staff had responded to her advocacy. Ms. Chang said they hadn’t reached agreement yet.

Commissioner Mar asked why staff proposed to support Senate Bill (SB) 564 but recommended watch positions on SB 595 and SB 632. Mr. Watts responded that the redefinition of school zones would have unintended consequences that the author was working to address.

Commissioner Mar moved to amend the item to change the position on AB 40 from watch to support, seconded by Commissioner Campos. Commissioner Mar noted that the Golden Gate Bridge was a historic treasure and access for pedestrians and cyclists shouldn't be restricted. Commissioner Kim also expressed support for AB 40.

Commissioner Kim asked what the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) would do with camera enforcement through AB 1287. Ms. Chang responded that currently, SFMTA used cameras to enforce double parking, but the bill would allow SFMTA to enforce moving violations such as use of a transit only lane. Commissioner Kim asked how SFMTA proved that a car was double parked and how many tickets had been issued. Ms. Chang offered to get back to the commissioner with details. Commissioner Kim said she supported legislation to allow enforcement of transit only lanes and supported opposing AB 1160 which would prevent safety cameras. Ms. Chang said she did not know how many red light cameras the city had but that she would get back to the commissioner and could also bring the information to the next Vision Zero Committee meeting.

There was no public comment.

The amendment to the item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Campos, Cohen, Kim and Mar (5)

The amended item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Campos, Cohen, Kim and Mar (5)

4. Recommend Amending the Adopted Fiscal Year 2014/15 Budget to Increase Revenues by \$2,959,881 and Decrease Expenditures by \$29,750,654 for a Total Net Increase in Fund Balance of \$32,710,535 – ACTION

Cynthia Fong, Deputy Director for Finance and Administration, presented the item per the staff memorandum.

Commissioner Campos asked who was responsible for disposing of the contaminated soil found in the Folsom and Fremont Street Off-Ramp realignment project.

Tilly Chang, Executive Director, responded that the Transportation Authority, on behalf of the San Francisco Office of Investment and Infrastructure, was the project sponsor and therefore the responsible party to facilitate the movement of the contaminated soil. She added that while the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) owned the property, the City would permanently be considered the generator of the material and responsible for the material, even after it was properly disposed of.

Commissioner Campos asked if Caltrans would reimburse the Transportation Authority for disposing of the material.

Ms. Chang responded that the material could have been laid there five to ten years ago when Caltrans completed the west span approach project but that Caltrans believed that project was independent of this one and did not have responsibility in this case. She said the City held the sole responsibility because it was disturbing the material and causing the ramp to be rebuilt.

Chair Avalos asked what the expected trend for sales tax revenues would be in Fiscal Year 2015/16 and how staff planned to budget for the next fiscal year.

Ms. Fong responded that the Transportation Authority worked with Beacon Economics to study sales tax trends and that Beacon Economics projected a three percent increase in the next fiscal year. She said the projections were reviewed every few years and that she also worked with the San Francisco Office of the Controller to compare estimates. Ms. Fong added that staff was currently preparing the Fiscal Year 2015/16 budget and that it would be brought before the Board in May.

Chair Avalos asked if the Transportation Authority ever had a different projection for sales tax revenues than the Office of the Controller.

Ms. Fong responded that the numbers were generally aligned and that the two agencies compared numbers on a yearly basis to reconcile any discrepancies.

Chair Avalos asked if the biggest amendment to this year's budget was decreasing the expected expenditure of \$25 million for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency's Radio Replacement Project, and whether any costs not incurred in this fiscal year would rollover into next fiscal year.

Ms. Fong responded in the affirmative to both questions, and stated that it represented \$25 million of the total \$30 million adjustment for Capital Projects expenditures in the budget amendment.

There was no public comment.

The item was approved without objection by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners Avalos, Campos, Cohen, Kim and Mar (5)

5. Introduction of New Items

There was no public comment.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.