



**TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC WORKS POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS
Thursday, March 21, 2024**

ATTENDANCE

Members: Colleen Wallace (Chair); Holly Andreatta; Yasmine Arellano; Newell Arnerich; Melanie Bagby; Greg Barton; Liz Becerra; Joseph Bernal; Chelsea Byers; John Cale; John Campbell; Amanda Cortez; Omar Dadabhoy; Bob Engler; Peggy Flynn; Anders Fung; Thomas Gaffrey; Gaurav Garg; Chris Kelley; Trish Kelley; Peter Kraut; Marilyn Librers; Marianna Marysheva; Brian McCarthy; Jennifer Mendoza; Linda Molina; Jenelle Osborne; Brian Pierik; Ann Schneider; Margaret Talamantes; Helen Tran; Alexander Trinidad; Bryce Wilson; Scott Wolfe; Aaron Zavala; Cesar Zepeda

Cal Cities Partners: Alicia Berhow.

Staff: Damon Conklin, Legislative Affairs Lobbyist
Waleed Hojeij, Legislative Affairs Analyst

I. General Briefing

In accordance with the customary practice of convening all policy committee members for a general briefing prior to the start of policy committee meetings, the Cal Cities advocacy team provided a [General Briefing Update](#), which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities.

II. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Chair Colleen Wallace welcomed committee members and thanked them for their participation.

III. Public Comment

Chair Wallace asked if there was any public comment. None were provided.

IV. Department of Transportation: Road Usage Charge

Lauren Prehoda, Road Use Charge Program Manager, Caltrans, provided the committee with a presentation on the Road Usage Charge program, focusing on specific policy issues related to its implementation. There was discussion on the potential for stabilizing revenues through road charges and an examination of constitutional constraints, particularly Article 19. During the meeting, members discussed transportation funding issues in their cities, with one speaker expressing skepticism regarding the replacement of gas taxes but acknowledged the need for a change with the increased use of electric vehicles.

V. Department of Transportation: IIJA Federal Grant Update

Ryan Greenway, Assistant Federal Liaison, Caltrans, provided the committee with a presentation that highlighted key aspects of the IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) and its implications for California cities. With \$1.2 trillion allocated over five years, including \$500 million for new programs, Mr. Greenway indicated

that the IJJA continues to represent a significant investment in infrastructure for the state of California and local municipalities located within. Following the presentation, members engaged in discussions on various infrastructure projects and funding opportunities. High-speed rail expansion, particularly the extension from San Francisco to Southern California, was a focal point. Additionally, there were inquiries to seek Caltrans' support in securing funding for a bottleneck relief projects in various local jurisdictions. Members were also encouraged to share their experiences with grant programs and suggest improvements to streamline the processes.

VI. Legislative Agenda

Cal Cities staff presented two transportation bills - [AB 2290 \(Friedman\)](#) and [SB 1216 \(Blakespear\)](#). Cal Cities staff provided context to these measures by describing the different types of bikes and bike lanes that are codified in state statute.

AB 2290 would restrict the allocation of funding for local jurisdictions from the Active Transportation Program (ATP) for class three bikeway projects to those on residential streets with a speed limit of 20 mph or less.

Concerns were raised about the threat to local control and potential impacts to pending applications from the ATP program. There were also issues around unfunded mandates, permitting processes, and engineering safety concerns with bike lanes were debated. It was agreed that more planning and funding is needed for transportation infrastructure projects. During the discussion, speakers highlighted key concerns and suggestions. One speaker underscored potential impacts on bicycle master plans and connectivity.

The policy committee voted to take a position of "Oppose Unless Amend" with direction to Cal Cities staff to work with the author's office to incorporate "where feasible and cost effective" language to the measure to preserve local flexibility.

Cal Cities staff presented SB 1216, which would restrict class three bikeways on roads over 30 mph and redistribute ATP funds.

The committee discussed concerns that the policy sought to prioritize connectivity between cities over individual projects. Additional concerns were raised about linking emerging e-bikes to funding and engineering safety in bike lanes. Arguments against revising plans for new technologies were presented, advocating for safer roads instead. Members requested further clarification regarding the objectives of lane markings, considering the costs involved.

The policy committee voted to take an "Oppose" position. The committee suggests Cal Cities work with the author's office to clarify language as the measure as written is ambiguous and advocate for technical changes.

Cal Cities staff presented [AB 2427 \(McCarty\)](#), which would require local governments to develop permitting requirements for curbside EV chargers and

publish those requirements on a publicly accessible website, if the local agencies has an internet website.

AB 2427 sparked an in-depth discussion on electric vehicle charging infrastructure planning, costs, and the balance between transparency, local control and flexibility for municipalities. Members expressed concerns over AB 2427's potential impact on city staff workload without funding and potential unintended consequences like displacing parking in commercial areas.

The policy committee voted to take a neutral position on this measure and directed Cal Cities staff to continue to work with the author and stakeholders to further refine the bill and ensure local government interests are preserved.

V. Legislative Update

Due to limited time, Cal Cities staff was unable to provide a legislative update but committed to send an update by email to the committee members.

VI. Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Chair Wallace adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Next Virtual Meeting: Thursday, June 20, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.