



**TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS
Thursday, June 9th, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

Members: Veronica Vargas (Chair); Priya Bhat-Patel (Vice Chair); Jan Arbuckle; Greg Barton; John Bauters; Liz Becerra; Debra Black; Arthur Brown; Kristen Brown; Cal Campbell; Amanda Carter; Kathryn Downs; Robert Engler; John Erikson; Paul Fadelli; Ben Fine; Martha Flores; Alice Fredericks; Teresa Gerring; Alma Hernandez; Kelly Honig; Mike Johnson; Fred Jung; Lynne Kennedy; Peter Kraut; Jeffrey Maloney; John McKay; Bynette Mote; Izzy Murguia; Gina Papan; Dan Parra; Kelli Pickler; Sandy Rains; Ed Reece; Steve Sanchez; Alyssa Silhi; Steven Vargas; Colleen Wallace; Dennis Wilberg; Scott Wolfe; Rita Xavier; Yan Zhao

League Partners: Alicia Berhow

Staff: Damon Conklin, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist, dconklin@calcities.org

I. Welcome and Introductions

President Cindy Silva, Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek, and Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director and CEO, welcomed everyone to the third policy committee meeting of the year and thanked members for their service to all California cities. President Cindy Silva, Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek, explained that while policy discussions can be lively and members may not always agree, Cal Cities derives its strength as a member-driven organization from this deliberative debate and recommendation process.

Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director discussed our efforts in Washington D.C. and thanked the chair and vice chair for the leadership of this committee and thanked committee members for their service and support for participating in the committees. She explained that policy committees are vitally important and directly connected to Cal Cities' core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities.

Chair Vargas and Vice Chair Bhat-Patel welcomed committee members and provided an introduction. They reminded members that the month of June is immigrant heritage month. This country is founded by immigrants, and we want to acknowledge them.

II. Public Comment

Chair Vargas asked if there was any public comment. Councilmember Peter Kraut asked about water infrastructure and how it was positioned in TCPW and wanted to act on drought policy and water supply in Southern California. Chair Vargas directed staff to follow up with Council Member Kraut. No other public comments were provided.

III. **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 compiled a General Briefing Document, which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities

IV. **Senate Bill 717 (Dodd): Broadband Report**

Senator Dodd's chief of staff, Ezraha Chaaban, Esq., provided a brief description of [SB 717](#), which tasks the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to identify barriers to the deployment of broadband and to expand on best practices. Vice Chair Bhat-Patel asked why the measure was written to exclusively investigate government-owned internet structures and not private ISPs. Mr. Chaaban indicated that there is not a predetermined answer to this study. There may be some cities that are doing a great job. The Coastal Commission may be impacting deployment in some instances.

Mr. Chaaban concluded that as more Americans use more broadband internet services, demand for new technologies, coverage, and capacity will necessarily increase. Therefore, it is critical that the deployment of wireline and wireless infrastructure is not stymied by unreasonable barriers that can intensify the digital divide by inhibiting investment and deployment of broadband access points.

Mr. Chaaban further indicated that there is an urgent need to accelerate the deployment of broadband access points to meet current demand and future growth. California must act to reduce barriers to the deployment of broadband infrastructure to maintain its leadership in advanced wireline and wireless broadband services and technology and to help address the digital divide. Mr. Chaaban expressed his willingness to work with Cal Cities to support SB 717.

V. **Legislative Analyst Office (LAO): Budget Review**

Frank Jimenez, Fiscal & Policy Analyst with the LAO and Eunice Roh, Fiscal & Policy Analyst provided an overview of the budget process, specifically the Governor's May revision. Mr. Jimenez provided an overview of the 2022-23 Budget Transportation:

- Proposed transportation infrastructure package.
- Highways to Bouvelards Program.
- Governor's supply chain and port infrastructure package.,
- Bipartisan infrastructure bill where California is expected to receive \$40 billion over five years.

Eunice Roh summarized the expected \$100 billion in new funding for competitive grant programs; \$29.5 billion for federal highway programs; and the \$384 million for new electric vehicle charging program that will be available to California.

VI. **Caltrans Update**

Chair Vargas introduced Mike Keever, Chief Deputy Director, of Caltrans. Mr. Keever summarized the 2020 safety programs and 2021 annual accomplishments and what is being carried over through 2022; Clean California program; California Transportation Plan 2050; and provided an update on the bipartisan

infrastructure bill; funding for transportation projects; and updated committee members on the middle-mile progress for broadband development.

VII. CalRecycle's Tire Derived Aggregate Program

Chair Vargas introduced Joaquin Wright, Technical Director of [GHD](#), who highlighted the growing proliferation of used and retired vehicle tires and how they can be repurposed for civil engineering, including for local streets and roads and state highway projects. Mr. Wright also shared other uses for the recycled material, such as using it for vibration mitigation under or near railroad tracks. Mr. Wright answered questions from the committee about how to better adopt programs locally and what available resources are available through the state that cities can apply for.

VIII. Legislative Update

Cal Cities staff provided an update on pending legislation with positions related to TCPW. These measures include issues related to broadband, transportation planning and funding to local streets and roads, bridge investments and active transportation.

IX. Adjourn

Chair Vargas thanked the committee for their hard work this year and provided closing remarks. Chair Vargas then adjourned the meeting.

Next Virtual Meeting: Staff will notify committee members after July 15 if the policy committee will need to meet prior to the Annual Conference to consider a resolution. If you have any questions, please contact Meg Desmond, Cal Cities Associate Manager, Legislative Administration.