

# TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC WORKS POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, April 16, 2021

Zoom

[Policy Committee Slides](#)

## ATTENDANCE

Members: Christian Horvath (Chair); Veronica Vargas (Vice Chair); Jan Arbuckle; Newell Arnerich; Sean Ashton; Greg Barton; John Bauters; Liz Becerra; Priya Bhat-Patel; Cal Campbell; Ananda Carter; Ross Chun; Scott Dowell; Jimmy Dutra; Bob Engler; John Erickson; Ben Fine; Alice Fredericks; Teresa Gerringer; Rene Guerrero; Martha Guerrero; Patrick Harper; Kelly Honig; Ryan Johansen; Mike Johnson; Lynne Kennedy; Larry Klingaman; Jeff Lee; Chin Ho Liao; Tim McGallian; John McKay; Linda Molina; Bynette Mote; Trish Munro; Jenelle Osborne; Sandy Rains; Ed Reece; Steve Salvatore; Steve Sanchez; Robert Schultz; Alyssa Silhi; Debby Stegura; Colleen Wallace; Mark Waronek; Nick Wells; Rita Xavier; Yan Zhao

League Partners: John Burdette; Sally Kay

Staff: Melanie Perron, Deputy Executive Director, Advocacy and Public Affairs; Caroline Cirrincione; Legislative Policy Analyst

### I. Welcome and Introductions

President Cheryl Viegas Walker, Mayor, El Centro, welcomed everyone to the April policy committee meeting and thanked members for their service to all California cities. She explained that policy committees are vitally important and directly connected to Cal Cities' core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities.

Mayor Viegas Walker emphasized this past year has been challenging for city officials, navigating a global pandemic while managing budget shortfalls that have forced cuts to local services. However, she explained that there is a light at the end of the tunnel. The supply of vaccine doses is growing, eligibility is expanding, and assistance for cities in the recently enacted American Rescue Plan is on the way.

With the legislative session in full swing, Mayor Viegas Walker stressed the role city leaders play in advancing Cal Cities advocacy efforts. She urged policy committee members to contact their lawmakers, so their voices are heard loud and clear. She closed by thanking everyone in attendance for their work as a policy committee member.

Mayor Viegas Walker then introduced Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director. Ms. Coleman welcomed committee members and thanked them for their work. She applauded the efforts of city leaders in pushing their members of Congress to pass the American Rescue Plan. Ms. Coleman explained that Cal Cities is working diligently to protect cities' interests not only in the State Legislature but also as a partner in implementing the American Rescue Plan. She explained that in the coming weeks, Cal Cities will be distributing resources so cities have the tools they need to utilize this funding in their communities. She thanked committee members again for serving on the committee and wished them a great meeting.

Chair Christian Horvath, Council Member, Redondo Beach, and Vice-Chair Veronica Vargas, Mayor Pro Tem, Tracy, welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

## **II. Public Comment**

Chair Horvath asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

## **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 Update Document](#), which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities.

## **IV. Broadband Deployment Efforts in Your Community Discussion**

Chair Horvath kicked off the broadband deployment efforts in your community discussion, the goal of which was to provide an open forum and discussion opportunity for committee members to share ideas and strategies on how cities can close the digital divide.

Chair Horvath started the discussion by highlighting the South Bay Fiber Network, a regional broadband fiber-optic network project managed by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG). Other committee members also highlighted partnerships with broadband providers in their communities, opportunities to work with school districts for deployment, broadband infrastructure resiliency during disasters, and the importance of protecting local flexibility in deployment efforts.

## **V. Broadband Update**

Legislative Policy Analyst Caroline Cirrincione provided an update on broadband legislation at both the state and federal levels. Ms. Cirrincione reviewed the funding opportunities included in the American Rescue Plan for broadband and some of the high-speed internet priorities included in President Biden's recently announced American Jobs Plan. Ms. Cirrincione then reviewed key bills in the State Legislature, including measures to create long-term funding sources for cities for broadband deployment, and measures that would undermine local authority in broadband permitting. A list of broadband bills Cal Cities is tracking can be found [here](#).

## **VI. Legislative Agenda**

Ms. Cirrincione briefed the committee on action items for consideration. The committee took action on [AB 1060](#) (Rodriguez), which would require the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to establish a statewide emergency alert system called California Alert. After Ms. Cirrincione's overview of the measure, the committee for discussed the bill. Committee members asked questions about how emergency alerts are currently distributed and if the statewide system would be opt-in and emphasized the need to maintain local control over these emergency alerts. After this discussion, a motion was made to support AB 1060 and direct Cal Cities staff to ensure local authority is maintained, which passed 31-1.

## **VII. Road Charge Update**

Chair Horvath introduced Lauren Prehoda, Road Charge Program Manager, California Department of Transportation, Road Charge Program to provide an update outlining the cadence of work remaining to develop a road charge program for California. Ms. Prehoda explained the timelines for the state pilot program, how the Governor's executive order moving away from the sale of gas-powered vehicles will impact the road

charge program, data and privacy considerations at the federal level, and how to make new road charge technologies more seamless to the end-user.

**VIII. Legislative Update**

Cal Cities staff briefed the committee on key bills of importance to cities and what to expect in this year's legislative session. Cal Cities staff started by reviewing components of the proposed American Jobs Plan related to transportation that is of interest to cities. With regards to measures proposed in the Legislature, issues discussed included vehicle speed safety systems, bike safety, micromobility, electric vehicle charging, local streets and roads funding, and emergency telecommunications.

**IX. Next Meeting:** Friday, June 4, 2021, 9:30 – 12:30