

TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, January 15, 2021

Zoom

[Transportation, Communications, and Public Works Policy Committee Slides](#)

ATTENDANCE

Members: Christian Horvath (Chair); Veronica Vargas (Vice Chair); Jan Arbuckle; Newell Arnerich; Ramiro Barajas; Greg Barton; Priya Bhat-Patel; Biridiana Bishop; Debra Black; Cal Campbell; Ananda Carter; Ross Chun; Jimmy Dutra; Bob Engler; Paul Fadelli; Ben Fine; Alice Fredericks; Lakhvar Ghag; Rene Guerrero; Martha Guerrero; Patrick Harper; Kelly Honig; Ryan Johansen; Mike Johnson; Shawn Kumagai; Jeff Lee; Chin Ho Liao; Yvonne Martinez-Beltran; Tim McGallian; Kim McKinney; Linda Molina; Izzy Murguia; Jenelle Osborne; Daniel Parra; Sandy Rains; Ed Reece; Steve Salvatore; Steve Sanchez; Robert Schultz; Alyssa Silhi; John Valdivia; Steven Vargas; Mark Waronek; Dennis Wilberg; Rita Xavier; Yan Zhao

League Partners: John Burdette; Randall Hernandez

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 first policy committee meeting of the year and thanked members for their service to all California cities. Mayor Viegas Walker explained that policy committees are vitally important and are directly connected to Cal Cities' core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities. She explained that this year has been challenging for city officials, as cities are facing public health and economic challenges due to the pandemic and the shutdown of local economies. Cities are also responding to nationwide calls for equity and justice and endeavoring to root out discrimination and racism in their communities.

Mayor Viegas Walker emphasized that Cal Cities, now more than ever, is committed to providing resources and information to help cities make informed decisions for their communities during these challenging times. 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 thanked committee members for all their work. She explained that at a time when cities needed help, they have stepped up and have been problem solvers.

Ms. Coleman said that the work of the policy committees is central to Cal Cities advocacy, which is at the heart of the organization. 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, Council Member, 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. **Overview of Parliamentary Procedure and Robert's Rules**

Cal Cities staff briefly reviewed Parliamentary Procedures and Robert's Rules. This document is designed to provide examples of common procedural matters encountered by Cal Cities policy committees. This includes how to make a motion, vote on a motion, and determine if there is a quorum. Members were directed to the informational packet for more comprehensive detail.

V. **Committee Orientation**

Cal Cities staff provided a brief overview of the purpose of policy committees and the appointment process. This document details key committee roles and responsibilities such as adding agenda items, taking positions on bills, and the committee schedules and processes, among other things. Members were directed to the informational packet for more comprehensive detail.

VI. **Existing Policy and Guiding Principles**

Cal Cities staff explained the importance of the guiding principles. This document contains Cal Cities policies that reflect positions taken by the policy committee and Cal Cities Board and is used as a reference tool for Cal Cities staff when reviewing legislation. Members were directed to the informational packet for more comprehensive detail.

VII. **Cal Cities 2021 Strategic Priorities**

The committee was updated on the Cal Cities 2021 strategic priorities. Cal Cities staff discussed the virtual League Leaders retreat and explained the process by which strategic priorities are established. The Cal Cities 2021 strategic priorities are as follows:

1. **Secure state and federal funding for local COVID-19 public health response and economic recovery for all.** Secure direct and flexible funding and resources for cities of all sizes so they can continue to protect residents from the pandemic, deliver essential services, support small businesses, and lead the recovery in our communities. Improve communication and coordination with regional, state, and federal governments on public health orders and programs to stimulate equitable economic recovery.
2. **Secure funding to increase the supply and affordability of housing and resources to assist individuals at risk of – or already experiencing – homelessness while preserving local decision making.** Secure additional resources to increase construction of housing, particularly affordable housing, workforce housing, and permanent supportive housing, and ensure cities retain flexibility based on the land use needs of each community. Increase flexibility and resources to provide navigation assistance and emergency shelters, and strengthen partnerships and collaboration with stakeholders to ensure mental health, substance abuse treatment, and wraparound services are available for adults and youth at risk of – or already experiencing – homelessness in our communities.

- 3. Improve state-local coordination and planning to strengthen community disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery.** Pursue additional resources and support to mitigate the effects of climate change, sea level rise, catastrophic wildfires, and flooding in our communities. Promote community disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery in collaboration with the state and federal governments. Increase availability and access to the National Flood Insurance Program to include other natural disasters.
- 4. Protect and modernize critical infrastructure.** Seek increased state and federal resources for critical and sustainable local infrastructure projects including roads, public transit, active transportation, water availability, and broadband deployment that enhance workforce and economic development and improve quality of life.

VIII. Budget Update

The committee was updated on the Governor's record-breaking \$227.2 billion budget proposal for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The proposed budget includes a \$164.5 billion General Fund and projects \$34 billion in total reserves and surplus. The budget significantly restores the state's rainy day fund and economic support reserves that were diminished last year. A surplus of \$15 billion, largely in one-time funds, is available for spending to address COVID-19 and support resilience and recovery. Additional information on the budget can be found in the [General Briefing document](#).

Cal Cities staff also briefed the committee on budget allocations pertinent to the TCPW Policy Committee. Specifically, funding for electric vehicle infrastructure, transit, rail, and multimodal and traffic congestion projects.

IX. Broadband Update

Cal Cities staff provided an update on broadband issues. Specifically, staff highlighted newly introduced broadband bills, including Cal Cities supported [AB 14](#) (Aguiar-Curry) and [SB 4](#) (Gonzalez). Staff also briefed the committee on attempts by the telecommunications industry to pass legislation to streamline local permitting for broadband. Nothing has been introduced yet, but Cal Cities staff anticipates several streamlining bills in the year ahead. The committee will continue to receive updates on broadband issues at upcoming meetings.

X. Legislative Wrap-up and Outlook

Cal Cities staff briefed the committee on measures from the last legislative session. Specifically, Cal Cities sponsored [AB 1286](#) (Muratsuchi) relating to shared mobility devices and [SB 865](#) (Hill) regarding excavations near subsurface installations. Both of these Cal Cities supported bills were signed by the Governor last session. Due to a consolidated legislative calendar, many bills in the TCPW portfolio did not pass.

Cal Cities staff also highlighted bills that have been introduced and what to expect in the year ahead. Broadband, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, micromobility data, and seismic safety were identified as key issues in the TCPW portfolio. Additionally, staff briefed the committee on new legislative leadership in the Assembly and Senate Transportation Committees and what that could mean for the future of SB 1 funding.

XI. Adoption of 2021 Work Program

In order to produce the committee's work program, committee members were asked to respond to an online survey illustrating the top priorities for the committee to focus on in the coming year.

Chair Horvath reviewed the results of the survey and asked the committee for feedback on the proposed work program. A committee member asked about Cal Cities' existing policy on high-speed rail and suggested reviewing and amending that policy in upcoming committee meetings. Cal Cities staff explained the policymaking process, and ultimately high-speed rail was not included in the work program.

After a robust discussion, the committee adopted the following items as their work program:

- Protecting the distribution of SB 1 revenues;
- Closing the digital divide - broadband deployment;
- Infrastructure resiliency; and
- Small cell issues (5G).

Next Virtual Meeting: Friday, April 16, 2021, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm