

TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC WORKS POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, June 4, 2021

Zoom

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

ATTENDANCE

Members: Chris Horvath (Chair); Veronica Vargas (Vice Chair); Jan Arbuckle; Newell Arnerich; John Bauters; Liz Becerra; Priya Bhat-Patel; Debra Black; Cal Campbell; Amanda Carter; Omar Dadabhoy; Scott Dowell; Bob Engler; John Erickson; Ben Fine; Alice Fredericks; Teresa Gerringer; Kelly Honig; Mike Johnson; Lynne Kennedy; Jeff Lee; Chin Ho Liao; Yvonne Martinez-Beltran; Tim McGallian; John McKay; Kim McKinney; Linda Molina; Bynette Mote; Trish Munro; Izzy Murguia; Jenelle Osborne; Dan Parra; Steve Sanchez; Robert Schultz; Alyssa Silhi; Debby Stegura; Steven Vargas; Dennis Wilberg; Rita Xavier

League Partners: John Burdette, SitelogIQ

Staff: Damon Conklin, Legislative Representative; Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Policy Analyst

I. Welcome and Introductions

President Cheryl Viegas Walker, Mayor, El Centro, welcomed everyone to the June 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.

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 policy committee members.

Mayor Viegas Walker then introduced Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director. Ms. Coleman welcomed committee members and thanked them for their work. She explained that Cal Cities is supporting a healthy package of legislative proposals vital to helping cities recover from the pandemic and is opposing proposals that would curtail these recovery efforts.

Ms. Coleman also shared that the \$8 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan is on the way to California cities from Washington, D.C. She explained how this relief creates extraordinary opportunities for local leaders and knows that many are already planning and prioritizing projects to leverage these funds. To assist in these efforts, Cal Cities, through its Guide to Local Recovery initiative, will provide additional webinars and resources designed to help position every city on the road to recovery.

Ms. Coleman thanked committee members again for serving on the committees 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 Document](#), which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities.

IV. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Order and Litigation Update

Chair Horvath introduced Tripp May, Managing Partner, Telecom Law Firm, PC, to provide an update on pending FCC orders and litigation. The slides from this presentation can be found [here](#).

Mr. May began by covering small cell issues at the state and federal levels, including FCC decisions and litigation important to local governments. He also highlighted other state legislation that would undermine local authority in the siting and permitting of broadband. Mr. May then took numerous questions from committee members related to undergrounding, municipal broadband, and the deployment of 5G in communities.

V. Legislative Agenda

Chair Horvath introduced Damon Conklin, Legislative Representative, League of California Cities, to brief the committee on action items for consideration. Mr. Conklin began the legislative agenda by providing an overview of [AB 43 \(Friedman\)](#). This measure would grant the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and local authorities greater flexibility in setting speed limits based on recommendations from the Zero Traffic Fatality Task Force (Task Force). After the overview, a lengthy discussion ensued. Members of the committee highlighted concerns with “speed creep” that has caused unsafe road conditions. They encouraged Cal Cities staff to discuss these concerns with the author and see if the bill could be amended to include language to permit more than five mph to be adopted. With those considerations in mind, a motion was made to support AB 43, which passed unanimously with 27 aye votes.

The committee also considered [AB 122 \(Boerner Horvath\)](#). Mr. Conklin provided an overview of the measure explaining that this measure would allow bicyclists approaching a stop sign to have the option to stop-as-yield or treat a stop sign as a yield sign. Mr. Conklin explained that Cal Cities opposed a similar measure in 2017, [AB 1103 \(Olberholte\)](#), but since then, several other states have implemented such policies. Committee members discussed transit equity and the evolving proliferation of cyclists in a post-pandemic environment. In contrast, others on the committee cited a need to err on the side of public safety. Ultimately, a motion was made to support AB 122, which passed with 24 ayes and seven noes.

Mr. Conklin also provided an update on [SB 580 \(Hueso\)](#). This measure would authorize Caltrans to conduct a study on the feasibility, cost-effectiveness, life-cycle environmental benefits, and detrimental impacts of using recycled plastics in asphalt used as roadway paving material. SB 580 would also authorize Caltrans to establish specifications for using

recycled plastics in asphalt. Mr. Conklin explained that this measure is now a two-year bill and no committee action was needed during this meeting.

VI. Budget Update

Mr. Conklin provided an update on the Governor's proposed May revision budget. He highlighted Cal Cities budget ask, which totals \$10 billion and includes \$2 billion for additional COVID-19 relief to cities, \$5 billion for housing and homelessness, and \$3 billion for broadband. Mr. Conklin also covered transportation-specific budget allocations related to zero-emission vehicles, transit and rail, and broadband deployment.

VII. Legislative Update

Mr. Conklin briefed the committee on key bills of importance to cities. He began by highlighting the outcome of the Appropriations suspense file, a legislative process to promote fiscal responsibility by evaluating costs and comparing bills before they reach the Assembly or Senate floor. Of the 16 priority bills highlighted during the League of California Cities Legislative Action Days, 12 were placed on the Appropriations committee suspense files, and during those hearings, five bills had favorable outcomes for California cities. Mr. Conklin then provided an update on numerous bills related to broadband, electric vehicle charging, local streets and roads, and emergency telecommunications.

VIII. Next Meeting

Staff will notify committee members after July 24 if the policy committee will be meeting in September. If you have any questions, please contact Cal Cities Legislative and Policy Development Specialist [Meg Desmond](#).