METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Meeting Transcript

BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023, 9:40 AM

CHAIR, ALFREDO PEDROZA: GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE. I'M CALLING TO ORDER THE BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY FOR MARCH 22ND. I'M ALFREDO PEDROZA, ALONG WITH NICK JOSEFOWITZ, OUR VICE CHAIR. COMMISSIONERS, AS A REMINDER IF YOU ARE IN PERSON WITH THE RED ON YOU ARE SPEAKING. FOR ANY COMMISSIONERS -- WE DON'T HAVE -- ACTUALLY WE DO HAVE COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATING VIRTUALLY, IF YOU WISH TO PARTICIPATE, RAISE YOUR VIRTUAL HAND AND WE'LL MAKE SURE TO GET YOU ON. ON TO ITEM ONE, WHICH IS ROLL CALL.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: CHAIR PEDROZA?

ALFREDO PEDROZA: HERE.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: VICE JOSEFOWITZ?

NICK JOSEFOWITZ: HERE.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: ABE-KOGA?

MARGARET ABE-KOGA: HERE.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: AHN? CANEPA?

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DAVID CANEPA: HERE.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: CHAVEZ IS ABSENT. DUTRA-VERNACI?

CAROL DUTRA-VERNACI: HERE.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: EL-TAWANSY IS ABSENT. FLEMING? IS ABSENT. GIACOPINI? IS ABSENT.

DORENE M. GIACOPINI: HERE.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: HERE VIRTUALLY. THANK YOU. BUT -- OKAY. THANK YOU. COMMISSIONER GLOVER?

FEDERAL D. GLOVER: HERE.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: COMMISSIONER MAHAN?

MATT MAHAN: HERE.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: MILEY?

NATHAN MILEY: HERE.

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CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: MOULTON PETERS IS ABSENT. NOACK? PAPAN?

GINA PAPAN: HERE.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: RABBITT?

DAVID RABBITT: HERE.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: RONEN?

HILLARY RONEN: HERE.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: SPERING?

JAMES P. SPERING: HERE.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: QUORUM IS PRESENT.

KATHLEEN KANE: COMMISSIONER GIACOPINI IS ATTENDING THE MEETING BUT DUE TO AN ERROR ON THE AGENDA HER LOCATION WAS NOT NOTICED SO SHE IS HERE AND SHE IS PAYING ATTENTION BUT IS NOT OFFICIALLY ON THE ROLL. AND OUR APOLOGIES TO THE COMMISSION FOR NOT HAVING HANDLED THAT CORRECTLY.

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CHAIR, ALFREDO PEDROZA: COMMISSIONER GIACOPINI, THANK YOU FOR JOINING US. AND STAFF, THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN. WE'RE ALL ADAPTING TO THIS NEW WORLD BUT WE APPRECIATE YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE IT RIGHT NEXT TIME.

KATHLEEN KANE: WE'RE ON IT.

CHAIR, ALFREDO PEDROZA: WE DON'T HAVE A REPORT FOR BATA. MOVING TO ITEM THREE CONSENT CALENDAR INCLUDES MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 22ND MEETING. I'LL ASK FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON OUR CONSENT CALENDAR FOR BATA? I DON'T SEE ANY. KIMBERLY, PUBLIC COMMENT?

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: THERE ARE NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH THEIR HAND RAISED, AND THERE WAS NO PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMITTED ON THIS ITEM.

CHAIR, ALFREDO PEDROZA: ALL RIGHT. WITH THAT I'LL LOOK FOR A MOTION. FIRST BY RABBITT SECOND BY NOACK. ALL IN FAVOR PLEASE NOTE BY AYE. OPPOSED? ABSTAINED? UNANIMOUS. THANK YOU, COMMISSION. MOVING TO ITEM 4A ADOPTION OF BATA RESOLUTION 170 TERMINATING ESCROW ARRANGEMENTS FOR REGIONAL MEASURE THREE. THAT SOUNDS SO GREAT TO BE ABLE TO SAY WE'RE TERMINATING THAT. APPROVAL OF THIS ITEM RELEASES ESCROW FUNDS AND ALLOWS STAFF

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TO TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT WHICH RELEASES ESCROW. I FEEL LIKE WE SHOULD CHEER. DEREK OR KATHLEEN?

DEREK HANSEL: I THINK GENERAL COUNSEL IS GOING TO START.

KATHLEEN KANE: I'LL DO A VERY SHORT VICTORY LAP, THEN HAND IT TO OUR CFO. IT'S A RARE PIECE OF GOOD NEWS THAT I GET TO PRESENT. WE'RE ABLE NOW TO RELEASE THE ESCROW. WE HAVE BEEN COLLECTING RM3 WHICH I DO KNOW WAS CHALLENGED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AND HAS BEEN TIED UP IN LITIGATION. AS OF LAST MONTH WE'RE ARE NOW FINALLY DONE, AND WE ARE ABLE TO RELEASE THE ESCROW AND MOVE FORWARD WITH THE IMPORTANT WORK GETTING MONEY OUT THE DOOR. SO, UNLESS YOU HAVE AND LEGAL QUESTIONS, I WILL HAND IT OVER TO OUR CFO.

DEREK HANSEL: AND JUST FOLLOWING UP ON THAT, CERTAINLY WE'RE -- WE'LL BE [INDISCERNIBLE] THAT ESCROW FAST. [LAUGHTER]. SO, REALLY DELIGHTED TO DO THAT. IT'S REALLY A GREAT CREDIT POSITIVE FOR BATA IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING ALL OF THIS CAPITAL WHICH WILL LET US TO DO ALL THE IMPORTANT WORK AROUND THE REGION, AND WE'LL CERTAINLY BE BACK WITH YOU WITH WHAT WE'RE DOING TO IMPLEMENT ALL OF THAT. WE'RE SITTING ON SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS ALREADY, WHICH IS IN THE ESCROW. THAT AMOUNT GROWS BY ABOUT 17 AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS A MONTH. THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS. THE IMPORTANT NEWS IS WE'RE GOING TO

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NEED TO BORROW SOME TO MEET ALL THESE THINGS AS WELL. SO WE'RE WORKING UP THOSE PLANS AS WELL AND WE'LL BE BACK TO YOU AS WE NEED TO. LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.

CHAIR, ALFREDO PEDROZA: THANK YOU COUNSEL AND DEREK. AND TO COUNSEL, THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORT IN THE VERY BEGINNING. YOU HAVE PROVIDED US GOOD COUNSEL AND YOU HAVE ALSO PROVIDED US A GOOD TEAM. WE CAN BE EXCITED ABOUT THIS BUT THE PUBLIC WINS TODAY. IT'S ABOUT DEPLOYING THE MONEY IN OUR COMMUNITIES TO MAKE IT BETTER. TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YOU KNOW, NATURALLY, WHERE WE WANT TO GO, ANTICIPATING SOME QUESTIONS WHEN CAN WE COME BACK TO START UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS FOR DEPLOYING CAPITAL? WE HAVE A LOT OF LETTERS OF NO PREJUDICE OUT THERE. SOONER RATHER THAN LATER WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO COME BACK AND PRESENT THAT TO US.

ANDREW FREMIER: WE CAN DO THAT. WE PLAN ON RELEASING MONEY SOON. WE HAVE BEEN TALKING TO A LOT OF PROJECTS SPONSORS ALREADY ABOUT GETTING THE PROCESS, GETTING PROJECTS UPDATED. SO, WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING THOSE DOLLARS PUT TO WORK QUICKLY.

CHAIR, ALFREDO PEDROZA: THANK YOU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? ALL RIGHT. I KNOW EVERYONE IS CHEERING INSIDE. ANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WITH QUESTIONS ON THIS ITEM?

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CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING IN WRITING. ALETA DUPREE HAS A HAND UP. PLEASE UNMUTE YOURSELF. YOU HAVE TWO MINUTES.

SPEAKER: THANKS AGAIN, CHAIR ALFREDO PEDROZA. ALETA DUPREE FOR THE RECORD SHE AND HER. TALKING ABOUT BATA THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT. I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS IT'S SAD WE HAD TO GO THROUGH THIS BUT NOW WE HAVE OUR CHANCE I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO A REPORT THAT WILL EXPLAIN THE MECHANICS OF THIS PROCESS AND HAVE SOME NUMBERS. DEREK DID PUT OUT 17 AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS, THAT'S VERY SUBSTANTIAL MONEY WE CAN DO A LOT WITH. AND WE HAVE OUR OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, WHICH HELPS US TO EVALUATE OUR WORK WITH THIS MONEY. I HOPE THAT THAT DIRECT DEPOSIT -- ASSUMING IT WILL BE A DIRECT DEPOSIT WILL COME SOON. I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO RECEIVE SOME LARGE DIRECT DEPOSITS. IT FEELS GOOD TO GET THOSE AND THEN I CAN DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH THEM. I HAVE BEEN GETTING DIRECT DEPOSITS FOR OVER 30 YEARS IT'S HOW I RECEIVE MY MONEY. WE HAVE OUR CHANCE. YES, THE PUBLIC DOES WIN TODAY WITH THIS DIRECT DEPOSIT. IT WAS A DREAM DEFERRED, FORTUNATELY, IT IS NOT A DREAM DENIED. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR REPORTING ON WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO WITH THIS TO HELP BUILD THE BEST BATA THAT WE CAN. LET'S GET TO WORK. THANK YOU.

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CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: THANK YOU. I SEE NO ADDITIONAL HANDS RAISED MR. CHAIR.

CHAIR, ALFREDO PEDROZA: THIS REQUIRES A MOTION WILL PASS WITHOUT OBJECTION. PAPAN, SECOND GLOVER. ALL IN FAVOR PLEASE NOTE BY AYE. OPPOSED? ABSTAINED? MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY. MOVING TO ITEM FIVE, PUBLIC COMMENT. I'LL ASK THE CLERK IF WE HAVE THIS IS PUBLIC COMMENT. I'LL ASK THE CLERK TO LIST ANY ITEMS RECEIVED UNDER PUBLIC COMMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS ITEM AT INFO@BAYAREAMETRO.GOV INTO THE RECORD OR IF YOU'RE PHONING IN PLEASE DIAL STAR NINE.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: THANK YOU. I HAVE RECEIVED NOTHING IN WRITING. AND I SEE ALETA DUPREE'S HAND RAISED. UNMUTE YOURSELF. YOU HAVE TWO MINUTES.

SPEAKER: THANKS ALFREDO PEDROZA, AND MEMBERS. ALETA DUPREE FOR THE RECORD SHE AND HER. GOOD MEETING. LOTS OF WORK DONE I LIKE GETTING WORK DONE AND DOING IT L I SPEAK GENERALLY ABOUT THAT IN A CHANGING WORLD WHERE MONEY MOVES IN DIFFERENT WAYS AND THE ORIGINS OF MONEY CHANGES. HOW DO WE MAKE SURE THAT WE GET THE MONEY THAT WE NEED TO MAINTAIN THESE SEVEN STATE OWNED BRIDGES THIS WE HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR. AND THAT IS OUR PRIMARY MISSION. WHEN YOU CUT THROUGH ALL THE NOISE OUT THERE IN THE WORLD, OUR MISSION IS TO MAKE SURE THAT WE GET THIS

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MONEY TO BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THESE SEVEN STATE OWNED BRIDGES THAT I USE SOMETIMES. AND, SO, FASTRAK IS AN ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL PART OF IT AND CONTINUING OUR WORK WITH EQUITY AND OUTREACH, BECAUSE FASTRAK IS EASY TO DO. I HAVE BEEN DOING -- I DID THIS OVER 30 YEARS AGO, AS A PERSON OF LOW-INCOME, USING TOLL TRANSPONDERS IN OKLAHOMA IT'S QUITE EASY AND TO STEP INTO IT REALLY WASN'T THAT MUCH. HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS FASTRAK A CENTRAL PART OF PEOPLE HAVING AUTOMOBILES JUST AS PEOPLE HAVING DRIVER'S LICENSES, INSURANCE CARDS, REGISTRATIONS? WE CAN'T LEGISLATE, BUT WE CAN ENCOURAGE IT. IT'S SOMETHING THAT REALLY ANYBODY CAN DO. AS I, AS A PERSON OF MODEST MEANS AND EDUCATION DID IT OVER 30 YEARS AGO. SO, I LOOK FORWARD TO US BUILDING THE BEST BATA THAT WE CAN. THANK YOU.

CLERK, KIMBERLY WARD: I SEE NO ADDITIONAL HANDS RAISED MR. CHAIR.

CHAIR, ALFREDO PEDROZA: THAT CONCLUDES PUBLIC COMMENT. MOVING TO ADJOURNMENT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 26TH AT 9:45 A.M. AT THE BAY AREA METRO CENTER. MEETING ADJOURNED. [ADJOURNED

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