RESILIENTSR37

State Route (SR) 37 Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes
9:30 a.m., Thursday, July 10, 2025

The Zoom video recording of this meeting can be viewed by clicking this link.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Chair Eric Lucan called to order the State Route 37 Policy Committee at 9:32 a.m.

Policy Committee Members Present:

Eric Lucan, Chair	Supervisor, County of Marin
Pat Eklund	Councilmember, City of Novato
Rebecca Hermosillo, Vice-Chair	Supervisor, County of Sonoma
Mark Joseph	Councilmember, City of American Canyon
Amber Manfree	MTC Commissioner, Supervisor, County of Napa
Mitch Mashburn	MTC Commissioner, Supervisor, County of Solano
Stephanie Moulton-Peters	MTC Commissioner, Supervisor, County of Marin
Andrea Sorce	Mayor, City of Vallejo
John Vasquez	Supervisor, County of Solano
Pierre Washington	Mayor, City of American Canyon

Policy Committee Members Absent:

David Rabbitt	Supervisor, County of Sonoma
Victoria Fleming	MTC Commissioner, Councilmember, City of Santa Rosa

Executive Directors Present:

Andy Fremier, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Anne Richman, Transportation Authority of Marin
Daryl Halls, Solano Transportation Authority
Aung Maung, Caltrans, Deputy District Director of Traffic Operations
Eddy Cumins, Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit
David Ripperda, Sonoma County Transportation Authority
Danielle Schmitz, Napa Valley Transportation Authority

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2. Consent Calendar

2.1. Minutes of the May 1, 2025 State Route 37 Policy Committee Meeting

This item begins at 3:39 on the video recording.

Supervisor Vasquez moved for approval of the May 1, 2025 meeting minutes, Councilmember Eklund seconded.

The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Discussion/Information Items

3.1. Communications

– Upcoming Construction/Traffic Management

– Program Report No. 4 – June 2025, Link: https://scta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Resilient-SR37-Annual-Program-Report-June-2025_final.pdf

This item begins at 4:17 on the video recording.

Ricky Gao, Caltrans, reported that the integrated communications team is finalizing the State Route 37 corridor communication plan, with consultant MIG; and that updated graphics are expected by early August. Construction on the Fairgrounds/Diverging Diamond Interchange in Vallejo is progressing on schedule, with completion planned for January 2026. Current work includes retaining walls, signage, and bus stop striping. A new public animation video is in development to illustrate interchange navigation; and the quarterly program report through June 2025 has been released and is linked in the agenda.

There was no public comment on this item, nor were there comments or questions from the committee.

3.2. Near-term Sears Point to Mare Island Improvement Project

This item begins at 6:58 on the video recording.

Javier Mendivil, Caltrans, and Kevin Chen, MTC, presented this item for discussion, which included project, funding, and schedule updates; upcoming milestones; and project status summary.

There was no public comment on this item, nor were there comments or questions from the committee.

3.3. Fully Protected Species Legislation

This item begins at 15:44 on the video recording.

Daryl Halls, STA, reported that Assembly Bill (AB) 697 passed the Assembly floor last month with a unanimous vote of 70–0. This week, it was approved by the Senate Natural Resources & Water Committee with a 6–0 vote and one abstention. Appreciation was extended to Commissioners Moulton-Peters and Mashburn for their advocacy efforts, as well as to staff from Caltrans, MTC, the three counties, and other supporters who contributed to the collective effort. The bill now moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee, where it is expected to pass on consent before proceeding to the Senate floor. Senator McGuire has expressed his support for the bill.

There was no public comment on this item, nor were there comments or questions from the committee.

3.4. Long-term Novato Creek Bridge Replacement

This item begins at 17:08 on the video recording.

Javier Mendivil, Caltrans, presented this item for discussion, which included updates on the project scope, funding, and schedule.

In response to Councilmember Eklund's inquiry regarding permit applications, Mr. Mendivil noted that the first permit application will be submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service through their liaison and will include a biological assessment, which typically has the longest lead time. Mr. Mendivil also explained that additional permit applications are in progress, including water quality permits, and permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Mr. Mendivil clarified that the project is outside the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), so no BCDC permit is required.

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Lastly, Mr. Mendivil indicated that staff would provide the committee with a list of additional agencies that have permitting authority over the project.

Chair Lucan inquired about the timeline for sharing a high-level overview of the project design; and when the Policy Committee or the Transportation Authority of Marin might receive detailed updates on the design and the phased construction approach, particularly regarding building an elevated bridge over an existing structure. Chair Lucan emphasized the importance of communicating these details to the community at an appropriate time.

Mr. Mendivil responded that the project team is working on additional visualizations and could aim to have those prepared by later this fall.

Chair Lucan noted the significance of this being the first major component constructed in the 21-mile corridor and stressed the importance of early design renderings to effectively communicate construction over an active roadway to the public.

Councilmember Eklund commented that this topic would also be of interest to the City of Novato.

Public Comment

Joshua Arce, Special Assistant to the Northern California District Council of Laborers (LIUNA), expressed concern about the severe traffic congestion impacting union members and working families in the North Bay, highlighting long commutes and safety risks on key routes like the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and State Route 37. Mr. Arce expressed support for California Assemblymember Laurie Wilson's legislative efforts to address these issues and pledged the union's commitment to help build broader backing for the bill.

4. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

This item begins at 26:07 on the video recording.

San Rafael resident Kate Powers expressed concerns about how the interim Highway 37 project segments align with long-term sea level rise adaptation goals, requesting a future agenda review of how these segments build toward the ultimate project and funding strategies; and asked for clarification on the cost and plans for removing interim project features, such as road widening, to ensure progress toward restoring natural water flow and habitat connectivity.

Daryl Halls, STA, reported that an update to the Transit/TDM Plan for State Route 37 has been completed and may be presented at a future meeting. This includes elements related to the SR 37 HOV/Nature bill and associated transit planning. Additionally, construction is underway on the State Route 37 Fairgrounds project. When the group meets in Solano County in the future, members will be invited to visit Mare Island and to visit the Fairgrounds project.

In response to the public comment and Councilmember Eklund, Ricky Gao, Caltrans, noted that a refresher on the long-term sea level rise adaptation planning can be provided at a future meeting. Mr. Gao noted the Caltrans Planning and Environmental Linkages Study, which identified eight distinct projects as part of the corridor-wide sea level rise adaptation effort, with a total estimated cost of $6–11 billion (in 2022 dollars). He also referred to the Study addendum, which prioritized projects based on flooding risk, cost, mobility, and safety, and highlighted that SCTCA is working to advance the long-term SR 121 Interchange (Section 6).

Mayor Sorce expressed interest in hosting a future SR 37 Policy Committee meeting on Mare Island.

5. Future Meeting Schedule
- 5.1. September 4, 2025 – Solano County
- 5.2. November 6, 2025 – Napa County

6. Future Topics
- 6.1. Innovative Financing and Project Delivery
- 6.2. Novato Creek Baylands Strategy
- 6.3. FHWA Toll Program

Included for the committee's interest.

7. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Approved September 4, 2025