



TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRANSCOM)

Camarillo City Hall, Administrative Conference Room

601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, CA

Thursday, February 13, 2020

1:30 p.m.

AGENDA

ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

ITEM 2 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENT

Any member of the public may address the Committee for up to two minutes on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Committee that is not scheduled for a public discussion before the Committee.

ITEM 4 AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

ITEM 5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – For Action

Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the January 9, 2020 meeting.

ITEM 6 ADA CERTIFICATION SERVICES AND MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM – Update

ITEM 7 ORGANIZATIONAL FARES GOLD COAST TRANSIT DISTRICT (GCTD) – Discussion

ITEM 8 PROPOSED STATE LEGISLATION MANDATE FREE FARES – Discussion

ITEM 9 TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT ACT (TDA) LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Discussion

ITEM 10 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ITEM 11 ADJOURNMENT

In consideration of City of Camarillo staff, please use the exit door directly to the parking lot.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Government Code Section 54954.2, if special assistance is needed to participate in a Committee meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Committee at (805) 642-1591 ext. 118. Notification of at least 48 hours prior to meeting time will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility at the meeting.



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**VENTURA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (VCTC)
TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRANSCOM)**

Camarillo City Hall, Administrative Conference Room
601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, CA
Thursday, January 9, 2020
1:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

**MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Sergio Albarran, City of Ventura (Vice Chair)
Tyler Nestved, City of Camarillo
Ellen Debord, City of Ojai
Debbie O'Leary, City of Oxnard
Ben Gonzales, City of Simi Valley
Priscilla Freduah-Agyemang, City of Thousand Oaks
Treena Gonzalez, County of Ventura
Vanessa Rauschenberger, Gold Coast Transit District

Maggie Domingo, CSU Channel Islands (ex-officio)
Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD (ex-officio)

**MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

City of Fillmore
City of Moorpark
City of Port Hueneme
City of Santa Paula
Caltrans District 7 (ex-officio)

**VCTC STAFF
PRESENT:**

Martin Erickson, Public Transit Director
Peter De Haan, Programming Director
Judith Johnduff, Program Manager
Aaron Bonfilio, Program Manager

ITEM 1 CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Albarran called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

ITEM 2 INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Sergio Albarran, City of Ventura, made a brief announcement, the Wells Center construction will begin soon and he will provide more information at the next meeting.

Mr. Martin Erickson, VCTC, announced California Transit Association (CTA) provided notification regarding potential changes to the Transportation Development Act (TDA) law. Some of the possible changes will be eliminating the fare-box penalty. He mentioned CTA is scheduled to host a webinar on January 23rd, an update will be provided at the next meeting. Lastly, he stated the TDA performance audits is currently underway and thanked Ben and Vanessa for serving on the panel.

Ms. Vanessa Rauschenberger, Gold Coast Transit District, announced effective January 26th, they will discontinue Route 22 (which is currently a demonstration route), and Route 15 will be extended, this route currently serves the El Rio area and will now service a portion of the Route 22 area (schedules will be posted in the next two weeks). She thanked Tyler Nestved – City of Camarillo, for working with GCTD, are now providing mutual direct service for

Paratransit Service and have received positive feedback. Tyler added, Camarillo will be providing direct service to a portion of Gold Coast area, which is to St. John's Hospital and nearby areas. He also mentioned their Paratransit fare increased to \$6 for both the East and West County service.

Ms. Priscilla Freduah-Agyemang, City of Thousand Oaks, announced, they have updated their schedules reflecting both route changes and new bus fares, which took effect Monday January 6th (schedules were made available for each agency).

Mr. Ben Gonzales, City of Simi Valley, announced they will have new bus route service and schedule changes, both will take effect February 3rd. He also mentioned, they have entered into a service agreement with Token Transit, he thanked Vanessa for her assistance.

Ms. Debbie O'Leary, City of Oxnard, announced Ryan Kim is no longer with the City and she will now serve as the new member. She also mentioned construction has begun for Route 23 on Ventura Blvd.

Mr. Aaron Bonfilio, VCTC, announced, in early February, the Americans Disability Act (ADA) Request for Proposal (RFP) will be due. He also mentioned, if your agency is utilizing the Automatic Vehicle System (AVL), you are now able to update this information into the AVL system (please feel free to reach out to him if you need any assistance).

Mr. Ben Cacatian, VCAPCD, provided an update on the Trump Administration Safe Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Rule (SAFE Rule), which withdrew California's authority to regulate auto emission and fuel efficiency standards, is still under litigation.

Ms. Judith Johnduff, VCTC, reminded the Committee, today is the final day to submit the State of Good Repair reports into the CalSmart system.

ITEM 3 PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM 4 AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

None.

ITEM 5 APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

ACTION

Albarran moved, Gonzalez seconded, that the Committee approve the September 12, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion passed with no objections.

ITEM 6 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

ACTION

Albarran moved, Gonzalez seconded, that the Committee approve the October 10, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion passed with no objections.

ITEM 7 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

ACTION

Nestved moved, seconded by O'Leary and passed 8/0 that Albarran be the 2020 Transit Operators Advisory Committee Chair.

ACTION

Nestved moved, seconded by O'Leary and passed 8/0 that Matt Miller be the 2020 Transit Operators Advisory Committee Vice Chair.

ITEM 8 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE

Receive and File.

ITEM 9 ADA CERTIFICATION SERVICES AND MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. De Haan, VCTC, provided an update on the ADA certification and Mileage Reimbursement Program (MRP) for the month of October, November and December (reports were provided for each month). He also reminded the Committee MMP has discontinued the Travel Training program as of August, and is phasing out the MRP effective February 29, 2020. MRP clients will soon be receiving notifications.

ITEM 10 REVISION TO LOW CARBON TRANSIT OPERATION PROGRAM

Ms. Johnduff, reviewed with the Committee, the staff recommendation to approve reprogramming the remaining project balances along with any accrued interest to the VCTC East-West project which is a like-project eligible under the LCTOP program and is currently operate with LCTOP funds (the additional funds will provide opportunity for expanded promotion and aide with continued operations)

ACTION

Rauschenberger moved, O'Leary seconded, that the Committee approve reprogramming the remaining balance of approximately \$8,935 from the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) Oxnard to Camarillo Employment Connector Project to the East-West Connector Service Project. The motion passed with no objections.

ITEM 11 EARTHQUAKE WARNING SYSTEM

Mr. De Haan, made a presentation on the Earthquake Warning System.

ITEM 12 REVISION TO GOLD COAST TRANSIT DISTRICT CONGESTION MITIGATION AIR QUALITY (CMAQ) FUNDS

Mr. De Haan, reviewed with Committee, Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) recently completed TAM Plan found that it will be more prudent to replace 3 buses rather than repower the remaining 12 buses included in the approved project. The 3 buses to be replaced will reach the end of their useful life in 2020. GCTD is there for recommending that VCTC approve this repurposing of the CMAQ funds.

ACTION

Nestved moved, Bonfilio seconded, that the Committee approve the request from Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) to repurpose \$1.48 million of unexpended CMAQ funds approved for the Bus Repowering Project, to reduce by 12 the number of repowered buses and instead replace 3 buses. The motion passed with no objections.

ITEM 13 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – For Information

- *Organizational Fares for Paratransit Seniors beyond requirements (double fixed route fares)*

ITEM 14 ADJOURNMENT

Chair Albarran adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.



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DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2020
MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRANSCOM)
FROM: PETER DE HAAN, PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: ADA CERTIFICATION SERVICES AND MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION

- Receive and file the monthly ADA Certification services report and Mileage Reimbursement Program update.


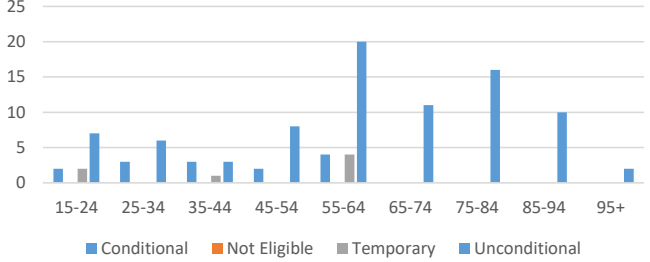
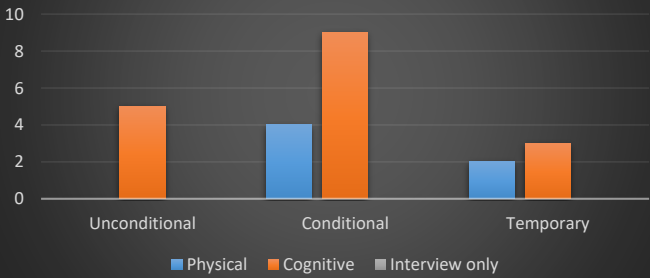
DISCUSSION:

Attached is the January 2020 ADA Certification Services Report from Mobility Management Partners (MMP) for review at the TRANSCOM meeting. MMP has informed VCTC that during January there was a phone system tracking malfunction resulting in a significant undercount in the call numbers.

MMP received Section 5310 funding to expand its services to include the development and implementation of a pilot volunteer driver mileage reimbursement program in cooperation with the Area Agency on Aging and other agencies serving the needs of the county's senior population. The January 2020 update on the Mileage Reimbursement Program (MRP) is attached. Since the funds in this grant are close to be drawn down, MMP has discontinued the Travel Training program as of August, and is phasing out the MRP effective February 29, 2019. Notices to the MRP clients have been sent.



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Jan-20								
		Jan.	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Aug.	
Call Center	Inbound ADA Calls	183	384	425	557	471	560	Total phone calls inbound/outbound: 193
	Outbound ADA calls	10	45	85	97	165	128	
	Average hold time (in seconds)	9.88	5.5	3.95	4.9	6	4.96	Riders requesting service outside of Ventura County
	Outbound Area Transmittals	3	4	2	11	7	4	Riders requesting service into Ventura County
	Inbound Area Transmittals	3	3	3	9	10	7	Total applications received: 124
Applications Received	Recertification	74	42	30	56	74	53	Online Applications Received: 6 (4%)
	New Applications	50	53	70	80	38	87	
Applications Received by Service Area	Camarillo Area	6	8	5	17	11	13	Applications by Language 
	Gold Coast Area	54	45	43	55	33	38	
	Valley Express Area	8	0	3	3	4	6	
	Moorpark Area	4	5	3	9	7	5	
	Simi Valley Area	28	21	24	25	29	47	
	Thousand Oaks	23	16	21	26	27	29	
	Out of County	1	0	1	1	1	2	
Completed Determinations by Evaluation Type	Complete, with Functional Evaluation	23	16	17	24	22	21	Evaluations by Age and Determination Type 
	Complete, Interview w/o Functional Evaluation	0	1	1	1	2	2	
	Complete, Special Circumstance (no Interview)	14	29	38	44	38	35	
	Complete, Over 85+	5	6	4	10	8	19	
	Complete, Phone Interview	0	2	4	5	3	0	
	Complete, Short-term Certification (60 days)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Complete, Recertifications	62	41	24	49	35	51	
	Completed Determinations	104	95	88	133	108	128	
Delays in Processing (Cumulative)	Due to incomplete application by client	3	6	9	10	5	12	In-person Interviews by Eligibility and Assessment Type 
	Pending Professional Evaluation (PE)	17	7	26	12	21	20	
	Applications that failed to meet 21 day rule	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Applicants awaiting in-person interviews	9	10	8	8	3	8	
Assessments	Assessment Categories	Total	CAM	VCTC	SIMI	T.O.	MPK	
	With Physical Assessment	6	0	3	3	0	0	
	With Cognitive Assessment	17	0	12	4	0	1	
	Interview only (at assessment sites)	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	No Shows	2	0	1	1	0	0	
	Total in-person interviews scheduled	124	0	16	8	0	1	
	Total Number of appointment days	8	0	4	3	0	1	
Determinations by Eligibility				Total	%			
Unconditional (including S.C., Over 85+ , Phone interviews,short-term)				83	80%			
Conditional				14	13%			
Temporary				7	7%			
Denials				0	0%			
Short Term				0	0%			

Jan-20				
Applications Received - GCT Area Cities	January	December	November	October
Casitas Springs	0	0	0	0
Meiners Oaks	0	0	0	0
Miramonte	0	0	0	0
Ojai	2	2	4	4
Oak View	0	0	0	0
Oxnard	35	25	19	31
Port Hueneme	8	3	3	4
Ventura	9	15	17	16
Applications Received-Valley Express Area Cities				
Fillmore	1	0	0	0
Piru	1	0	1	0
Santa Paula	6	0	2	3
Travel Training				
Training Statistics	January	December	November	October
Referrals received	0	0	1	0
Assessments	0	0	0	0
Trainings	0	0	0	0
Referral Source				
ADA-Camarillo Area	0	0	1	0
ADA-Gold Coast Area	0	0	0	0
ADA-Valley Express Area	0	0	0	0
ADA-Moorpark Area	0	0	0	0
ADA-Simi Valley Area	0	0	0	0
ADA-Thousand Oaks Area	0	0	0	0
Workshops	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Transit 101 Workshops				
Hosting Agency	Date	Attendees	Riders	Referrals
No Acitivity				

Mileage Reimbursement Program Monthly Report - Jan 2020

Category	Item Measured	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug
Application Process	Total Interest Applications	0	0	2	0	0	0
	Total Complete Applications	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Applications approved by EDC	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total claims processed	85	94	94	91	100	94
Mileage Claims	Total miles reimbursed	11281	11980	12116	12544	13233	11937
	Total one-way trips claimed	2066	2223	2278	2154	2425	2378
Statistics by Service Area							
Camarillo	Claims Received	18	19	17	19	21	17
	Miles Reimbursed	2490	2622	2436	2564	2991	2303
	One-way trips claimed	470	479	453	457	566	456
Gold Coast	Claims Received	26	29	30	29	32	33
	Miles Reimbursed	3846	3908	3906	4163	4292	4477
	One-way trips claimed	742	783	825	825	814	924
Moorpark	Claims Received	3	3	4	4	4	5
	Miles Reimbursed	228	244	508	438	496	484
	One-way trips claimed	44	46	60	74	100	90
Simi Valley	Claims Received	3	4	3	4	6	5
	Miles Reimbursed	438	566	438	567	810	542
	One-way trips claimed	94	120	116	68	161	134
Thousand Oaks	Claims Received	30	32	35	31	32	29
	Miles Reimbursed	3509	3887	4058	4182	4048	3519
	One-way trips claimed	625	725	757	673	704	670
Valley Express	Claims Received	5	7	5	4	5	5
	Miles Reimbursed	770	753	770	630	596	612
	One-way trips claimed	91	70	67	57	80	104
Other Statistics							
	Average Trip Length (Miles)	5.5	5.4	5.3	5.8	5.5	5.0
	Average Cost per Trip	\$ 1.91	\$ 1.89	\$ 1.86	\$ 2.04	\$ 1.91	\$ 1.76



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DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2020

MEMO TO: TRANSIT OPERATORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TRANSCOM)

FROM: PETER DE HAAN, PROGRAMMING DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE BILLS FOR FREE TRANSIT FARES, INCLUDING AB 1350 (GONZALEZ) AND AB 2012 (CHU)

RECOMMENDATION

- Receive and discuss.

BACKGROUND:

Shortly before the last TRANSCOM meeting, after the agenda was posted, VCTC learned that Assembly Member Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) amended her bill, AB 1350, to require all transit agencies to provide free transit passes to persons 18 and under, as a condition for accessing state transit apportionments including Transportation Development Act (TDA), State Transit Assistance (STA), and the Low Carbon Transit Operations (LCTOP). VCTC staff placed this issue on the Commission agenda for February 7th, with a recommendation to "Work with Author." Subsequent to the preparation of that meeting agenda, VCTC learned of the introduction of AB 2012, authored by Assembly Member Kansen Chu (D-San Jose) which makes a similar requirement for free fares for seniors. There has also been past legislative interest in free fares for university students, so there might also be a proposed free fare mandate for that group as well, along with persons with disabilities. There has also been interest throughout the nation in complete transit fare elimination, with Kansas City being the first major city to move toward free fares for all transit.

Attached is the analysis of AB 1350 that VCTC's lobbyist, Delaney Hunter, prepared for the Commission.

In recent years VCTC consistently supported proposals to provide free or more discounted fares to students, including college/university students as well as secondary and younger. Typically those proposals would have come with additional state funding, while AB 1350 and AB 2012 by contrast provide no new funds while requiring transit operators to use existing funds. The bills contain no language regarding an unfunded local mandate, apparently because it does not mandate anything but instead makes all state transit apportionments conditional on compliance with a requirement. Another significant provision is that for the purposes of calculating the required TDA farebox recovery ratio, transit operators will be allowed to take credit for the free youth and senior rides as though the full regular fare was paid. As a result, transit operators will receive less fare revenue but will find it slightly easier to meet with the state's farebox recovery requirement. It is important to note that the free fare requirements are applicable

simply to “transit” which staff believes applies to all modes of transit operated by agencies receiving the referenced state apportionments, including fixed route bus, commuter rail, and paratransit.

While the Commission is generally supportive of free or discounted transit service for youth, these bills raise issues, particularly the cost of eliminating youth fares for VCTC, Metrolink, Gold Coast Transit, and the county’s municipal bus providers. In the case of VCTC and Gold Coast, the youth ridership is estimated at about 8.5%, so a rough estimate of the lost revenue due to free youth fares would be \$235,000 for Gold Coast and \$85,000 for VCTC. (The \$85,000 in lost VCTC revenue is approximately equal to the revenue added by the January fare increase.) There could also be increased costs if the free youth fare results in significant additional ridership requiring additional school tripper buses, which would produce virtually no fare revenue. The cost of free transit for seniors is anticipated to be significantly greater than for youth, especially because of the preponderance of senior paratransit ridership and the likely increase in demand which generates increased paratransit trips requiring a large subsidy. It would therefore seem appropriate for the state to provide some kind of financial support to help address the lost revenue and higher expenses.

A possibly unforeseen consequence of the proposed free fare proposals could be the financial incentive to transit operators to cut back on the quality and frequency of service. For example, due to the large amount of fare revenue resulting from a full bus, there is a significant financial incentive for transit operators to provide school trippers, but AB 1350 would eliminate that incentive possibly instead incentivizing transit operators to eliminate school trippers and allow more overcrowding. Similarly, Ventura County paratransit operators currently provide service to seniors without ADA certification using available capacity not required by the higher-priority ADA complementary paratransit service, but the likely spike in demand resulting from free senior rides required under AB 2012 would likely incentivize paratransit operators to eliminate the senior dial-a-rides to prevent federally-prohibited impacts on the ADA service.

Since AB 1350 was a two-year bill, it faced a January 31st deadline to pass out of the house of origin. That deadline was met with the bill receiving bipartisan, unanimous approval of the Assembly on January 27th.

AB 1350 (Gonzalez)

Summary:

AB 1350 by Assembly member Lorena Gonzalez would require transit agencies to offer free youth transit passes to all Californians age 18 years and under in order to be eligible for state funding under the Mills-Deddeh Transit Development Act, the State Transit Assistance Program, or the Low Carbon Transit Operations Program.

Purpose:

According to the author, while there are a variety of transit pass programs that target youth populations, many of these programs are contingent on school enrollment, or on a means-tested basis for low-to-moderate-income youth. If California is to meet its GHG emissions goals, young Californians must become regular transit users, regardless of income or education status. AB 1350 would require local transit agencies to offer free transit passes to individuals age 18 and under in order to be eligible for state transportation funds. This bill would also require a free youth transit pass to count as a full price fare for the purposes of calculating the ratio of fare revenues to operating costs. Requiring local transit agencies to offer free transit passes to youth riders, regardless of income or educational status, removes an additional barrier to encourage youth ridership and creating life-long transit users.

Existing Law:

Provides funding for public transportation through the TDA, including the LTF, which is derived from a .25% statewide sales tax, and the STA, which is derived from the sales tax on diesel fuel.

Establishes the GGRF in the State Treasury and requires all monies collected pursuant to the state's cap and trade program, with limited exceptions, to be deposited into the fund and makes the GGRF funds available for appropriation by the Legislature.

Establishes the LCTOP and continuously appropriates 5% of GGRF fund proceeds, beginning in the 2015-16 fiscal year, for transit operations.

Requires transit operators to maintain a specified ratio of fare revenues to operating costs in order to be eligible to receive TDA funds.

Related Legislation:

AB 1543 (Holden) requires a fare paid pursuant to a reduced fare transit program to be counted as a full adult fare for purposes of calculating any required ratios of fare revenues to operating costs. AB 1543 did not move in 2020 and is dead.

AB 2034 (Holden) of 2018 requested the University of California Institute of Transportation Studies to prepare and submit a report on reduced fare transit pass programs to the Governor and Legislature by January 1, 2020. AB 2034 was held in the Senate Rules Committee.

AB 17 (Holden) of 2017, would have created a reduced fare transit pass pilot program funded at \$20 million to be administered by the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to provide free or reduced fare transit passes to low income students. AB 17 was vetoed by Governor Brown.

AB 2222 (Holden) of 2016, would have created a reduced fare transit pass program to be administered by Caltrans for low income students. AB 2222 was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

AB 1555 (Gomez) of 2016, would have appropriated \$800 million from the GGRF to fund a variety of programs including \$10 million for active transportation and transit pass investments. AB 1555 was

referred to the Assembly Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review and returned to the Chief Clerk without being heard.

SB 951 (McGuire) of 2016, would have created and appropriated \$3 million annually from the GGRF through 2020-21 for the Golden State Patriot Passes pilot program to provide veterans with free access to transit. SB 951 was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

SB 862 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review), Chapter 36, Statutes of 2014, created and funded with GGRF, the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities, the Low Carbon Transportation, and the LCTOP programs.

AB 1002 (Bloom) of 2013, would have increased the tax on vehicle registrations by \$6. 40% of the revenues would have been appropriated to transportation commissions and transit operators to support transit operations and maintain and expand reduced fare programs, including transit passes for students, low-income youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities. AB 1002 was referred to the Assembly Local Government Committee but was returned to the Chief Clerk without being heard.

Support/Opposition:

Support:

None as of 1/22/2020

Opposition:

None as of 1/22/2020