



**TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC WORKS POLICY COMMITTEE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
January 18, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members: Colleen Wallace (Chair); Fred Jung (Vice Chair); Holly Andreatta; Yasmine Arellano; Melanie Bagby; Vida Barone; Greg Barton; Liz Becerra; Brigit Bennington; Joseph Bernal; Priya Bhat-Patel; Chelsea Byers; John Cale; John Campbell; Ross Chun; Amanda Cortez; Omar Dadabhoy; Bob Engler; Goran Eriksson; Peggy Flynn; Thomas Gaffrey; Lucy Garcia; Gaurav Garg; Mike Johnson; Trish Kelley; Chris Kelley; Marilyn Librers; Irais Lopez-Ortega; Julie Lucido; Victor Manalo; Marianna Marysheva; Brian McCarthy; Jennifer Mendoza; Stacy Mendoza; Linda Molina; Devin Murphy; Anna Nicholas; Ann Schneider; Kristine Scott; Margaret Talamantes; Helen Tran; Alexander Trinidad; Steven Vargas; Dennis Wilberg; Scott Wolfe; Aaron Zavala

Cal Cities Partners: Alicia Berhow

Staff: Damon Conklin, Legislative Affairs Lobbyist  
Waleed Hojeij, Legislative Affairs Policy Analyst

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Colleen Wallace and Vice Chair Fred Jung welcomed committee members and introduced themselves.

Chair Wallace introduced Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director. Ms. Coleman welcomed everyone to the first policy committee meeting of the year, emphasized the significance of the policy committee's work, and thanked members for their service to all California cities.

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 Wallace introduced Cal Cities President Daniel Parra who explained that policy committees are vitally important and emphasized the need to protect local governments.

**II. Public Comment**

Chair Wallace asked if there was any public comment. None were provided.

**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. Existing Policies 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.

Cal Cities staff provided highlights and a summary of the guiding principles for Transportation, Communications and Public Works. The proposed changes were primarily minor and technical in nature and included references to advocacy efforts on electric vehicle charging station permitting, regulating e-scooters/bikes, and autonomous vehicles. The adoption of the new existing policy and guiding principles was passed unanimously. ([Available here](#))

#### **V. Gov Budget: Transportation Funding**

Chair Wallace introduced Frank Jimenez and Luke Koushmaro from the Legislative Analyst Office discuss the state's budget process, the governor's proposed budget and its implications for transportation funding. Questions and concerns from participants included inquiries about high-speed rail funding, municipal electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and the specifics about the budget deficit. It was highlighted that the magnitude of the current budget shortfall is larger than recent years. Fluctuations in the budget, especially due to income tax revenue volatility, are not uncommon. The current projections do not include a recession scenario, but both the administration and the Legislative Analyst's Office are projecting out-year deficits.

#### **VI. Renewable Energy Integration and Grid Scale Battery Storage**

The committee heard a presentation from Matthew Gevercer with California Independent System Operator (Cal ISO) on renewable energy integration and grid-scale battery storage. The discussion covered the organization's responsibilities, regulatory framework, renewable energy trends, and challenges in managing intermittent generators. Questions from committee members addressed industry standards for grid resiliency, how Cal ISO tracks battery storage metrics with residential installations from Bob, and regulatory authority over the grid.

#### **VII. Adoption of 2024 Work Program**

Cal Cities staff provided the committee an overview of [Cal Cities 2024 Advocacy Priorities](#).

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.

To inform the committee's work program, committee members were asked to respond to an online survey selecting their top priorities for the committee to focus on in the coming year.

Cal Cities staff provided an overview of the survey responses and proposed work program. Chair Wallace facilitated a committee discussion of the survey results. After much discussion, the committee agreed the work program was sufficiently broad enough and encompassed a wide array of potential policy issues. The committee reaffirmed the survey results to focus on the following policy items:

- Local street roads, maintenance and bridge repair and replacement (SB1 funding and equity among lower populated cities).
- Ensuring Safe Streets.
- Broad Broadband Deployment.
- Water grid (conveyance and storage).
- Infrastructure Funding.

The committee voted in support on all five proposed items in the work plan, and there were no nays in the final vote.

#### **VIII. Public Agency Custom Apps**

Chair Wallace introduced Matthew Aveling, National Public Safety Advisor, OCV LLC and Phil Hagan, Communication Strategist, OCV LLC who shared with the committee the role of custom apps for public agencies. The speakers discussed the importance of custom applications in enhancing communication and safety strategies for public agencies. It was highlighted that these custom apps could potentially play a vital role in streamlining public safety efforts and improving overall communication strategies for government entities to their constituents.

#### **IX. CEC Programs and Grants**

The committee heard from speakers Brian Fauble, Energy Commission Specialist, Corey Permann, Innovation Unit Manager, and Danny Leung, Energy Commission Specialist with the California Energy Commission (CEC) about new programs and available grants that cities may apply for. The speakers discussed the Charging Infrastructure for Government Fleets initiative, aiming to provide EV charging for government fleets, with a current budget of \$30 million and an application deadline of April 5, 2024. Another program focused on Charging Infrastructure for On-Demand Transportation Services, offering \$35 million initially, of which only \$10.5 million had been awarded at the time of the discussion. The REACH 2.0 project aimed to install level 1 and level 2 chargers for multi-family housing, with a proposed budget of \$41 million for 11 projects. Additionally, the speakers covered the REV initiative, focusing on promoting EV charging in rural parts of California. The speakers also provided insights into ongoing block grants, such as CALeVIP 2.0, highlighting specific requirements and launched projects.

#### **X. Legislative Update**

Cal Cities staff provided a legislative and regulatory update, providing a summary of the current legislative landscape and what emerging policies are being forecasted.

Cal Cities staff provided an update of the Advanced Clean Fleet regulation and Cal Cities efforts to create more flexibility for cities to comply with the mandate.

A list of the [Cal Cities TCPW bills can be found here](#).

**XI. Adjourn**

Chair Colleen Wallace and Vice-Chair Fred Jung thanked the committee for their hard work and provided some closing remarks. Chair Wallace adjourned the committee meeting.

**Next Meeting: In Person, Thursday, March 21, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank**

**2016 Policy Committee Appointments**

**REMINDER:** The 2015 policy committee appointments will end at the close of the Annual Conference; appointments for 2016 can be requested thereafter. Members seeking appointments for 2016 are urged to contact their incoming department, division, or affiliate president immediately following the Annual Conference to request