

League of CA Cities

Transportation, Communications and Public Works Committee

June 9, 2017 Meeting notes

Donna Pontau, City of Livermore/MMANC representative

1. Opening Segment on CA Budget and Key Content Areas
 - a. The budget deadline is 6/15/17. Two-thirds of the State budget relies on personal income tax revenue. The State is seeing an erosion of sales tax revenues with the continued shift to online shopping. The State is also getting hit with impacts on increasing pension costs too.
 - b. The League is VERY concerned about SB 649 (Hueso) Wireless Communications. The telecommunications industry would effectively usurp local control regarding "small" wireless equipment on street light poles, public buildings, etc. for no compensation to local governments. **Please read up on this bill and submit an opposition bill. The bill passed the Senate so it must be stopped in the Assembly!**
 - c. The League is also very concerned with SB 35 (Weiner) regarding housing. It is basically a lighter version of the Governor's "by right" proposal from last year. This bill would pertain to most cities because the 100,000 population limit threshold includes a particular city *plus* neighboring/bordering cities. **Again, please read up on this bill and submit an opposition letter to your assembly member.**
 - d. The two park bond proposals, AB 18 (E. Garcia) and SB 5 (de Leon) are expected to merge before the end of the legislative session.
 - e. League staff is still fighting to get more Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act features *back* in the trailer bill supposedly "reconciling" MMRSA and Prop. 64 regulations and processes. Cities are still encouraged to send letters opposing the presently worded trailer bill.
 - f. The President's federal budget is "quite grim" with respect to programs for cities. The Community Development Block Grant program, HOME Investment Partnerships Program and **many** others are either eliminated or cut.
2. The Transportation, Communications and Public Works Committee and the Environmental Quality Committee met to jointly discuss SB 231 (Hertzberg) Local Government: Fees and Charges. The bill would add stormwater fees to the list of property-related fees that are not subject to Proposition 218 by adding stormwater to the definition of "sewer." Some committee members believed that supporting the bill was a way of increasing taxes without voter approval and illustrated a lack of government transparency. Others indicated that the history of this service illustrated that sewers *were* generally called "stormsewers" until inadvertent language changes with the 1972 Clean Water Act that highlighted the roles of water sewers and storm sewers (ie. Stormwater systems.). Many commenters contend that the sewers mentioned in Prop. 218 include stormwater, and SB 231 clarifies the confusion and misunderstanding of a recent court case. After good discussions, the TCPW voted to recommend the LOCC Board support SB 231 as did EQ.

3. Ms. Juanita Martinez, Regional Manager for Public Policy, General Motors made a very interesting presentation on "Driving: the Future of Improved Mobility." She discussed GM's new all electric vehicle, the Chevy BOLT EV and its use in autonomous vehicle pools. Cars today are computers that can take cues from traffic data and conditions to complement Smart Cities efforts and provide great service to customers. Ms. Martinez mentioned MAVEN, a pilot project between GM and Lyft or Uber where electric cars can be leased by companies, governments or apartment complexes for the use of residents. GM's CRUZE autonomous vehicle automation system is now being tested on BOLT's driving around streets in Michigan, Scottsdale, AZ and San Francisco. The vehicles are "geofencing" SF to divide it into grids to further enhance efficient driving routes.
4. The Committee briefly discussed a late agenda item -- SB 182 (Bradford) Transportation network company: participating drivers: single business license. The Committee did not concur on any items suggested by LOCC staff to move the bill from the LOCC opposed position.
5. After the meeting concluded, committee members who were able to then went to the Capitol to lobby against SB 649.