TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC WORKS POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS
Thursday, January 18, 2018
Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J Street, Room 202, Sacramento

ATTENDANCE
Members: Esmeralda Soria (Chair), Lindsey Horvath (V.Chair), Newell Arnerich, Sean Ashton, Kim Bergel, Timm Borden, Robin Borre, Randy Breault, Ross Chun, Keith Cooke, Laurie Davies, Pippin Dew-Costa, Paul Fadelli, Ben Fine, Alice Fredericks, Vartan Gharpetian, Jeffrey Giba, Charles Herbertson, Ronn Hall, Christian Horvath, Andrew Jared, Valerie Kushnerov, Jeff Lee, Chin Ho Liao, Fabian Lizarraga, John McAlister, Jennifer Mendoza, Hernan Molina, Lou Munoz, Henry Nickel, Dan Parra, Sam Pedroza, Jerry Pentin, Debbie Peterson, Gary Pollard, Ron Rowlett, Steve Sanchez, Jay Spurgin, George Spurr, Charles Swimley, Daniel Talbot, David Terrazas, Lisa Tulee, Miguel Ucovich, Veronica Vargas, Steven Vargas, Connie Williams, Bryce Wilson

League Partners: Marc Myers

Staff: Rony Berdugo

I. State Budget and Issues Briefing
The January 2018 Policy Committee meetings began with a General Session briefing. League President Rich Garbarino, Council member, City of South San Francisco, gave a brief welcome, which included highlighting the importance of the League’s 2018 Strategic Goals, then introduced League Deputy Executive Director/Legislative Director, Dan Carrigg, to discuss state budget and legislative issues.

Mr. Carrigg stated that the state budget revenues continue to be strong and that the Governor plans to allocate additional revenues to fully-fund the state’s Rainy Day Reserve fund at $13.5 billion. Healthy reserves were also good for local government, he said, because it gave the state options during a downturn, rather than attempting to shift funds from local government as it had in the past. Mr. Carrigg then introduced Michael Coleman, the League’s Fiscal Policy Advisor, to discuss the Governor’s January budget.

Mr. Coleman gave a short PowerPoint presentation on the 2018 January Governor’s budget. For more information about the impacts of the budget on cities, please review the League’s analysis, and information on Mr. Coleman’s website here. Mr. Coleman then gave Dan Carrigg the floor.

Mr. Carrigg briefly discussed the large amount of housing bills passed by the Legislature last year and how if more housing legislation were introduced this year could be difficult for cities to navigate. He also discussed the uncertainty California faces in regards to the President’s recent tax reform legislation and plan to open up offshore drilling. Then Mr. Carrigg introduced the League’s lobbyists to discuss their respective issue areas big topics. First, he introduced Dane Hutchings, League Legislative Representative, to discuss pensions and other labor and governance issues.

Mr. Hutchings gave an overview of what will be happening on pensions this year. Cities are struggling with increasing costs, and securing additional flexibility for cities is a priority. Additionally, Mr. Hutchings discussed two measures (not in print yet) that could have big effects on cities. The first measure would apply prospective and retroactive joint and several liability to agencies who have entered into a JPA for all retirement related liabilities for any public retirement system. This measure would not just apply to CalPERS but any county retirement...
system as well. The second measure would expand the number of days allotted in the safe harbor provision of the California Voting Rights Act to provide cities more time to convert to district-based elections.

Rony Berdugo, League Legislative Representative, discussed how the landmark passage of SB 1 (Beall, 2017) doubles the amount of funding cities receive for road maintenance and rehabilitation projects. He stressed that if the voters repealed SB 1, another funding package would not come together for a long time. He encouraged cities to proactively document and promote their road improvement work as the best way to protect their funding and to join in League efforts to support Proposition 69, the constitutional protections for new transportation revenues, and to participate in efforts to oppose the transportation funding repeal. Additionally, he thanked the Governor for his veto of SB 649 (Hueso) and how the League was taking steps to draft its own proposal on telecommunications deployment. This proposal would help preserve local control, while also providing a streamlined process for cities to roll out wireless “small cell” technology.

Jason Rhine, League Legislative Representative, focused in on the housing affordability and availability challenges throughout the state. Mr. Rhine noted that housing legislation is a high priority for the Legislature and the League this year. He reminded attendees to look through the 2018 Guide to New Housing Law in California, which was provided. Additionally, Mr. Rhine encouraged members to be active in advocating for legislation that will help local governments address their housing challenges while preserving appropriate local control functions. Mr. Rhine discussed SB 827 (Wiener), which would exempt certain housing projects from locally developed and adopted height limitations, densities, parking requirements, and design review standards. Cities were encouraged to submit an opposition letter.

Erin Evans-Fudem, League Legislative Representative, highlighted evolving environmental and community issues that will be big in 2018. With successful reauthorization of the cap-and-trade program last year, monitoring the programs and proposed funding allocations will continue to be a priority. In addition, Ms. Evans-Fudem discussed the importance for cities to engage in discussions about organic waste recycling regulations, disaster relief and wildfire response legislation, as well as offshore drilling, and clean drinking water legislation.

Tim Cromartie, League Legislative Representative, updated members on the continued rollout of cannabis regulations and the different ways cities can stay engaged on this issue. On the topic of public safety, he informed members they should be aware of a ballot initiative, sponsored by the Police Chiefs and the Grocers associations, seeking to amend the list of violent offenses as it relates to the provisions of Proposition 57, which provides for expanded parole considerations and increased rehabilitation programming for non-violent offenders. In addition, cities must stay alert for the drone industry to push for federal preemption in the annual Federal Aviation Administration’s reauthorization bill.

II. Welcome and Introductions
Members of the committee introduced themselves and welcomed all new members. The Chair thanked the members for their time and contributions and asked committee members to share a personal goal they had for 2018.

III. Public Comment
No public comment.
IV. Overview of Parliamentary Procedure and Roberts Rules
The Chair went over the basic parliamentary procedures that will be followed by the committee and were introduced to the city attorney on the committee which will assist if parliamentary questions arise.

V. Committee Orientation
The Chair and staff went over how the committee would operate including an explanation of the process by which the committee will make recommendations to the League board for final approval and action. In addition, members were reminded that their preparation, participation, and expertise are needed for the committee to best operate.

The Chair reviewed the committee’s structure, times and dates of future policy committees, and email communications.

VI. Update of Existing Policy & Guiding Principles
Mr. Berdugo explained the importance of the guiding principles document as the foundation for League advocacy positions. The document is updated and published every two years to reflect significant policies adopted by policy committees and approved by the Board. Mr. Berdugo reviewed the policy that has been adopted through Annual Conference Resolutions, League positions on bills approved by the League Board of Directors, or broad League policy approved by the League Board of Directors over the last two years.

Committee members reviewed the proposed update and considered whether it accurately reflects the actions taken by the policy committee (and League Board) over the last two years, and whether there were any missing policy items or errors in describing policy. Committee members who wish to propose new League policy or to revisit existing League policy should suggest that the issue be placed on an agenda for a future policy committee meeting, as opposed to attempting to modify the policy through this update.

Motion to move and second the adoption of the Existing Policy and Guiding Principles. Unanimous Support

VII. Strategic Goals for 2018
The committee reviewed the League’s 2018 Strategic Goals. This year there are four main strategic goals:
1. Address Public Safety Concerns of California Cities.
2. Ensure Sustainability of Public Pension and Retirement Health Benefits.
3. Protect Existing Transportation Funding for Local Priorities.
4. Improve Housing Affordability and Support Additional Resources to Address the Homelessness Crisis.

VIII. SB 1 – Transportation Funding – State Controller’s Office Presentation
George Lolas, Chief Operating Officer for the State Controller’s Office joined the group to talk about SB 1. He covered the breakdown where revenues are coming from under SB 1 and how they will be allocated to city and county governments. He explained and provided to the group a flow chart of how the revenues are distributed.

Committee members asked tactical questions about ways to verify that cities are in compliance with obligations presented by SB 1, how payments will be distributed to cities, etc. The representatives from the Controller’s Office encouraged cities to call their office as questions and needs arise.
IX.  City and County Pavement Improvement Center
Summary: John Harvey, Director for the University of California Pavement Research Center and City and County Pavement Improvement Center explained the work that the Center is doing and resources that are available to cities. He explained that the Center helps local governments improve the cost effectiveness, customer satisfaction and environmental sustainability of their pavement operations. He also explained that he is seeking a partnership with the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties for the Center to remain intact. This would entail a financial investment by the league and involvement in developing their governance guidelines and steering the general direction of the organization.

MOTION: To authorize League staff to explore formally entering into a partnership with the California State Association of Counties and the University of California in identifying, developing, prioritizing, performing, reporting and implementing the City and County Pavement Improvement Center, its governance structure and priorities, and to bring any funding decisions such as source of funding and the amount of funding back to the Committee for consideration and approval. **Approved by a majority, two members abstained.**

X. Telecommunications Infrastructure
Summary: Harriet Steiner, Partner at Best, Best & Krieger Attorneys at Law gave the group an update on what transpired in the legislature last year and what we can anticipate for this year regarding telecommunications infrastructure. Ms. Steiner covered what SB 649 would have meant for cities – severely limiting a city’s control over where small cell wireless infrastructure is placed, what it looks like and how much cities could lease out public space for such use. She explained that there is an effort at the Federal level to do what SB 649 would have done. She noted that there are bills being introduced this year on broadband and broadband roll out. She explained that with the implementation of 5G there will be even more demand for space for wireless infrastructure.

Legislative Representative Rony Berdugo explained that the League is working on potential legislative language that would allow cities and counties to have the ability to negotiate their own terms for deployment of this technology but that would help bring the technology to fruition more rapidly. Mr. Berdugo noted that he would be working in conjunction with other policy areas such as public safety, including working with the Fire Chiefs and Police Chiefs departments. Especially after recent emergencies in the state, it was noted that members would like feedback from public safety on the use of this technology during emergencies and how susceptible to destruction this technology would be in such emergencies.

MOTION: To authorize the League staff to work with key coalition stakeholders to introduce legislation that reflects a model framework for the deployment of small cell infrastructure through the utilization of master license agreements and to give League staff flexibility to negotiate such proposal in a way that preserves the best interests of cities. **Passed Unanimously.**

XI. Legislative & Policy Updates
1. Transportation Funding – Governor Brown’s 2018-19 Budget
Summary: Rony Berdugo provided background for the group on transportation. He explained that for the last ten years the League and CSAC have teamed together to publish the Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment. Mr. Berdugo then went into detail on the funding and allocations that will be provided to cities under SB 1. Mr. Berdugo noted legislation that has been introduced to ban the creation of combustion vehicles after 2040 and that the reliance on a gas tax would severely change should such a law be put into place.
XII. **2018 Draft Work Program**
The Committee reviewed the proposed 2018 work program and discussed adding the following items for further research and briefings:

- Connected Vehicles and Shared Autonomous Vehicles
- City and County Pavement Improvement Center – Ongoing Updates
- Public Transit Funding – Issue Updates/Pending Legislation
- Small Cell Infrastructure – Ongoing Regulatory and Legislative Updates

**MOTION:** To adopt the 2018 Work Plan. **Unanimous Support.**

**Next Meeting:** April 12, 2018, Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, 601 West McKinley Ave., Pomona, CA