

# TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, AND PUBLIC WORKS POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, June 4, 2020

Zoom

[Transportation, Communications, and Public Works Policy Committee Slides](#)

**Staff:** Melanie Perron, Deputy Executive Director, Advocacy and Public Affairs  
Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Policy Analyst

## **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 League advocacy team compiled a [General Briefing Update Document](#), which includes the latest on federal and state legislative matters affecting cities within their respective policy areas.

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

League President John Dunbar, Mayor, Yountville, welcomed everyone to the second installment of virtual policy committee meetings. He thanked all of the Policy Committee members for the extra effort they give on behalf of California's cities. President Dunbar explained it is a challenging time for cities as they incur significant expenses associated with the public health crisis. He highlighted that the League is calling on state and federal governments to provide direct and flexible funding to all cities, and will be advocating for resources needed to respond to, and recover from, this pandemic.

President Dunbar also addressed the brutal death of George Floyd. He explained that as local leaders, everyone has the power – and responsibility – to confront the underlying racism and civil injustice still present within communities. He said the League would be setting aside time during each policy committee meeting to talk about two key questions on equity and justice. The first question was, "In order to help city leaders focus on equity and justice in our communities, what specific policy issues should we advance in your committee?" The second question was, "What resources do cities need to respond to what is happening in our communities?" President Dunbar explained that the discussions generated by these questions would help inform the League's work in the coming weeks and months to provide the support necessary to make real and positive changes.

President Dunbar introduced Carolyn Coleman, League Executive Director. Ms. Coleman thanked everyone for leading in one of the most challenging times in recent history. She explained that California's cities have been models for the nation, and their actions in response to COVID-19 have saved lives. Ms. Coleman said that besides developing policy recommendations on ballot measures and legislation, the League is asking the policy committees to have a discussion on President Dunbar's two key questions related to equity and justice. Ms. Coleman highlighted that without the committee members' engagement, the League wouldn't be the strong organization it is.

Chair Newell Arnerich, Council Member, Danville, and Vice Chair Jennifer Mendoza, Council Member, Lemon Grove, welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

## **II. Public Comment**

Chair Arnerich asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

## **III. COVID-19 Update**

League staff provided a COVID-19 update, which highlighted resources such as the League's COVID-19 dedicated [webpage](#), [email](#), and [webinar series](#). League staff also gave an overview of the potential impacts that COVID-19 may have on key state legislative and budget deadlines. Notably, COVID-19 response and recovery, along with issues such as housing, homelessness, public safety, and wildfires, will likely continue to be legislative priorities for this session, while other legislative priorities may be delayed until next session.

Additionally, League staff provided an overview of the League's [Support Local Recovery](#) campaign. This highlighted the campaign's goals, which include securing \$7 billion from the state government and \$500 billion from the federal government in direct and flexible funding to support critical city services. League staff also provided some key takeaways from League's fiscal analysis, which illustrate that all cities, regardless of size and geography, are being impacted by COVID-19, with over 90 percent of cities reporting that they are considering cutting/furloughing city staff or reducing public services. The League continues to work closely with its federal lobbying team and the National League of Cities regarding a potential fourth stimulus package.

## **IV. Budget Update**

League staff provided an update on the Governor's May Revision proposed budget. The budget proposal has been scaled down to \$203 billion from the \$222.2 billion proposed in January. The focus of the budget is the protection of California's core values: public education, public health, public safety, and people hit hardest by COVID-19. The May Revision proposes to use \$16.2 billion in the Budget Stabilization Account (Rainy Day Fund) over three years. The League's budget analysis can be found [here](#).

## **V. Legislative Update**

Chair Arnerich introduced Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Policy Analyst, to provide a legislative update on bills of interest to the committee. Ms. Cirrincione began by addressing bills that will not be moving forward this legislative session in light of a consolidated legislative calendar due to COVID-19. She then transitioned to touching on several key pieces of legislation that are continuing to move through the legislative process related to seismic safety, mobility devices, broadband, and emergency telecommunications, among other issues. She then directed the committee to the League's dedicated TCPW [webpage](#), should there be any additional questions.

## **VI. Innovative Mobility Solutions Update**

Lori Pepper, Deputy Secretary, Innovative Mobility Solutions, California State Transportation Agency, joined the committee to provide an update regarding mobility solutions in California. Deputy Secretary Pepper began by introducing herself and providing an overview of her background, which includes years of working on legislation in local, state, and federal government. She also detailed her new role and what she is hoping to achieve. Specifically, she discussed the work the state, and her agency, are doing to achieve the goal of broadband for all, including a proof of concept to create mobile hotspots in the City of Sacramento. Additionally, she spoke about her work on the California Energy Commission's Clean Technology Advisory Council. Deputy Secretary

Pepper closed her presentation by highlighting other issues in her portfolio, such as micromobility, data and privacy issues, road charge, connected and automated vehicles, and the California Integrated Travel Project.

#### **VII. CPUC Broadband and Digital Divide Update**

Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves, Michael Mullaney, Communications and Transportation Advisor, Rob Osborn, Communications Division Director, and Michael Minkus, Communications Division Policy Advisor, from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), joined the policy committee to provide a thorough update regarding broadband and the digital divide in California. The speakers highlighted the CPUC's broadband programs, actions taken in response to COVID-19 to improve broadband access, as well as plans to leverage federal funds for California broadband deployment. Additionally, the speakers discussed broadband case studies, including successful examples of municipal broadband both in and out of California. Additional resources and contact information for the presenters can be found on the CPUC's [presentation slide deck](#).

#### **VIII. Broadband Policy**

Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Policy Analyst, briefed the committee on a proposed addition to the Summary of Existing Policy and Guiding Principles Document in the Transportation, Communications, and Public Works section. League staff recommended that the committee adopt the following proposed broadband policy:

**Access:** All local community residents should be provided access to all available telecommunications services. **The League supports funding and resources to provide access to high-speed broadband infrastructure, including municipal broadband, for all California communities, to close the digital divide, especially in unserved and underserved communities.**

The committee had a robust discussion about the proposed policy. Many committee members highlighted the importance of ensuring high-capacity broadband access, especially in light of COVID-19. A motion was made to adopt the proposed policy. The motion carried 29-0.

#### **IX. Equity and Justice Dissuasion**

Chair Arnerich asked the committee to have a dialog about President Dunbar's two key questions related to equity and justice. The committee had a robust conversation which generated many new ideas about what the League could do in this space. The committee discussed what cities' responses have been to the recent protests, how their individual city addresses equity and justice, and how the League, Policy Committees, and the State Legislature can consider policy decisions through an equity and justice lens.

One committee member highlighted their experience at [UCLA's 2019 Lake Arrowhead Symposium focused on connecting equity and transportation](#). They explained that this symposium had a diverse set of presenters who provided very valuable information specific to transportation. Other committee members expressed interest in learning more about this event.

**Next Meeting:** Staff will notify committee members after August 17 if the policy committee will be meeting in October