

San Mateo County Transportation Authority
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California
Minutes of April 7, 2022

Members Present: E. Beach, D. Horsley, J. Mates, R. Medina (Chair), M. Nagales, C. Romero
Via Teleconference (Vice Chair)

Members Absent: C. Groom

Staff Present: C. Mau, A. Chan, J. Hurley, P. Gilster, P. Skinner, J. Brook, D. Seamans,
J. Cassman, S. van Hoften

1. Call to Order

Chair Rico Medina called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Seamans confirmed that a quorum was present. Chair Medina requested that Director Mark Nagales lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

There were no comments.

4. Report of the Citizens Advisory Committee

Chair Medina noted that the report was posted on the website.

5. Consent Calendar

5.a. Adoption of Resolution Making Findings that the Proclaimed State of Emergency for COVID-19 Continues to Impact the Board's and Committees' Ability to Meet Safely in Person – Approved by Resolution No. 2022-11

5.b. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of March 3, 2022

5.c. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending February 28, 2022

5.d. Acceptance of Measure A and Measure W Semiannual Program Status Report

5.e. Authorize Execution of Master Agreement and Program Supplements for State-Funded Transit Projects – Approved by Resolution No. 2022-12

Motion/Second: Horsley/Romero

Ayes: Beach, Horsley, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Groom

6. Report of the Chair

Chair Medina announced that the ribbon-cutting for the South San Francisco Caltrain Station would be on Friday, April 8 at 10:00 am.

7. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

Chair Medina said that the report was posted on the website and provided a brief summary of Board actions.

8. Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

Carter Mau, Acting Executive Director, said the report was posted on the website. He noted that the capital budget amendment item was pulled from the consent calendar at the Caltrain Board meeting that morning. He said that following a discussion, this item was approved by six of the nine Board members, with the San Francisco directors voting not to support the amendment until the Caltrain governance Memorandum of Understanding is resolved.

9. Report of the Executive Director

Mr. Mau said that his report was in the packet. He noted that he would be stepping down from his Acting Executive Director and Acting General Manager/CEO positions at the end of the calendar year and said that the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) Board will begin an executive search for his replacement. The directors thanked Mr. Mau for his leadership.

10. Finance

10.a. Program and Allocate Measure W Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Funds for the Safe Routes to School Grant Program – *Approved by Resolution No. 2022-13*

Peter Skinner, Director, Grants and Funds Management, presented the staff report.

Theresa Vallez-Kelly, Coordinator, Safe Routes to School, San Mateo County Office of Education, expressed thanks to the TA for allocating the Measure W funding, which she said has enhanced the County's Safe Routes to School program.

Motion/Second: Beach/Nagales

Ayes: Beach, Horsley, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Groom

10.b. Measure W Citizens' Oversight Committee Report for Fiscal Year 2020 and Annual Audit of Measure W Funds for Fiscal Year 2021

Grace Martinez, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, provided the presentation.

Vice Chair Carlos Romero said that he was happy to see that the four bullet points on Page 6 were included in the final Measure W Citizens' Oversight Committee (COC) report.

11. Legislative Updates

11.a. Upcoming Funding Opportunities and TA Strategy

April Chan, Acting Deputy General Manager/CEO, explained the purpose of the item, which is to provide a more in-depth review of upcoming federal and state funding opportunities and outline how the TA can work with the various project sponsors to ensure that they can leverage TA funding with these other funding sources.

Jessica Epstein, Manager, Government and Community Affairs, and Mr. Skinner provided the presentation.

Directors Julia Mates and Emily Beach commended staff for their creative strategies and bundling of projects.

Director Horsley suggested improving autonomous vehicle (AV) infrastructure on El Camino Real. Ms. Chan noted the recent AV workshop and staff is in talks about how the TA can work with other agencies, including the County, to prepare for an AV future. She said they are not ready for funding yet, but that there are Measure A funds available for planning efforts, which can lead to a better understanding of the capital needs into the future.

With respect to “bundling projects with different modes of travel,” Vice Chair Romero asked if this idea of enhancing competitiveness comes from federal concepts of having a more integrated modality. Ms. Epstein said it was based on the state Climate Action Plan more than on federal considerations. She noted that complying with state competitiveness guidelines will also make projects more competitive for federal funding. Director Beach said it was great to be able to leverage funding at the local level.

11.b. State and Federal Legislative Update and Approval of Legislative Proposals: Support Senate Bill (SB) 922 (Wiener) and Assembly Bill (AB) 1944 (Lee)

Casey Fromson, Chief Communications Officer, provided a summary of federal and state legislation. She said that the level of funding included in the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations fully funded what the bipartisan infrastructure bill had proposed in Fiscal Year 2022. She added that earmarks were also included for the first time in ten years.

She said at the state level, that the Governor has an \$11 billion proposal, with \$750 million directed at transit agencies to allow them to provide three months of free fares.

She said they were requesting Board support for Senate Bill (SB) 922, a CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) exemption bill to help move local projects forward. She said that Assembly Bill (AB) 1944, is a public meetings bill that addresses changes to rules regarding teleconferencing. Director Beach suggested that staff engage with the Board to discuss investing in sustainable transportation as opposed to gas rebates. Vice Chair Romero asked regarding SB 922 if there is already a similar exemption that the state is trying to extend to 2030, and Ms. Fromson said yes and confirmed that it only applies to electric transit vehicles. Director Nagales said he was pleased with the proposed changes outlined in AB 1944.

Motion/Second: Horsley/Romero

Ayes: Beach, Horsley, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Groom

12. Requests from the Authority

There were no requests.

13. Written Communications to the Authority

Chair Medina noted that the correspondence was available on the website.

14. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting

Chair Medina announced that the next meeting would be on Thursday, May 5, 2022, 5:00 pm via Zoom teleconference and possibly as a hybrid in-person and Zoom meeting.

15. Report of Legal Counsel

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, said that there was nothing to report.

16. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at www.smcta.com. Questions may be referred to the Authority Secretary's office by phone at 650.508.6242 or by email to board@smcta.com.