

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** E. Beach (Chair), J. Mates, R. Medina (Vice Chair), M. Nagales, C. Romero  
**Via  
Teleconference**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** C. Groom, D. Horsley

**STAFF PRESENT:** C. Mau, A. Chan, J. Hurley, H. El-Guindy, S. van Hoften, P. Gilster, P. Skinner, J. Williams, J. Brook, D. Seamans

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Emily Beach called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Beach led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Seamans confirmed that a quorum was present.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There were no comments.

**4. REPORT OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 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. 2021-31*
- b) **Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of November 4, 2021**
- c) **Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending October 31, 2021**
- d) **Acceptance of Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 1st Quarter Fiscal Year 2022**
- e) **Award of Contract to Provide Financial Audit Services** – *Approved by Resolution No. 2021-32*

Motion/Second: Medina/Romero

Ayes: Beach, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Groom, Horsley

## **6. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Beach thanked colleagues on the ACR/TDM (Alternative Congestion Relief/Transportation Demand Management) Ad Hoc Committee. She also thanked staff for their efforts in hosting the Towards an Autonomous Future in San Mateo County Virtual Workshop.

## **7. SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT LIAISON REPORT**

Vice Chair Rico 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 said there was a short discussion on Caltrain governance, which will be continued to the January 2022 JPB Board meeting. He said they anticipated that the JPB Board would also hold a special meeting in December on the Caltrain electrification project.

Vice Chair Rico Medina noted that SamTrans staff has put in a lot of effort towards the Caltrain governance meetings.

## **9. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Mau said that his report was in the packet. He said he had received positive feedback about the Autonomous Future Workshop. In addition, he updated the Board regarding the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority (SMCEL-JPA). He noted that MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) has established an Express Lanes Executive Steering Committee, and that April Chan, Chief Officer, Planning, Grants/Transportation Authority, and Sean Charpentier, Executive Director, City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG), both represent the San Mateo County Express Lanes project and sit on the SMCEL-JPA Board.

## **10. PROGRAM**

### **a) Alternative Congestion Relief and Transportation Demand Management (ACR/TDM) Plan Update**

Ms. Chan reported that the ACR/TDM plan is a result of the direction outlined in the most recent TA Strategic Plan.

Patrick Gilster, Manager, Programming and Monitoring, provided the presentation.

Chair Beach praised the planning process, which included contributions from community stakeholders.

Director Mark Nagales asked how the allocation split-percentages were decided upon. Mr. Gilster said the project team looked at the population of the various geographic areas in the county and wanted to ensure some level of equity for smaller jurisdictions to compete successfully in the funding program.

Director Julia Mates asked how the 25 percent equity score in the evaluation criteria was going to be determined. Mr. Gilster said equity would be determined by three different metrics: income, vulnerable populations, and mode-based.

Director Carlos Romero thanked Mr. Gilster for listening to the ad hoc committee.

Chair Beach said the four things she is most excited about in this plan are: (1) an increase in TDM monitoring funds, (2) more money for TDM planning, (3) a competitive grant program for smaller/coastal jurisdictions, and (4) equity-reduced matching funds.

## **11. FINANCE**

### **a. Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook**

Derek Hansel, Chief Financial Officer, introduced Tom Tight, Managing Director, and Mark Creger, Director-Portfolio Manager, Public Trust Advisors, who provided the presentation.

Director Carlos Romero asked if the duration of the TA's investments would be shrinking. Mr. Hansel said they are trying to best position the funds being managed by Public Trust Advisors relative to the rest of the balance sheet. He said that Public Trust is operating within all the guidelines and parameters of the Authority.

Director Mates asked if there was a baseline assessment that the TA could do to determine how they are doing in ESG (environmental, social, and governance) investing so far. Mr. Creger said it was up to the TA which industries and companies it wants in its portfolio. Mr. Hansel said it was a relatively small set of investments that could potentially be affected.

Chair Beach asked how ESG is performing. Mr. Creger said there is a growing body of research showing that companies that incorporate ESG principles in their decision-making are turning out to have better financial performance and better performance in the financial markets. Chair Beach asked if staff could provide the Board with recommendations on investment strategies, and Mr. Hansel concurred.

Motion/Second: Nagales/Medina

Ayes: Beach, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Groom, Horsley

### **b) Programming and Allocation of \$113,968,000 in Measure A and Measure W Highway Program Funds for Twelve Highway Projects and Request Programming and Allocation of \$2,302,000 in Local Partnership Formula Funds – Approved by Resolution No. 2021-33**

Mr. Gilster presented the staff report.

Director Romero said he was pleased that the East Palo Alto project was shovel-ready and would be moving forward in light of the recommended funding.

Motion/Second: Romero/Medina

Ayes: Beach, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Groom, Horsley

## **12. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Casey Fromson, Acting Chief Communications Officer, briefly summarized the highlights of recent federal and state legislation. She said that President Biden has signed the bipartisan infrastructure bill into law. She said on November 19, the House passed the Build Back Better Bill. She said there is a CR (continuing resolution) waiting for approval

to fund the federal government for the rest of the year through February. She noted the state's ineligibility for federal funding for public transportation agencies due to ongoing litigation involving the Department of Labor and FTA (Federal Transit Administration), and said that it is hoped that the federal government will free up the flow of grants while the litigation is still pending. She finally noted a number of retirements at the congressional level, including the retirement of transportation advocates Congresswoman Jackie Speier and Congressman Peter DeFazio.

She said there was a large surplus at the state level and hope for a state transportation package.

Director Romero asked if they are expecting CRs every year and Ms. Fromson said likely yes.

### **13. 2022 DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

Ms. Fromson provided a brief summary of the draft program, noting that they would incorporate any suggestions from the TA CAC before bringing the final plan for Board approval in January.

### **14. REQUESTS FROM THE AUTHORITY**

There were no requests.

### **15. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE AUTHORITY**

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

### **16. DATE/TIME OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

Chair Beach announced that the next meeting would be on Thursday, January 6, 2022, 5:00 pm via Zoom teleconference.

### **17. REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL**

Shayna van Hoften, Legal Counsel, said that there was nothing to report.

### **18. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at [www.smcta.com](http://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](mailto:board@smcta.com).