

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**  
**1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070**  
**MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** E. Beach (Chair), D. Horsley, R. Medina (Vice Chair) (left at 6:09 pm),  
M. Nagales, C. Romero

**Via**  
**Teleconference**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** C. Groom, J. Mates

**STAFF PRESENT:** C. Mau, A. Chan, J. Hurley, J. Cassman, 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.

The Board approved Chair Beach's request to switch the order of Items #10 and #11.

Motion/Second: Beach/Horsley

Ayes: Beach, Horsley, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Groom, Mates

**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. 2021-29**
- b) Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of October 7, 2021**
- c) Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending September 30, 2021**
- d) Authorize the Filing of an Application for \$12,858,000 of Regional Transportation Improvement Program Funds for the Design Phase of the SR 92/US 101 Direct Connector Project – Approved by Resolution No. 2021-30**

Motion/Second: Medina/Nagales

Ayes: Beach, Horsley, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Groom, Mates

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

Chair Beach reminded the Board about the Toward an Autonomous Future in San Mateo County Virtual Workshop on November 17.

## **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. He said that public could submit their input on the Reimagine SamTrans website through November 8.

## **8. JOINT POWERS BOARD LIAISON REPORT**

Carter Mau, Acting Executive Director, said the report was posted on the website.

He noted that there had been a three-hour closed session at that morning's JPB meeting. He said there was a lengthy discussion on Caltrain governance where staff solicited feedback on their proposal and shared highlights of the proposal. He said that Caltrain staff was asked by its Board to refine the proposal and to bring it back to a future Board meeting.

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

Mr. Mau said that his report was in the packet. He said that he and Joe Hurley, TA Director, had participated in a meeting on changes that Caltrans is proposing for their highway investment program. He said the meeting participants' biggest concern was how the new investment priorities would affect projects that are already in the pipeline.

Director Don Horsley said he would like to see Caltrans also focus on transportation projects that improve on equity and housing availability in addition to greenhouse gas emissions reduction. He noted the historic slowness of getting road improvements that impact two Coastside projects: workforce housing and housing for developmentally disabled adults.

*Item #11 was taken out of order prior to Item #10*

## **11. FINANCE**

### **a. Acceptance of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021**

Grace Martinez, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, noted the change in name and acronym for the report to ACFR.

Jennifer Ye, Acting Director of Accounting, introduced Nathan Edelman, Partner, Eide Bailly LLP. They both provided the presentation.

Director Carlos Romero asked if the \$120 million difference in Item #5c, Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending September 30, 2021, in the fund balance is related to the funding of the \$100 million bond for the 101 Express Lanes project last year. Ms. Ye explained that possible differences between the financial statement and the ACFR include the fact that the financial statement was

prepared before finalizing the ACFR. She also explained that the financial statement report was prepared based on a budgetary basis while the ACFR was prepared based on a GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) basis. She said that she would review both reports regardless, and may follow up with an explanation to the Board following the TA Board meeting.

Motion/Second: Horsley/Romero  
Ayes: Beach, Horsley, Medina, Nagales, Romero  
Noes: None  
Absent: Groom, Mates

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

Connie Mobley-Ritter, Director of Treasury, announced that the portfolio managers had a last-minute issue and were not able to attend. She proposed the item be moved to the December 2 Board meeting and added that they would also provide an updated portfolio review for the October/November timeframe.

**10. PROGRAM**

**a) San Mateo 101 Express Lanes Quarterly Project Update**

April Chan, Chief Officer, Planning, Grants/Transportation Authority, introduced Leo Scott, Co-Project Manager, Gray-Bowen-Scott, provided the presentation.

Director Mark Nagales asked how the project team planned to do outreach to the immigrant community in various languages regarding the express lanes opening, particularly for those without access to social media. Mr. Scott said the public outreach team would have a better answer. Chair Beach noted that Mr. Scott is managing the construction side of the project. Ms. Chan said that Casey Fromson's team is managing the outreach efforts and could provide further information at a future meeting.

Director Romero asked for clarification on the unfunded risk exposure. Mr. Scott said that unfunded risks in terms of dollars had gone down by \$2.6 million since the last quarter. He said that while the total risks still exceed the dollars budgeted, the project team is shaving those risks down as the project progresses.

Chair Beach asked about the interim tolling phases. Mr. Scott said they are starting off with HOV (high-occupancy vehicle) 2 and 2+. He emphasized drivers would need a transponder to have a free trip in the HOV 3 lanes when the lanes open. Chair Beach also emphasized the importance of transponders and Ms. Chan said that as part of the public education process, the team would work on including information on where to purchase the transponders.

Public Comment:

Drew said he appreciated the striping getting adjusted prior to the repaving. He asked why a Friday as opposed to a Monday was selected for the opening of the southern segment. He asked what the reasoning was behind the median texturing and the cost to apply and maintain it. Mr. Scott said that Friday was selected so that any needed adjustments could be made over the weekend, and added that the decision was also based on similar project openings on I-880 and on other Bay Area projects. He said the cost of the binary hyperdrive design was roughly \$1 million and would require some maintenance effort.

*Vice Chair Medina left the meeting at 6:09 pm*

**b) 2021 Highway Program Call for Projects Draft Recommendations**

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

Director Horsley said he preferred Option # 3.

Director Romero asked regarding Option # 3 the amount of extra money that would be needed. Mr. Gilster said that Option #3 uses the \$11.4 million from original Measure A. He said that Option # 3, which is the staff recommendation, would avoid potentially having all four of the projects that still need additional funding before construction can begin from going to statewide competitive grant programs at the same time.

For the staff-recommended Option #3, Mr. Gilster reported that after using the available original Measure A funds, the TA has \$2.3 million in local partnership program (LPP) formula funds that would be programmed to East Palo Alto to reduce their funding gap and would provide additional funds to Half Moon Bay. He said that additional funding for both these projects would provide money for the highest-ranked construction project (Half Moon Bay) as well as for a project that is located in an MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) equity priority community.

Chair Beach asked for confirmation that the TA does not agree to fund 100 percent of every project and the maximum threshold is 50 percent into the future, and Mr. Gilster acknowledged that this is the policy. He said that the policy exception being recommended is due to the availability of the original Measure A funds and the LPP funds. He said that while the staff recommendation would allow two projects to exceed the maximum threshold of 50 percent, the Board is supportive of the recommendation due to the type of projects receiving the additional funding.

Public Comment:

Drew asked about the East Palo Alto project, if it was a brand new overcrossing or a repair. Mr. Gilster said it is not modifying the original overcrossing but is a parallel structure.

Ray Razavi, Transportation Engineer, City of Half Moon Bay, thanked the TA Board and staff for help with the application.

Director Horsley said he supported Option #3. Director Nagales concurred. Chair Beach said she supported geographic, equity issues

Director Horsley said that low-income residents on the Coastsides are living doubled and tripled up and expressed his support for projects that benefit the Coastsides communities.

Ms. Chan noted that staff would reach out to Vice Chair Medina, and Directors Groom and Mates about the draft recommendations discussion. She noted that the TA CAC also had expressed support for Option #3.

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

Amy Linehan, Public Affairs Specialist, briefly summarized the highlights of recent federal and state legislation.

She said the House Rules Committee released text on the Build Back Better initiative. She noted that the highway bill is languishing in Congress, waiting for the infrastructure bill to finally pass. She said the continuing resolution will expire on December 3.

She said the state is in recess until January.

## **13. REQUESTS FROM THE AUTHORITY**

There were no requests.

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

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

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

Chair Beach announced that the next meeting would be on Thursday, December 2, 2021, 5:00 pm via Zoom teleconference.

## **16. REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL**

Ms. Cassman said that there was nothing to report.

## **17. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

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).