

SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070
MINUTES OF AUGUST 5, 2021

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: C. Mau, A. Chan, J. Cassman, S. van Hoften, D. Hansel, P. Gilster, P. Skinner, D. Shockley, A. Edwin, 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

Ms. Seamans confirmed that a quorum was present.

Chair Beach led 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 Beach noted that the report was in the packet.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) **Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of July 1, 2021**
- b) **Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook for the Period Ending June 30, 2021**
- c) **Reprogramming and Reallocating \$1.35 Million in Measure A Funds from Savings from the Environmental, Design, and Construction Phases to the Landscaping Phase of the State Route 92/El Camino Real Interchange Project Services** –*Approved by Resolution No. 2021-20*
- d) **Information on Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending June 30, 2021**

Motion/Second: Medina/Mates

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Beach noted a ribbon cutting for the 25th Avenue grade separation would be scheduled sometime in September.

7. SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT LIAISON REPORTS

a) July

b) August

Vice Chair Rico Medina noted the reports were in the packet and he commended SamTrans staff for providing assistance to VTA (Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority) following the tragic shooting in May.

8. JOINT POWERS BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Carter Mau, Acting Executive Director, said the report was in the packet. He said that there was a discussion on service restoration plans, new COVID variants, and reopening the economy. Chair Beach asked if the new service restoration schedule would be revealed towards the end of August. Casey Fromson, Acting Chief Communications Officer, said they would have the official timetable out to the public starting on August 9.

9. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Mau said that his report was in the packet. He called out the Measures A and W highway program call for projects. He said the TA would be making \$100 million available in the upcoming call for projects. He also reported final acceptance of the 25th Avenue grade separation is slated for early October and noted that the 28th Avenue crossing was opened in July.

Director Carole Groom said she was heartened watching the grade separation construction in her San Mateo neighborhood and anticipated how it would improve people's commutes and mitigate traffic congestion.

10. PROGRAM

a) San Mateo US 101 Express Lanes Quarterly Project Update

Leo Scott, Co-Project Manager, Gray-Bowen-Scott, provided the presentation.

Director Mark Nagales said he was concerned about the construction contingency. Mr. Scott said the project team as a whole along with the construction team ascertain all identifiable risks in the worst-case scenarios; hence the risk numbers shown represent the worst case, and the team will manage to those risks to minimize cost to protect the contingency.

Director Don Horsley asked how they were informing the public about getting the new transponders. Mr. Scott said he would be covering that topic in his next quarterly update in November, but that TA staff could provide information in advance of the lane opening date.

Director Carlos Romero asked what the top items were that represent the largest percentage within the \$21 million of risk exposure. Mr. Scott acknowledged that at Millbrae, they have to protect the concrete columns of the bridge on the median, which requires additional work that they had not anticipated. He added that they still have to do similar sorts of work under the Highway 92 and Hillsdale Avenue

interchanges. Mr. Scott said that the other large risk is delays associated with potential fires and Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

Chair Beach asked when the section between Broadway and I-380 would be completed. Mr. Scott said it should be done by the end of August. He said the lanes will be striped in their final configuration. Chair Beach asked Mr. Scott to note some of the project's successes. He said LED (light-emitting diode) lighting and reflective signage will cut back on electricity usage.

Director Groom thanked Mr. Scott for the project newsletter.

b) Program Report: Transit – Shuttles

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

c) San Mateo County Shuttle Study Update

Daniel Shockley, Senior Planner, provided the presentation.

Chair Beach asked what percentage of the shuttle program is covered by the other funding agencies. Mr. Shockley said it was a very small percentage and that Measure A contributes the majority of funding.

Director Julia Mates asked what the goals of the shuttle program are. Mr. Shockley noted duality in goals for the first and last mile - for getting people to and from the train station to their work - and community goals such as local circulation access and lifeline access.

Vice Chair Rico Medina asked how staff will be scoring certain items in the proposed evaluation that seem more qualitative in nature. Mr. Shockley said they want to give staff the option of doing some level of qualitative assessment. Peter Skinner, Director, Grants and Fund Programming, added that the assessment will also be done by a scoring committee so as not to rely solely on quantitative metrics but provide some room for evaluation of potential shuttle routes using other non-quantitative metrics.

Director Horsley said he supports the shuttle program but raised concerns the scoring criteria may skew funding away from Coastside shuttles. He said that Coastside residents such as farm workers may have no chance of getting the shuttles funded from the program, adding that the County may need to find an alternative solution if that is the case.

Mr. Mau said that shuttles are just a single component of the transit picture in San Mateo County. He noted that moving forward, Reimagine SamTrans is working to ensure a holistic system that includes both income and geographic equity for all communities throughout the County. He said that the shuttle program may not be the ideal solution for certain communities.

Director Romero said it would be helpful to indicate how the scoring system works and wanted to understand the relationship between the shuttle grant sponsors and the shuttle operators. Mr. Shockley said the sponsors do all the legwork to submit the application to secure the funding match and design the route, which ultimately goes to the TA for evaluation.

Director Romero asked if there would be a single contract under SamTrans for all shuttles going forward or would Commute.org continue to negotiate and operate shuttles under a contract that it might hold. April Chan, Chief Officer, Planning,

Grants/Transportation Authority, explained that the current recommendation would be for SamTrans to hold the contract for all shuttles to be operated in the County. She said that the existing contract for the various operators (Commute.org, SamTrans, and Caltrain) was originally put out to bid as a single RFP (Request for Proposal), but that each agency has its own contract so it is the same rate for all three agencies. She said that the proposed future is to simplify that contract. Director Romero asked if that is the case, what would be the feedback loop between the project sponsors, e.g., Commute.org, and the operator SamTrans. Mr. Shockley said that feedback loop currently exists for shuttles operated by SamTrans and will continue.

Chair Beach inquired if there is required marketing in the call for projects to ensure the shuttles' success. Mr. Shockley said marketing is included in the current evaluation criteria and will continue.

Director Groom suggested having a subcommittee to discuss the shuttle evaluation process before the TA makes any decisions. Ms. Chan said the purpose of the current study is to look at the evaluation criteria; however, staff could discuss the criteria with the TA Board members prior to rolling out future calls for projects, noting that the next one is slated for the end of 2022. She also assured the Board members that the purpose of the evening's meeting was to solicit their input on the proposed evaluation and the revised roles and responsibilities. She said that staff would then be soliciting input from the Commute.org and SamTrans Board of Directors at their September meetings, and the Caltrain Board at their October meeting. She added that the SamTrans Board would then adopt the proposed shuttles plan after incorporating any changes resulting from the input received at their November meeting. Director Groom acknowledged that would be a good plan.

11. FINANCE

a) Award of Contracts to Provide On-call General Engineering Consultant Services – *Approved by Resolution No. 2021-21*

Kevin Yin, Director, Contracts and Procurement, summarized the staff report.

Director Nagales asked if they typically provide the scoring sheet to compare how all the applicants scored. Mr. Yin said they typically only provide the list of criteria for scoring but not the scoring sheet.

Director Mates asked for the names of the three bidding firms, which Mr. Yin said were AECOM Technical Services, HDR Engineering, and Kimley-Horn and Associates.

Motion/Second: Mates/Horsley

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

12. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Casey Fromson, Acting Chief Communications Officer, and Amy Linehan, Public Affairs Specialist, briefly summarized the highlights of recent federal and state legislation. Ms. Fromson said the infrastructure bill was for \$1.2 trillion, including \$150 billion of stimulus funding to be distributed over a number of funding programs. She noted that MTC

(Metropolitan Transportation Commission) said that the Bay Area would receive over \$4.5 billion in transportation funding.

Ms. Fromson said a major part of the state budget is open to negotiation prior to reaching the Governor's desk by October 10.

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, September 2, 2021 5:00 pm, with teleconference or location details to be provided prior to the meeting.

16. REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Ms. Cassman said that there was nothing to report.

17. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 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.