

SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070
MINUTES OF MAY 6, 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. Hurley, J. Cassman, S. van Hoften, D. Hansel, P. Gilster, P. Skinner, M. Bouchard, 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 requested that Vice Chair Rico Medina lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Drew thanked C/CAG (City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County) and the City of San Mateo regarding the recent community information meeting.

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 April 1, 2021**
- b) **Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending March 31, 2021**
- c) **Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook for the Period Ending March 31, 2021**
- d) **Call for a Public Hearing at the June 3, 2021 Meeting on the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022**

Motion/Second: Groom/Medina

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Beach noted the recruitment for TA Citizens Advisory Committee members and requested that two directors volunteer to conduct interviews. Director Carole Groom volunteered.

Chair Beach also noted that the first meeting of the Alternative Congestion Relief Ad Hoc Committee was held on April 28 and was attended by herself and Directors Groom and Romero.

Chair Beach said that she shared San Mateo County's challenges regarding grade separation funding with a subcommittee of the Federal Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

7. SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT LIAISON REPORT

Vice Chair Medina said that the report had been posted to the website and summarized highlights of the SamTrans Board meeting.

8. JOINT POWERS BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Carter Mau, Acting Executive Director, said that the report had been posted to the website. He provided highlights of the Joint Powers Board (JPB) meeting, including announcing Olson Remcho, LLP, as the new general counsel for the JPB.

9. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Mau said that his report was in the packet. He thanked staff for their support during his transition to Acting Executive Director. He said that he and April Chan, Chief Officer, Planning, Grants/Transportation Authority, had recently met with Senator Josh Becker, who he noted would be an important ally on grade separation funding.

10. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

a) State and Federal Legislative Update and Approval of Legislative Proposal: Support AB 1499 (Daly)

Jessica Epstein, Government and Community Affairs Officer, briefly summarized the highlights of recent state legislation.

Chair Beach asked if the bill streamlines the design/build process, and Ms. Epstein said yes. Chair Beach also inquired about the timing of the Senate Bill (SB) 1 Solutions for Congested Corridor program and whether the region will have a chance of having grants funded in Cycle 3. Ms. Chan said that that was an upcoming opportunity that the TA would investigate, but remarked that there were only two eligible applicants for this funding source including Caltrans (California Department of Transportation) and MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) for the region. She added that the TA would need to work through either Caltrans or MTC.

Public Comment:

Rich Hedges asked for the Board's support on the 101 project.

The Board voted to support Assembly Bills (AB) 1499:

Motion/Second: Horsley/Romero

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

b) TA Federal Advocacy Update – May 2021

Ms. Epstein said that President Biden had released his Fiscal Year 2022 discretionary budget requests in April. She noted that they had submitted earmark requests. She introduced the TA's federal lobbyists Ben Miller and Chris Kierig, Kadash and Associates, LLC, in Washington, DC.

Mr. Miller noted that there is a lot of exciting activity in Washington, DC on transportation and infrastructure.

Mr. Kierig said the House earmarks are in, while the Senate earmarks have not yet been finalized.

11. PROGRAM

a) San Mateo US 101 Express Lanes Quarterly Project Update

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

Director Carlos Romero thanked Mr. Scott, Joe Hurley, TA Director, and staff for meeting with him to explain how they are quantifying the TA's risk exposure.

Director Don Horsley said he respected the construction team for working during the night.

Public Comment:

Drew said he was impressed that there was no loose gravel on the road during the construction.

b) Program Report: 25th Avenue Grade Separation Project

Ms. Chan gave a brief background on the project.

Michelle Bouchard, Acting Executive Director, Caltrain, discussed program oversight and introduced new staff member Robert Barnard, Deputy Chief, Rail Development.

Mr. Barnard provided his background and then provided the presentation.

Public Comment:

Drew opined that there is unsightly fencing installed on 28th Avenue between El Camino Real and the train tracks, while the Bay Meadows side has railings instead of fencing. Mr. Barnard said they would take a look at the discrepancy between the fencing and railings.

Director Julia Mates said she appreciated Ms. Bouchard taking the Board's recommendations to heart. Vice Chair Medina said he concurred.

Director Romero said he was happy that the oversight management team was being strengthened. He asked how much below-grade work needs to be completed that might reveal additional unforeseen conditions. Mr. Barnard said the project team said it was slated to be done by June. Director Romero asked what the potential cost increases would involve. Mr. Barnard said there is some remaining risk for below-grade and sub-surface work. He said they need to walk through each commercial issue in a timely manner.

c) Short Range Highway Plan Update

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

Directors Horsley and Romero commended staff for their work with the Short-Range Highway Plan (SRHP) Ad Hoc Committee.

Chair Beach asked how the TA is addressing controversial issues such as sustainability. Mr. Gilster said many of these issues are covered in the the current Strategic Plan and then in the call for projects.

Director Horsley said that autonomous vehicles should be considered

Public Comment:

Rich Hedges noted that construction costs are escalating quickly, but that it is good that the TA is also receiving more sales tax in the next couple of years.

Paul Krupka, Contract Manager for the 101/Woodside Road interchange project in Redwood City, thanked all stakeholders for bringing the SRHP to fruition.

12. FINANCE

a) Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2022

Derek Hansel, Chief Financial Officer, provided the presentation.

13. REQUESTS FROM THE AUTHORITY

Director Carole Groom said the new 25th Avenue Caltrain station is beautiful and praised the staff and developers.

Chair Beach proposed having a SamTrans/TA education forum on autonomous vehicles for the cities and other agencies. Directors Horsley, Groom, Mates, and Nagales said they were interested.

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, June 3, 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 7:10 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.