

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CALIFORNIA**

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
MEETING MINUTES**

MARCH 2, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: B. Arietta (Chair)*, D. Bautista, A. Chen, K. Chin, J. Fox (Vice Chair)*,
(Via S. Green, R. Hedges, N. Hsu, K. Kuklin, S. Lang, J. Londer, P. Ohtaki,
Teleconference) O. O'Neill, D. Reed (joined at 4:45 pm; left at 6:31 pm), M. Rendon

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: J. Hurley, P. Skinner, A. Chan, M. Bouchard, P. Gilster, C. Mobley-
Ritter, R. McCauley, J. Sharma, S. Cocke, J. Williams, J. Brook

* Vice Chair John Fox chaired the meeting in place of Chair Barbara Arietta due to the technical considerations of conducting the meeting via teleconference.

1) CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair John Fox called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2) ROLL CALL

CAC Secretary Jean Brook called the roll. A quorum was present.

3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE TA CAC MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Motion/Second: Hedges/Londer

Ayes: Arietta, Bautista, Chen, Chin, Fox, Green, Hedges, Hsu, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Ohtaki, O'Neill, Rendon

Absent: Reed

4) UPDATE ON SMCTD WEBSITE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Jeremy Lipps, Manager, Digital Communication, introduced technology consultants from FivePaths: Jens-Peter Jungclaussen and Eric Leland. Mr. Jungclaussen provided a presentation on the website survey responses and Mr. Leland provided details about building out the site.

Dave Reed joined the meeting at 4:45 pm

Jeff Londer asked when the site would go live. Mr. Leland said early November.

Rich Hedges asked about using the transit map. Mr. Jungclaussen said the Google map would be loaded in the selected transportation mode.

Sandra Lang expressed her concerns with the digital divide affecting seniors and asked if there would be a user-friendly help button. Mr. Jungclaussen said there may be a chatbot option and noted that everything they do is ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)-accessible.

Naomi Hsu asked where people who are not currently using the website are getting their transit information. Mr. Jungclaussen said some people are using the official SamTrans or Caltrain app as well as a "rogue" app, or they call Customer Service.

Peter Ohtaki asked how marketing of the website ties in with a social media campaign to get new users to take advantage of public transportation in San Mateo County. Mr. Lipps said they are on a campaign to ensure riders that the buses and trains are safe.

Chair Arietta asked if there were links on the website to connect people with free rides to COVID vaccination sites. Mr. Lipps said they are working on the details of how to implement the free service to roll out by the week of March 7.

Vice Chair Fox asked what the operational plan for the website was going forward. Mr. Lipps noted that he had a copywriting group and a web developer. Mr. Leland said the web pages will allow for easier updates.

Dave Reed asked how the success of the new website would be measured. Mr. Leland responded that they would ensure that the priority tasks are accessible.

Mr. Jungclaussen said they would work to reduce the number of clicks that users need to access desired information.

Public Comment:

Drew noted that users of the TA's website have a different focus than that of users of the SamTrans and Caltrain sites, and also noted the confusion some users have between SamTrans versus the Transit District. Mr. Lipps said that the design focus is greater for SamTrans and Caltrain due to the passenger component representing the bulk of the traffic on those sites.

5) PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments.

6) TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING AGENDA FOR MARCH 4, 2021

a) TA Board Item 11 (a) Acceptance of Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2021

Joe Hurley, TA Director, presented the staff report. He said the TA will be looking for ways to improve future reports.

Chair Arietta asked if PG&E (Pacific Gas and Electric) had connected power to the Hillsdale Station. Joy Sharma, Senior Project Manager, said it was scheduled possibly for March. Chair Arietta asked when the projected opening of the station was. Ms. Sharma said four to five weeks following connection of power.

Mr. Londer asked if there were any public meetings scheduled for either the Broadway grade separation or the Peninsula Avenue Interchange. Mr. Hurley said there would be an upcoming scoping meeting for Peninsula Avenue at the end of April.

Motion/Second: Reed/Kuklin

Ayes: Arietta, Bautista, Chen, Chin, Fox, Green, Hedges, Hsu, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Ohtaki, O'Neill, Reed, Rendon

Absent: None

b) TA Board Item 11 (b) Short-Range Highway Plan Update

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

Mr. Ohtaki asked if any of the \$2.6 billion of projects would be shovel-ready and ready for inclusion in the infrastructure bill. Mr. Hurley said they are working on getting them shovel-ready, but many are in the early stages of development. Mr. Skinner said they are looking for projects that have completed the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process.

Public Comment:

Drew said that the HOV (high-occupancy vehicle) lanes being developed may block further improvements and said the right of way should be made available so as not to preclude future improvement opportunities.

c) TA Board Item 11 (c) Program Report: South San Francisco Caltrain Station Improvement Project Update

Michelle Bouchard, Chief Operations Officer, Rail, provided the presentation.

Diana Bautista asked if they would come up with a new project completion date after the evaluation, including asking for more funding, which Ms. Bouchard confirmed.

d) TA Board Item 11 (d) 101 Express Lanes Equity Study Update: Equity Program Alternatives

April Chan, Chief Officer, Planning, Grants/Transportation Authority, provided some background and noted that the consultant was not able to attend and provide the presentation, which was in the packet. She said there would be upcoming public meetings to collect feedback about options for the express lanes.

Ms. Lang asked about the demographics for the 15 targeted geographical areas that were identified. She said that there may be several vulnerable communities that lie outside of the targeted areas. Ms. Chan said the consultants identified communities primarily along the 101 corridor.

e) TA Board Item 12 (a) Program and Allocate Measure A Grade Separation Category Funds for the Broadway Grade Separation Project in the City of Burlingame

Ms. Sharma provided the presentation.

Steven Green asked why funding was coming out of the grade separation budget and not the electrification budget. Stacy Cocke, Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project (PCEP) Deputy Director, said that construction should start in a month, with duration expected to be five to six months. Mr. Skinner said funds are coming from the grade separation category because of the potential of the grade separation project to come

through. Mr. Green opined that with the allocation that was made to the grade separation project earlier in the year, at least one grade separation project could be completed.

Dave Reed left the meeting at 6:31 pm

Mr. Hedges asked if the funding for grade separations could possibly come from the gas tax measure, SB (Senate bill) 1. Mr. Skinner said that SB 1 does not have a separate carve-out for grade separation projects.

Public Comment:

Drew suggested they use estimated rather than hard dates in the presentations. He said that Caltrain needed another exit for entering and exiting the platform and suggested that other transit agencies' solutions be studied.

Ms. Lang expressed her concerns about the necessity of the Morrell Underpass. Mr. Skinner said that while the TA would not take away the funds for the final design, they would not program additional funds for it.

Motion/Second: Hedges/Arietta

Ayes: Arietta, Bautista, Chen, Chin, Fox, Green, Hedges, Hsu, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Ohtaki, O'Neill, , Rendon

Absent: Reed

f) TA Board Item 13 State and Federal Legislative Update

Ryan McCauley, Government and Community Affairs Specialist, noted that the House of Representatives had recently passed President Biden's \$1.9 trillion pandemic rescue plan, which is on track to go before the Senate on April 14, which is the deadline for unemployment benefits expiring.

He said on the state side that more than 2,500 bills were introduced that focus heavily on pandemic relief and response.

Mr. Ohtaki asked if the TA had met with congressional representatives to submit the TA and County's wish list for infrastructure funding. He asked if it would be helpful if the cities provided support letters. Mr. McCauley said that they are meeting with their delegation and members of the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee to talk about their priorities.

g) TA Board Item 6 (b) Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending January 31, 2021

Motion/Second: Londer/Hedges

Ayes: Arietta, Bautista, Chen, Chin, Fox, Green, Hedges, Hsu, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Ohtaki, O'Neill, Rendon

Absent: Reed

h) TA Board Item 6 (a) Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of February 4, 2021

There were no comments.

7) REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Arietta commented on the High Speed Rail Authority. She read a statement by the federal railway administrator.

8) REPORT FROM STAFF

Mr. Hurley said the 101 Express Lanes Project will have an upcoming a five-night closure and an aggressive outreach campaign will prepare residents and drivers for the closure.

He said the TA has a procurement for an on-call general engineering consultant contract and that they are soliciting proposals due on April 9.

9) MEMBER COMMENTS/REQUESTS

Mr. Green noted that the provision that would have funded the BART Silicon Valley extension was voted down by the California delegation of the federal legislature.

10) DATE, TIME, AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Vice Chair Fox announced that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 4:30 pm, with teleconference or location details to be provided prior to the meeting.

11) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.