

**San Mateo County Transportation Authority  
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California**

**Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)  
Meeting Minutes**

**January 31, 2023**

**Members Present:** B. Arietta (Chair)\*, D. Bautista, I. Bucio, K. Chin, K. Kuklin, S. Lang,  
**(Via Teleconference)** J. Londer, G. Mattammal, E. Mizzi, P. Ohtaki, D. Reed (joined at 4:54 pm),  
M. Rendon (left at 5:58 pm), M. Swire

**Members Absent:** J. Fox (Vice Chair)

**Staff Present:** H. El-Guindy, P. Skinner, J. Epstein, S. van Hoften, J. Viksman, C.  
Mobley-Ritter, J. Ye, J. Brook

\* Peter Ohtaki 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**

Peter Ohtaki called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call**

Jean Brook, CAC Secretary, called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

**3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**

There were no comments.

**4. New Brown Act Teleconferencing Guidelines**

Julian Viksman, Legal Counsel, said that the Governor had not yet noted that the State of Emergency would be lifted and noted that no changes to the teleconferencing guidelines have been made.

Chair Barbara Arietta asked how the date May 11 is related to the March date referenced for removing restrictions. Shayna van Hoften, Legal Counsel, said May 11 was the date that President Biden was lifting the federal State of Emergency and February 28 is the proposed date that the Governor will lift the California State of Emergency. Ms. van Hoften said that legal counsel would be providing written guidance on the new teleconferencing rules to all the Boards and committees.

## **5. Consent Calendar**

### **5.a. Approval of Minutes of the CAC Meeting of January 3, 2023**

#### **TA Board Meeting Agenda for February 2, 2023**

### **5.b. TA Board Item 6.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, and Authorizing Remote Teleconference Board and Committee Meetings to Continue**

### **5.c. TA Board Item 6.c Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending December 31, 2022**

### **5.d. TA Board Item 6.d Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook**

Regarding Item #5c, Mike Swire asked if the project expenses by category was a monthly or annual view. Jennifer Ye, Director of Accounting, said it was for the period of July through December 2022.

Regarding Item #5d, Sandra Lang asked when the investment summary that Director Beach had requested at a prior TA Board meeting would become available. Connie Mobley-Ritter, Director of Treasury, said that staff would be able to provide it in a few months. Ms. Mobley-Ritter responded to questions about the yield curve.

Motion/Second: Bautista/Arietta

Ayes: Arietta, Bautista, Bucio, Chin, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Mattammal, Mizzi, Ohtaki, Rendon, Swire

Absent: Fox, Reed

### **6. TA Board Item 6.b Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of January 5, 2023**

There were no comments.

*Dave Reed joined the meeting at 4:54 pm.*

## **7. TA Board Item 11.a San Mateo 101 Express Lanes Quarterly Project Update**

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

Mr. Swire asked about the status of the US 101 Managed Lanes North of I-380 project. Mr. Scott referred the question to Heba El-Guindy, Acting Director, Program and Project Delivery. She said the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is considering three alternatives (no build, lane convert, and lane add) and is currently in the review process, with the final report slated before the end of 2024.

Diana Bautista asked where the transponder tracker is located on the operating Express Lanes. Mr. Scott said the equipment is hung on the overhead structure and it records the number of occupants in a vehicle as transmitted by its FasTrak transponder.

Dave Reed said he had encountered zero potholes driving on US 101 north of San Carlos.

Ivan Bucio noted several unrepaired potholes on US 101 between Redwood City and East Palo Alto. Mr. Scott said to check the Caltrans website, District 4 page to find out about the work being done. Ms. El-Guindy said that the TA has been sharing information about pothole locations with Caltrans on an ongoing basis and would pass along any information.

Mr. Skinner noted that Ms. Brook would send out the weblink to contact Caltrans to report potholes.

Chair Arietta asked how the pothole repairs were monitored. Mr. Scott said emergency repairs have priority but are not designed to last 20-25 years, as opposed to other repairs that are designed to last 40-plus years.

Mr. Ohtaki asked how the system reads a traditional transponder versus the new switch transponder. Mr. Scott said the user would be charged the single occupant (full fare) rate.

#### **8. TA Board Item 12.a Update on the Investment Portfolio and Environmental, Social, and Governance Investing Discussion by Public Trust Advisors**

Connie Mobley-Ritter, Director of Treasury, provided the presentation prepared by Public Trust Advisors.

Mr. Swire asked about the scope of the Board's limitations to make changes to the TA's investments. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said the Board is limited to the State of California's investment rules. She added that while the TA has a fiduciary responsibility to invest the money safely, followed by prioritizing liquidity and return, the Board decides the parameters of the investments.

Mr. Ohtaki asked if there has been any research to compare fixed-income yields for high-grade ESD (Environmental, Social, and Governance) versus non-ESG investing. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said she would pass the question on to their investment advisors.

Mr. Swire suggested the CAC make a joint statement to support adoption of ESG.

Gus Mattammal said he did not want to adopt ESG due to its potential impact on the returns on public money.

Ms. Lang said she supported maintaining open communication with the Board about its investments.

#### **9. TA Board Item 13 State and Federal Legislative Update**

Jessica Epstein, Manager, Government and Community Affairs, provided a summary of federal and state legislation. She said at the federal level, the House committee assignments were finalized. She said the Treasury was using extraordinary measures to keep the nation solvent in light of the debt ceiling being reached.

Ms. Epstein reviewed the committee assignments at the state level. She said the Governor released his preliminary budget on January 10 and noted budget cutbacks on the horizon that would affect transportation agencies. She provided an update on Brown Act teleconferencing legislation discussions from other agencies.

Mr. Mattammal expressed concern that recent bills were micromanaging the process for obtaining transportation funding. Ms. Epstein said that the state has adopted CAPTI (Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure), and noted that projects without green elements are not likely to get funded.

Ms. Lang urged staff to have an ongoing watch of Assembly Bill (AB) 7.

Mr. Swire disagreed that the money had been used wisely in terms of the environment. Ms. Epstein said the TA is obligated to go by what the voters want, but emphasized that the upcoming Strategic Plan will reevaluate priorities. Mr. Skinner said they are not at liberty to change the program categories authorized by the voters. Ms. El-Guindy indicated that the TA team has been retrofitting projects wherever possible to include multi-modal components and mitigate impacts on the environment.

*Mario Rendon left the meeting at 5:58 pm.*

Mr. Ohtaki asked if there were a way to provide more predictability on transportation funding, given the State's cycle of surplus and deficits. Ms. Epstein said she did not have a good answer for that question.

#### **10. Report of the Chair**

Chair Arietta said Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) announced that California Supreme Court has dismissed the challenges to the Bay Area Traffic Release Plan approved by Bay Area voters in 2018 through Regional Measure 3 (RM3). She said that MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) is looking forward to moving quickly to unlock the RM3 funds. She said the toll revenues would be used to fund the extension of Caltrain into downtown San Francisco.

She noted that the storms from earlier in the month had revealed a lot of damages to the roadways in the form of potholes.

Ethan Mizzi asked if the DTX (Downtown Rail Extension) had been renamed "The Portal," which Mr. Skinner confirmed.

#### **11. Report From Staff**

Ms. El-Guindy said the Executive Director's report was in the Board packet. She welcomed Martin Reyes, who had joined the TA's Planning and Fund Management Department.

#### **12. Member Comments/Requests**

There were no comments.

#### **13. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting**

Mr. Ohtaki announced that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 4:30 pm via Zoom teleconference (additional location, if any, to be determined).

#### **14. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at <https://www.smcta.com/about-us/board-directors/video-board-directors-cac-and-smcel-jpa>. 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).