

San Mateo County Transportation Authority
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California
Minutes of March 2, 2023

Members Present: E. Beach, N. Corzo, J. Mates, R. Medina (Chair), R. Mueller, M. Nagales,
(In Person) C. Romero (Vice Chair)

Members Present: None
(Via Teleconference)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: A. Chan, J. Cassman, P. Skinner, P. Gilster, C. Fromson, K. Scribner,
J. Brook, D. Seamans

1. Call to Order

Chair Rico Medina called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Dora Seamans, Authority Secretary, confirmed that a quorum was present. Chair Medina requested that Director Julia Mates lead 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 Medina noted that the report was posted on the website.

5. Consent Calendar

5.a. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of February 2, 2023

5.b. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending January 31, 2023

5.c. Acceptance of Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2023

Regarding Item 5.b, Vice Chair Carlos Romero requested more information regarding losses. April Chan, Executive Director, said that a meeting would be scheduled for him to have a discussion with the Director of Treasury.

Motion/Second: Mates/Romero

Ayes: Beach, Corzo, Mates, Medina, Mueller, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. Nominating Committee Report for the Citizens Advisory Committee (R. Medina/M. Nagales)

6.a Appointment of Citizens Advisory Committee Member

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Chair Medina recommended Doug Bojack for CAC membership.

Motion/Second: Nagales/Beach

Ayes: Beach, Corzo, Mates, Medina, Mueller, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: None

7. Report of the Chair

Chair Medina noted that the Express Lanes corridor would be fully open the following day, March 3, at 5:00 am. He added that a ribbon-cutting ceremony was planned for mid-April.

Director Mates asked if there was website that her constituents in Belmont could visit to find information about how to use the Express Lanes. Ms. Chan noted that the address of the San Mateo 101 Express Lanes website is smcexpresslanes.org.

8. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

Chair Medina said that the report was in the packet and posted on the website. He noted the Employees of the Year awards and that the auditorium was full with supporters and family members.

Director Emily Beach noted that the regional Clipper START pilot reduced fare program was ending in June and asked if funding was being sought to continue the program. Ms. Chan said the MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) is considering whether to continue the pilot. Ms. Chan noted the SamTrans Board feels the program is worthwhile and may consider continuing the program even if MTC ends the pilot.

9. Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

Ms. Chan said that the report was posted on the website. She said a major item of discussion at that morning's meeting was issues related to the traction power and overhead catenary system that powers the new trains and how to ensure the budget and project schedules are not impacted. Currently, the project is slated to be complete in Fall 2024. Ms. Chan indicated she will be working with Caltrain staff to provide an update on the project to the TA Board.

Chair Medina indicated there was robust discussion at the JPB Board meeting and said that the CEO of construction contractor Balfour Beatty, Inc., will attend the next JPB meeting to address the Board.

Director Ray Mueller said the issue was significant enough to have caused work stoppages. He noted that the contract includes a liquidated damages clause where Caltrain can seek damages from the contractor if the project schedule is not met.

Vice Chair Romero asked if there is a traction power issue related to the train cars or with the infrastructure that powers the trains. Ms. Chan said the issue was related to the infrastructure

and not the rolling stock. She also noted the project team would provide an update to the Board on this and other issues at a future meeting.

10. Report of the Executive Director

Ms. Chan said the report was in the packet. She announced that the full corridor of the 101 Express Lanes would open at 5:00 am on Friday, March 3 and that a celebratory event was scheduled for Saturday, April 15.

She also noted the TA is embarking on the final planning effort identified in the current Strategic Plan: the Regional Transit Connections Plan. She said TA staff would be asking the Board to approve funding to start that planning process later in the meeting.

11. Program

11.a. Program Report: Redwood City Grade Separations

Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, introduced Jessica Manzi, Transportation Manager, City of Redwood City, who provided the presentation.

Director Mates asked how the alternatives are ranked. Ms. Manzi said the questions they asked the community were broad to get a sense of what their priorities as related to which crossings to separate first. She noted Whipple Avenue was the highest-ranked crossing and if a single crossing was pursued, this would be the best choice; however, it would be more cost-effective to do all the crossings at once.

Director Beach asked if the three northernmost grade separations could be done in conjunction with a new Redwood City station, leaving the southern crossings for later and asked what the estimated cost was. Ms. Manzi said the project could be phased and the overall project cost was upwards of \$1 billion.

Director Noelia Corzo asked about the public outreach and what the cost of the added scope was. Ms. Manzi said the bilingual in-person outreach that was added was roughly \$20,000. Director Corzo asked how many people they were able to engage in the door-to-door and pop-up outreach; Ms. Manzi said it was upwards of 300.

Director Mueller asked, aside from the cost, how the separations are ranked in terms of priority. Ms. Manzi said that Whipple Avenue was the top priority, but the crossings are so close together that it is impossible to do one crossing without impacting another and there are cost savings associated with doing all the grade separations at once.

Vice Chair Romero asked if the Whipple Avenue grade separation study noted in the quarterly report is the same project, which Ms. Manzi confirmed. He also asked if they would need additional funding for the next phase of work, and Ms. Manzi confirmed that they would.

Ms. Chan stated that Measure A funded this study and funding had been set aside for additional feasibility studies. She said they are looking at the Measure W Grade Separation category to help fund future phases of work.

Director Beach asked if the Measure W Grade Separation category funds could be used for construction or just planning work. Ms. Chan noted the Measure W funds are flexible but very limited over the life of the measure.

12. Finance

12.a Program and Allocate \$450,000 for the Development of the Regional Transit Connections Plan – Approved by Resolution No. 2023-6

Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, provided the presentation.

He noted that since this is a new project category, they were seeking full community engagement in addition to hearing from stakeholders.

Director Mueller asked if contractor selection is sole source or a competitive bid process. Mr. Gilster said the TA has a bench of planning and project management on call consultants that were competitively bid.

Motion/Second: Beach/Romero

Ayes: Beach, Corzo, Mates, Medina, Mueller, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: None

13. State and Federal Legislative Update

Jessica Epstein, Manager, Government and Community Affairs, provided the federal and state legislative update. She said at the federal level, they are waiting for the release of the President's budget request due March 9. She said the TA is requesting an earmark for construction of the 19th Avenue/Fashion Island Boulevard separated bikeway project in San Mateo.

On the state level, she noted that over 2,600 bills had been introduced, about 40 percent of which are spot bills. She said that the TA is watching the ACA (Assembly Constitutional Amendment) 1 bill that will lower the voter threshold of special taxes for infrastructure from a two-thirds majority to 55 percent, and that they are also tracking potential Brown Act legislation regarding teleconferencing rules.

14. Requests from the Authority

There were no requests.

15. Written Communications to the Authority

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

16. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting

Chair Medina announced the next meeting would be on Thursday, April 6, 2023, 5:00 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

17. Report of Legal Counsel

Ms. Cassman said she had nothing to report, and noted that they provided the Board with a summary of the new teleconferencing guidelines per the Brown Act.

18. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 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.