

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

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

April 4, 2023

Members Present: B. Arietta (Chair), D. Bojack, I. Bucio, K. Kuklin, S. Lang, J. Londer,
(In Person) G. Mattammal, P. Ohtaki, M. Swire

Members Present: None
(Via Teleconference)

Members Absent: D. Bautista, K. Chin, J. Fox, E. Mizzi, D. Reed, M. Rendon

Staff Present: P. Skinner, P. Gilster, C. Mobley-Ritter, K. Beltz, J. Brook

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Barbara Arietta called the meeting to order at 4:39 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Announcement of New CAC Member

2.a. Doug Bojack

Chair Arietta welcomed Doug Bojack, who briefly introduced himself.

3. Roll Call

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

4. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

There were no comments.

5. Consent Calendar

5.a. Approval of Minutes of the CAC Meeting of February 28, 2023

TA Board Meeting Agenda for April 6, 2023

5.b. TA Board Item 5.b Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending February 28, 2023

5.c. TA Board Item 5.c Acceptance of Measure A & Measure W Semi-Annual Program Status Report for July to December 2022

5.d. TA Board Item 5.d Adoption of Resolution to Enable Receipt of One Bay Area Grant Funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for the 19th Avenue/Fashion Island Boulevard Complete Street Class IV Bikeway Project

Motion/Second: Mattammal/Kuklin

Ayes: Arietta, Bojack, Bucio, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Mattammal, Ohtaki, Swire

Absent: Bautista, Chin, Fox, Mizzi, Reed, Rendon

6. TA Board Item 5.a Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of March 2, 2023

There were no comments.

7. TA Board Item 10.a US 101 Cordilleras Creek Bridge Replacement

Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, introduced Rebecca Krawiec, Consultant, and Mohammad Suleiman, Regional Project Manager, and Kelly Ma, Project Manager, Caltrans, who provided the presentation.

Karen Kuklin asked if there was any impact to the recently completed express lanes and asked if they had done outreach to the businesses along Industrial Road. Ms. Krawiec said they were reaching out to local businesses, and Mr. Suleiman said they do not anticipate any impacts to express lanes operations by using the cut and cover construction method and the contractor is responsible for protecting any express lanes utilities.

Sandra Lang asked if they had done any studies on the level of flowing water. She asked about the box culvert and if that would be removed. Mr. Suleiman indicated the existing box culvert would be removed and replaced as part of the project. Kouros Langari, Caltrans, said that Caltrans did an analysis of potential sea level rise and the new bridge will accommodate creek flow for the next 80 to 100 years.

Ivan Bucio asked if the temporary shoring would be engineered for specific traffic conditions, which Mr. Langari confirmed. Mr. Bucio asked about the type of piles, and Mr. Langari said they are 24-inch pipe piles that are approximately 67 feet long. Mr. Bucio asked if the material has been ordered. Mr. Langari said the contractors are already in contact with the suppliers and they are going to be placing the order as soon as possible.

Mike Swire asked if it was immediately adjacent to the Bay Trail and if any access improvements to the Bay Trail were considered. Mr. Langari said the trail is adjacent to the project area and that there will not be any impact on pedestrian/bike access. He said that access to the trail is not located in the state right of way and the project would not make improvements to the trail.

Chair Arietta asked how motorists can contact Caltrans to report potholes and file claims for damaged vehicles. Mr. Sulieman indicated he would send the information to TA staff to share with the Committee.

8. TA Board Item 11.a US 101 Express Lanes: Quarterly Update on Variable Rate Bond and Operations

Connie Mobley-Ritter, Director of Treasury, introduced Kevin Beltz, Manager, Treasury Debt and Investments. She provided the initial part of the presentation.

Peter Ohtaki asked about VRDO (variable rate demand obligation) rates. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said some of their investments are in a LAIF-like (Local Agency Investment Fund) product for the short term. He asked what the average yield was. Mr. Beltz said they are currently budgeting

for 2024 at 2.9 percent on average. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said the average cost for bonds is 55 basis points.

Gus Mattammal asked what happens if the revenue does not cover the bonds. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said it would come out of sales tax revenue.

Monique Fuhrman, Deputy Policy Program Manager for the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority, HNTB, provided the second part of the presentation.

Mr. Mattammal asked for example of the equity program. Ms. Fuhrman said they worked with Samaritan House to provide a Clipper card preloaded with a \$100 transit credit or a FasTrak transponder with a \$100 toll credit. Mr. Mattammal then asked about the dip in tolls in December in the southbound direction. Ms. Fuhrman indicated that traffic patterns shift during the holidays and traffic peaks smooth out throughout the day. Mr. Mattammal also asked how the pricing for the toll lanes are set. Ms. Fuhrman indicated the pricing is dictated by a pricing algorithm that looks at traffic flow, speeds, and number of vehicles.

Mr. Swire expressed some concerns including congestion levels, two riders in the three-person lane, and an increase in collisions between the express and regular lanes. Ms. Fuhrman indicated that based on the data, traffic congestion had not returned to pre-pandemic levels and while people have been seen weaving in and out of the express lanes, the data does not indicate a significant increase in the number of traffic incidents as a result. Mr. Swire asked how many more vehicles would be added to US 101 as the result of adding the new express lane in the northern segment versus converting an existing lane to an express lane. Ms. Fuhrman stated she did not have the information and would have to look into the question. Mr. Swire asked what the income level was for the equity program. Ms. Fuhrman said the current eligibility requirements were on the website. She also noted they work with CHP (California Highway Patrol), who provide enforcement on the express lanes for the full tolling period. Mr. Swire expressed his concerns that the added traffic is increasing air pollution for residents in neighborhoods adjacent to the highway.

Mr. Ohtaki suggested looking at how Alameda County's express lane statistics on I-880 pre- and post-pandemic compared to the 101 Express Lanes.

Ms. Lang asked if the pricing changes while in the lane. Ms. Fuhrman said the price shown when first entering the lane will not change.

Ms. Kuklin said she has been using the express lanes and noted that the pricing has been fairly consistent and the lanes are performing as expected.

9. TA Board Item 12 State and Federal Legislative Update and Approval of Legislative Proposals: Support Assembly Bill (AB) 817 (Pacheco) and Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 1 (Aguiar-Curry)

Jessica Epstein, Manager, Government and Community Affairs, provided a summary of federal and state legislation.

At the federal level, she said the TA had submitted an earmark request to Representative Kevin Mullin for the 19th Avenue bikeway project.

At the state level, she said there would be negotiations around transportation funding over the next few months once the legislature is back in session.

Ms. Epstein also said there were multiple Brown Act bills in the state legislature. She said staff is recommending that the TA support Assembly Bill (AB) 817, which proposes exempting nondecision-making advisory bodies such as the CAC from in-person meeting rules. She said staff is also recommending support of Assembly Constitutional Amendment (ACA) 1, which will reduce the voter threshold for special taxes for public infrastructure, such as Measures A and W, from two-thirds to 55 percent.

Mr. Swire asked if the local state delegation supported ACA 1. Ms. Epstein said she would try to find out how they have voted in the past.

Motion/Second: Lang/Bojack

Ayes: Arietta, Bojack, Bucio, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Mattammal, Ohtaki, Swire

Absent: Bautista, Chin, Fox, Mizzi, Reed, Rendon

10. Report of the Chair

Chair Arietta noted the public comment period on the proposed framework for how MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) will conduct public engagement activities going forward, adding the final adoption is slated for early summer 2023.

She said former CAC colleague, Jim Bigelow, had contacted her with concerns about trees falling due to recent storms near the Caltrain tracks, in particular with electrification. She asked Mr. Skinner what the plan was for the eucalyptus trees near the corridor. Mr. Skinner said many of the trees are not within the Caltrain right of way, while the trees that are within the right of way are trimmed regularly.

Ms. Lang said she also shared the concern.

11. Report From Staff

Mr. Skinner said the report was in the packet.

12. Member Comments/Requests

Mr. Ohtaki said re the impact of the storms – Caltrain bridge on San Francisquito Creek – banks on either side have deteriorated due to the storms and Caltrain will need to repair it. Said he would be interested in hearing any updates about it. Mr. Skinner said that Caltrain is doing emergency repairs. He noted that Caltrain has a bridge replacement program to replace those bridges that have reached the end of their useful lives.

Ms. Kuklin welcomed Doug. She said the City of Millbrae has gotten rid of many of their trees as a result of monitoring the health of existing trees.

Mr. Bucio said he enjoyed the quality of the presentations.

Mr. Swire asked about the section of the bike path near the Notre Dame de Nemours on Ralston Avenue in Belmont, and said he would ask Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, offline. He suggested having a Board member visit a TA CAC meeting to field questions. Mr. Skinner said a summary of the CAC meeting is provided to the Board members prior to the Board meeting.

Doug Bojack said he was pleased with the engagement of the Committee.

Ms. Lang said she learns something more with every meeting. She suggested having more feedback about the CAC's concerns from the TA Board.

13. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting

Chair Arietta announced that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 4:30 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 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 CAC Secretary's office by phone at 650.508.6223 or by email to cacsecretary@smcta.com.