

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

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

**October 3, 2023**

**Members Present:  
(In Person)** B. Arietta (Chair), D. Bojack (arrived at 4:39 pm and left at 6:23 pm), I. Bucio, G. Carlini, N. Enriquez, J. Fox (Vice Chair), K. Kuklin, S. Lang, J. Londer, G. Mattammal (arrived at 4:41 pm), P. Ohtaki (arrived at 4:54 pm), A. Paul, M. Swire

**Members Present:  
(Via Teleconference)** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** P. Skinner, P. Gilster, A. Linehan, M. Wright Petrik, T. Davis, J. Brook

**1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Barbara Arietta called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm and requested that Mike Swire lead 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.

Chair Arietta reviewed the Rules of Conduct for public meetings.

**4. Consent Calendar**

**4.a. Approval of Minutes of the CAC Meeting of September 5, 2023**

**TA Board Meeting Agenda for October 5, 2023**

**4.b. TA Board Item 5.b Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

**4.c. TA Board Item 5.c Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending August 31, 2023**

- 4.d. TA Board Item 5.d Authorize the Filing of an Application for TA Highway Program Funding and Adopt a Resolution in Support of the US 101/State Route 92 Area Improvements Project**
- 4.e. TA Board Item 5.e Authorize the Filing of an Application for TA Highway Program Funding and Adopt a Resolution in Support of the US 101 Managed Lanes – North of I-380 Project**
- 4.f. TA Board Item 5.f Authorize the Receipt of Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Funds from California Department of Transportation for the Active 101 Plan**
- 4.g. TA Board Item 5.g Approval of the 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Calendar**

Regarding Item 4.c, Jeff Londer asked why Measure A and W sales tax is down 7.8 percent. Connie Mobley-Ritter, Director of Treasury, said they receive sales tax two months in arrears and then receive a true-up in the third month.

*Doug Bojack arrived at 4:39 pm.*

Giuliano Carlini asked if they could indicate trending over time. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said they would be able to come back later and address that. She said they watch the numbers very closely.

*Gus Mattammal arrived at 4:41 pm.*

Motion/Second: Londer/Lang

Ayes: Arietta, Bojack, Bucio, Carlini, Enriquez, Fox, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Mattammal, Paul, Swire

Noes: None

Absent: Ohtaki

Regarding Item 4.d, Sandra Lang asked what the sum total of the resolution was. Carolyn Mamaradlo, Senior Project Manager, said all prior funding for the project is maintained and the additional funding is supplemental for the design details needed to complete the project.

Mr. Swire asked how congestion would be relieved, which Ms. Mamaradlo said the project will address operational and safety issues that will help reduce cut-through traffic impacting local streets from drivers avoiding the highway. She said that as such, staff confirmed this project will not increase VMT (vehicle miles traveled). Mr. Carlini asked how congestion would be tracked. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, said it would not be tracked as the project is not increasing highway capacity. Mr. Carlini said he couldn't support the project without this and requested additional data that Mr. Skinner said would be provided after the meeting.

Motion/Second: Kuklin/Lang

Ayes: Arietta, Bojack, Bucio, Enriquez, Fox, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Mattammal, Paul, Swire

Noes: None

Abstentions: Carlini

Absent: Ohtaki

Regarding Item 4.e, Gus Mattammal asked if the \$40 million was just for the design, which Vamsi Tabjulu, Project Manager, confirmed. Mr. Carlini noted that there did not seem to be a significant period time for public input between the phases. Mr. Tabjulu said by early spring, they would be conducting public outreach. Amy Linehan, Government and Community Affairs Officer, said they would be engaging with the community before the final EIR comes out. Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, gave a brief overview of the call for projects process.

*Peter Ohtaki arrived at 4:54 pm.*

Ms. Lang asked if the design phase had been paid for, which Mr. Gilster confirmed. She asked if they would accept public input. Mr. Gilster said that would be part of the formal EIR process.

Mr. Swire asked if the Board potentially has the option to approve certain parts and not approve other elements of a resolution, and Mr. Gilster concurred. Mr. Swire said if the Board can influence the resolution and design options at this point, it should remove Option 1, which would widen the highway. He said another widening of 101 would be the worst possible environmental decision possible for San Mateo County as it will greatly increase the number of cars on the road. He said that increasing the width of 101 by 25 percent could undo much of the positive GHG (greenhouse gas) work that the County has done around electrification and other initiatives. He said that more cars mean more air pollution, especially in the low-income and diverse neighborhoods adjacent to the highway, increasing childhood asthma.

Motion/Second: Mattammal/Kuklin

Ayes: Arietta, Fox, Kuklin, Mattammal, Ohtaki

Noes: Bojack, Carlini, Enriquez, Lang, Londer, Paul, Swire

Abstentions: Bucio

Absent: None

The Committee approved the remaining Items 4a, 4b, 4f, and 4g:

Motion/Second: Kuklin/Swire

Ayes: Arietta, Bojack, Bucio, Carlini, Enriquez, Fox, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Mattammal, Ohtaki, Paul, Swire

Noes: None

Absent: None

## **5. TA Board Item 5.a Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of September 7, 2023**

There were no comments.

## **6. TA Board Item 10.a Broadway Grade Separation Project Update**

Mr. Skinner provided the initial part of the presentation. He introduced Alex Acenas, Senior Project Manager, who provided the project overview portion of the presentation. Mr. Skinner provided the funding plan portion of the presentation.

Vice Chair Fox asked about the paralleling station utility feed and what was the advantage of moving the paralleling station. Mr. Skinner said the station utility feed was considered as part of the move and would not be impacted by the grade separation project.

Nheeda Enriquez asked how the grade separation project compare to other g/s projects like Hillsdale. Mr. Skinner said the cost of g/s projects have increased substantially over time, noting the added cost of the electrified shoofly track. Mr. Acenas said they have to build the shoofly first before the grade separation.

Ms. Lang asked about the water movement with the alignment of the creek. Mr. Acenas said one part of the project design was to model the hydrology of the creek and to analyze the flow, given Easton Creek's history of flooding.

Peter Ohtaki noted that the only Measure A money for grade separations is \$265 million. Mr. Skinner concurred that this project would consume most of the projected Measure A funds for grade separations, which is awarded on a first come-first served basis.

Mr. Carlini asked whether the TA should continue to fund grade separations if the costs keep rising significantly. Mr. Skinner stated they would like to keep grade separation projects moving, like Ravenswood and Linden/Scott. He said that even with cost overruns, the TA will not fund more than 50 percent of the project. Mr. Carlini asked why the shoofly tracks would be taken down upon completion of the project. Mr. Acenas said there would not be room for the shoofly tracks once the landscaping and station parking lot is completed.

[Chair Arietta asked whether regional funding was an option for future grade separation projects. Mr. Skinner confirmed they were looking at this, but that funds are very limited.](#)

Jeff Londer asked if the Oak Grove crossing remain at grade, which Mr. Acenas confirmed.

## **7. TA Board Item 11.a Overview of Fixed Income Investing**

Connie Mobley-Ritter, Director of Treasury, provided the presentation

Mr. Mattammal asked if the US treasuries the TA invests in are inflation-protected. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said since they purchase in round lots of a million dollars or more, those bonds are not available to them.

Mr. Ohtaki noted that the TA investment policy is fairly strict. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said the policy is dictated by the State. She said they review the policy annually.

## **8. TA Board Item 12 State and Federal Legislative Update**

Michaela Wright Petrik, Government and Community Affairs Officer, provided a summary of federal and state legislation and recent activity.

On the federal side, she said that Congress averted a government shutdown for 45 days and moving forward with a continuing resolution (CR) until November 17. She said Congress is responsible for passing 12 appropriations bills. Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy was removed via a motion to vacate. She said the Governor appointed Laphonza Butler to replace Senator Dianne Feinstein.

On the state side, she said the Governor has until October 14 to act on bills. She discussed various ballot measures being considered.

[Chair Arietta lamented the political chaos on Capital Hill and the potential to jeopardize transportation funding.](#)

Mr. Swire asked if the Governor could be contacted with Board positions on bills. Ms. Wright Petrik explained that they send letters of support from the TA but that there was not time at this point to write letters on bills for which the TA has not already approved support. Mr. Carlini asked if the Governor's rainy day fund is allocated if it becomes available. Ms. Wright Petrik said that MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) is the agency that makes the allocations and that the TA and SamTrans work closely with them throughout this process. Mr. Carlini asked if the funding goes to new or existing projects. Ms. Wright Petrik explained that most of the funding will be allocated to major capital projects and agencies facing large operations shortfalls. Mr. Carlini asked about the local partnership program, and Mr. Skinner clarified that 50 percent of these funds are competitive and 50 percent are formula allocations to transportation sales tax entities such as the TA.

*Doug Bojack left the meeting at 6:23 pm.*

Mr. Ohtaki asked about funding and Ms. Wright Petrik directed him to the "Other Funding Opportunities" page of the website.

## **9. Report of the Chair**

[Chair Arietta reported that the weekend's closure of Hwy 101's southbound lanes between Whipple and Brittan Avenues for the Cordilleras Creek Bridge Replacement Project went so well that the work finished 9 hours early. She praised all those who worked on the project, citing the fact that this new Accelerated Bridge Construction \(ABC\) process, which also includes a "cut and cover" method, allows CALTRANS to construct the bridge in one season alone, instead of doing it over a three-year period. Chair Arietta also praised the fact that this new approach reduces the effects on traffic, increases the safety of travelers and construction workers, as well as minimizing environmental impacts. She concluded by also reporting that CALTRANS plans once again to shut down all lanes this time going northbound between Whipple Ave and Holly St for a 55-hour long weekend between 10 PM Friday October 13 and ending at 5 AM on Monday, October 16. Chair Arietta advised that more information concerning the full northbound lanes closure can be found on the CALTRANS website.](#) ~~Chair Arietta noted the closure the previous weekend of US 101 between Holly Street and Whipple Avenue in Redwood City had ended nine hours earlier than predicted. She praised the fact that this new approach reduces the effects on traffic, increases the safety of travelers and construction workers, as well as minimizing environmental impacts.~~

## **Report From Staff**

Mr. Skinner said the report was in the packet. [Mr. Skinner also agreed with Chair Arietta that everyone involved with the Cordilleras Creek Bridge Replacement Project should be praised for their accomplishments on the project.](#)

Ms. Brook introduced Tyshaun Davis, intern from the Year Up program working with Executive Administration.

#### **10. Member Comments/Requests**

Ms. Lang said she thought it was an informed discussion on the lane widening.

Mr. Mattammal asked about the repair of the sinkhole area on Highway 92 that was slated for completion in September. Mr. Skinner said staff could ask Caltrans and would get back to him.

Chair Arietta noted the internal strife at the federal legislative level.

Mr. Ohtaki commended the efficiency with which the Cordilleras Creek bridge ~~replacement~~ repair was completed over the weekend. He noted however that news agencies had reported that many motorists were not aware of the shutdown. Mr. Skinner said they had done a significant outreach about the highway closures.

Ms. Enriquez noted that she had attended the event in San Francisco to introduce the new electric Caltrain train.

Mr. Swire said he attended the opening of the first sidewalk in the Town of Hillsborough. He also said he had attended a meeting in South San Francisco about the Utah Avenue project where they were told they needed to accept money for the project in order to secure future funding for other projects. Mr. Gilster said they are only eligible to apply to the TA for improvements for a single intersection.

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

Chair Arietta announced that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at 4:30 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

#### **12. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 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](mailto:cacsecretary@smcta.com).