

**San Mateo County Transportation Authority**  
**1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California**  
**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

**October 5, 2023**

**Members Present:** E. Beach, J. Mates, R. Medina (Chair), R. Mueller (arrived at 5:23 pm and  
**(In Person)** left at 5:45 pm), M. Nagales

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

**Members Absent:** N. Corzo, C. Romero (Vice Chair)

**Staff Present:** A. Chan, J. Cassman, S. van Hoften, P. Skinner, K. Jordan Steiner,  
C. Mobley-Ritter, C. Fromson, 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 led 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 September 7, 2023**

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

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

**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 –  
*Approved by Resolution No. 2023-21***

**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 –  
*Approved by Resolution No. 2023-22***

**5.f. Authorize the Receipt of Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Funds from California Department of Transportation for the Active 101 Plan – Approved by Resolution No. 2023-23**

**5.g. Approval of the 2024 Board of Directors Meeting Calendar**

Chair Medina requested additional information from staff regarding Item 5.e. April Chan, Executive Director, said that TA and C/CAG (City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County) are co-sponsors of the North of I380 managed lanes project and they require approval of a funding application before the project would be considered as part of the TA's call for projects. She said the project is seeking additional funding for environmental review and the design phase.

Vamsi Tabjulu, Project Manager, presented the staff report. Ms. Chan clarified that they are asking the Board to approve a resolution so that staff can submit an application for funding but that this was not an allocation of funding.

Public Comment:

Regarding Item 5.e:

- Mike Swire explained why he was rejecting the resolution as he felt that widening the 101 lanes would be a catastrophic environmental decision.
- Bryan Culbertson requested that the highway-widening option be removed from the item.
- Julio Garcia expressed concern about air pollution from lane-widening worsening asthma in low-income communities, and requested that the resolution be amended to remove the lane-widening component.
- David Hunt urged the Board to take the option of widening 101 off the table.
- Elaine Salinger noted that in July, the San Mateo County Civil Grand Jury report indicated that there has been no increase in cycling over the last 15 years due to perceived risk for cyclists. She supported the idea that protected bike lanes would encourage more cycling and less congestion and traffic on Highway 101.
- Adina Levin, Friends of Caltrain, TEAMC (Transportation Equity Allied Movement Coalition), and the San Mateo County Transit Justice Coalition, said she was opposed to widening 101 as this would lead to increased air pollution. According to Ms. Levin, while the managed lanes are anticipated to continue into San Francisco, she said the City and County of San Francisco has no intention of widening the highway.
- Sandhya Laddha, Policy and Advocacy Director, Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, expressed her opposition to widening 101 since increasing the number of lanes is not a solution to reducing traffic.

Chair Medina clarified that the item did not need to be pulled in order to approve a resolution. Ms. Chan said they are asking the Board to approve a resolution so that staff can submit an application for funding. She said the TA needs to look at the data gathered and approving the resolution does not mean that the Board approves widening the lanes.

*Director Ray Mueller arrived at 5:23 pm.*

Director Emily Beach said the Board’s decision should be informed by what highway improvements the City and County of San Francisco decides to build on US 101 and I-280. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, said that two analyses are taking place to examine the conditions in both 2030 and 2050. He said the 2050 scenario includes the San Francisco projects on US 101 in the northbound and southbound direction as well as a carpool lanes on I-280 in San Francisco. She asked why was money being requested for design at this point in the project. Mr. Skinner said that the environmental process has taken longer than anticipated. He said the ask for design funding is based on the timing of the call for projects. He said the funds for design could be reserved now and allocated later, if need be. He said the current resolution does not program or allocate any funding; it solely gives staff the authority to apply for funds.

Director Julia Mates reiterated that the three alternatives would provide the TA with better data. She said she concurred with Director Beach’s proposition to bifurcate funding. Ms. Chan said the data gathered would help determine what is the best project alternative to support.

Director Mark Nagales asked Mr. Skinner to review the project timeline. Mr. Skinner said in November, the TA team would bring the recommendations back to the Board. He said the selection of the project alternative would not happen until after the environmental review has been completed in 2024. He said that funds could be allocated based on the final design decision.

Motion/Second: Mates/Nagales

Ayes: Beach, Mates, Medina, Mueller, Nagales

Noes: None

Absent: Corzo, Romero

## **6. Report of the Chair**

Chair Medina said he had no report.

## **7. SamTrans Board Liaison Report**

Chair Medina said that the report was in the packet and posted on the website.

## **8. Joint Powers Board Liaison Report**

Ms. Chan said that the report was posted on the website. She said at that morning’s JPB Board meeting, Caltrain staff unveiled the proposed electrified service vision for Fall 2024. She said the JPB Board would be taking action on public input at their December Board meeting. She said the proposed plan includes a simplified schedule with four trains per hour per direction during peak times and service enhancements during weekends.

## **9. Report of the Executive Director**

Ms. Chan said the report was in the packet.

## **10. Program**

### **10.a. Broadway Grade Separation Project Update**

Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority introduced Alex Acenas, Senior Project Manager, and Rob Barnard, Chief Officer, Rail Design and Construction. Mr. Skinner and Mr. Acenas provided the presentation.

*Director Ray Mueller left the meeting at 5:45 pm.*

Public Comment:

Roland said he was pleased that the project was going forward. He asked whether the new platforms would be fully compliant with federal regulations.

Adina Levin said by the time the grade separation is in place, the new electric trains will be running and supported the idea of having level boarding. Mr. Barnard said they did include funds for the level boarding roadmap, which he said was regulatorily complex because it is dealing with CPUC and Union Pacific Railroad.

Director Mates requested that the staff report address the criteria for the additional funds that are needed.

Director Beach asked if the Broadway station will have level boarding. Mr. Barnard said it is regulatorily complex and they are doing the roadmap to find the solution for that. Director Beach asked if passengers be able to board if the federal government approves by 2025. Mr. Barnard said they would have to work through the process. Director Beach commended Caltrain staff on the value engineering.

*Item 12 was taken out of order.*

**12. State and Federal Legislative Update**

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

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 Legislative adjourned on September 14 and the Governor must act on bills by October 14. She discussed various ballot measures being considered.

**11. Finance**

**11.a. Overview of Fixed Income Investing**

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

**13. Requests from the Authority**

There were no requests.

**14. Written Communications to the Authority**

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

**15. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting**

Chair Medina announced the next meeting would be on Thursday, November 2, 2023, 5:00 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

**16. Report of Legal Counsel**

Chair Medina noted that legal counsel had no report.

**17. Adjourn**

Chair Medina welcomed the Year Up interns adjourned the meeting at 6:28 pm in memory of Senator Dianne Feinstein.

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>. <https://www.smcta.com/about-us/board-directors/video-board-directors> 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).