

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

November 2, 2023

Members Present: E. Beach, N. Corzo (left at 6:32 pm), J. Mates, R. Medina (Chair) (left at 6:32 pm), M. Nagales (arrived at 5:02 pm), C. Romero (Vice Chair)
(In Person)

Members Present: R. Mueller (left at 5:20 pm)
(Via Teleconference)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: A. Chan, J. Cassman, S. van Hoften, P. Skinner, K. Jordan Steiner, C. Mobley-Ritter, C. Fromson, J. Epstein, J. Brook, M. Tseng

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Margaret Tseng, Deputy District Secretary, confirmed that a quorum was present. Chair Medina led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Giuliano Carlini said he was disappointed that the Board had approved the SR 92/US 101 interchange project because three of the four project components included widening of the on-/off-ramps.

Director Mark Nagales arrived at 5:02 pm.

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 October 5, 2023

5.b. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending September 30, 2023

5.c. Acceptance of Measure A & Measure W Semi-Annual Program Status Report for January to June 2023

Motion/Second: Medina/Beach

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

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. He said that April Chan reported that September bus ridership was at 85 percent of pre-pandemic ridership.

Vice Chair Carlos Romero asked when they might receive an update on the activity of the Ride Plus microtransit service performance, and Chair Medina said it was outlined in the report.

8. Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

April Chan, Executive Director, said that the report was posted on the website. She said regarding the Caltrain Electrification Project there would be no more weekend shutdowns for the rest of 2023, but there would be more weekend shutdowns beginning in 2024.

9. Report of the Executive Director

Ms. Chan said the report was in the packet. She introduced Jessica Manzi, the new Director of Project of Delivery, formerly Transportation Manager for the City of Redwood City.

Director Emily Beach welcomed Ms. Manzi. She also said it was great that the TA was in partnership with C/CAG (City and County Association of Governments of San Mateo County) for the countywide Automatic Vehicle Strategic Plan.

Vice Chair Romero asked for confirmation that a Request for Proposals (RFP) for construction of the landscaping for the US 101/Willow Road interchange project would be released in late 2024. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, said that the City of Menlo Park is leading the project design and confirmed the release date was correct.

10. Program

10.a. 2023 Highway Program Call for Projects Draft Recommendations

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

Director Ray Mueller left the meeting at 5:20 pm.

Director Julia Mates asked about the project scores being lower because they wanted to ensure they were following CalSTA (California State Transportation Agency) guidelines and if staff had reached out to the cities about the criteria. Mr. Gilster said in their workshop that they told applicants that they were going to be more critical in making sure the projects are fundable. Director Mates asked if the third-party best practices design review was new, and Mr. Gilster said it was for the highway program and that staff has required third-party design reviews for the pedestrian and bicycle program.

Director Beach thanked staff for the thorough process and asked if there was a trend to include more sustainability and bike lanes. Mr. Gilster said that newer projects are incorporating more multimodal elements and staff is working with applicants to ensure those elements are incorporated earlier in the project development process.

Vice Chair Romero asked about the Redwood City funding issue, and Mr. Gilster said the total project cost is approximately \$305 million and the proposed award would add \$78 million towards the construction of the project. Ms. Chan said having an injection of funding at a local level would help the TA qualify for funding at the federal and state level.

Director Noelia Corzo asked about the acronym PS&E (Plans, Specifications, and Estimates). Mr. Gilster said this refers to the final design phase of the project. She asked how long the Gray Whale Cove project had been dormant. Mr. Skinner said the funding agreement has been expired for four years and there has been no movement on the project.

Director Beach said some of the projects are asking for technical assistance from the TA and asked if the \$134.5 million recommended total program would increase based on the technical assistance requested. Mr. Gilster said they did not calculate in the technical assistance as part of the project's total cost yet. He said the technical assistance funding would be provided from the highway program revenues.

Ms. Chan said staff would report about the technical assistance funding at the December Board meeting.

Public Comment:

Giuliano Carlini said he was now supportive of the managed lanes but was opposed to the widening of highways.

Mike Swire said he was disappointed that the Board rejected the opinion of the TA CAC on the subject of highway widening.

Malcolm Robinson said he wished there were more bicycle/pedestrian projects on the project list. Regarding Gray Whale Cove, he said it needs a crosswalk so people can see pedestrians trying to cross the highway. He asked if the 101 extension included the Bay Trail.

11. Finance

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

Connie Mobley-Ritter, Director of Treasury, provided the presentation on the variable rate bond.

Vice Chair Romero asked about the project surplus as of March 2, 2024. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said any funds that are unexpended by that date will go towards paying the principal on the bonds.

Director Beach said that the reason to start paying the TA back three years early was to ensure that the TA had more money to continue to fund projects.

Lacy Vong, Program Manager, HNTB, provided the presentation on the operations of the Express Lanes.

Public Comment:

Mike Swire said he the report does not include any detailed metrics or analysis on the widening of the highway for the purpose of reducing traffic congestion. He concluded therefore that the public cannot determine whether the project is successful in reducing congestion in the County. He requested that future updates present metrics as to whether the widening project had achieved its aims of reducing congestion and if the project had led to increased air pollution, childhood asthma, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and increased traffic violence on streets adjacent to the highway.

Director Mates thanked staff for including additional information about the flow of revenue, or waterfall, and also asked if expenses are coming in at the rate expected. Ms. Vong said they need a reserve that is budgeted in to protect against issues not covered by warranty or insurance.

Director Mark Nagales asked if the project revenue compared to other managed lanes projects such as the one on I-680. Ms. Vong said there is a lot of regional coordination that happens. She added that every quarter is different, however. He asked regarding the equity portion, where the majority of applications are coming from. Ms. Vong said they have had a lot of applications from South San Francisco and they are trying to replicate that marketing model with other cities.

Vice Chair Romero said regarding operations and maintenance expenses, when will the TA get to the point where we know what the numbers are? Ms. Vong said the corridor has not been open long enough to predict a trend from the data collected. He asked about where the uncollected revenue numbers were accounted for, and Ms. Mobley-Ritter said they could discuss it offline.

Director Beach said the JPA (San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority) Board is proud of the robust one-year lookback at the equity program.

11.b. Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook

Ms. Mobley-Ritter introduced Mark Creger, Director and Senior Portfolio Manager, Public Trust Advisors, who provided the presentation.

Motion/Second: Beach/Nagales

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

Noes: None

Absent: Mueller

11.c. Programming and Allocation of Measure A Grade Separation Category Funds for the Broadway Grade Separation Project in the City of Burlingame – *Approved by Resolution No. 2023-24*

Mr. Skinner provided the presentation.

Motion/Second: Romero/Corzo

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

Noes: None

Absent: Mueller

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 Mike Johnson was elected as the new Speaker of the House on October 10. She said the House may vote on appropriations bills as soon as the current week. She said the current CR runs out on November 17 and one more CR may need to be enacted.

On the state side, she said the Governor had until October 14 to act on any bills. She said the actions on the various bills were contained in the packet.

13. Requests from the Authority

Vice Chair Romero asked to have a future presentation on the exit strategy on the \$100 million bond. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said she would be happy to go into more detail on that topic in a future report.

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, December 7, 2023, 5:00 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

16. Report of Legal Counsel

16.a Closed Session: Public Employee Performance Evaluation under Government Code Sections 54957(b). Title: Executive Director

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, announced the closed session and noted that since no reportable action was expected, the open session of the meeting could be adjourned and a report-out provided at the next Board meeting.

Chair Rico Medina and Director Noelia Corzo left the meeting and the Board recessed to closed session at 6:32 pm.

17. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at <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.