

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

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

**December 5, 2023**

**Members Present:** B. Arietta (Chair), I. Bucio, G. Carlini, N. Enriquez, S. Lang, J. Londer,  
**(In Person)** G. Mattammal (arrived at 4:43 pm), P. Ohtaki (arrived at 4:53 pm),  
A. Paul

**Members Present:** M. Swire  
**(Via Teleconference)**

**Members Absent:** D. Bojack, J. Fox (Vice Chair), K. Kuklin

**Staff Present:** P. Skinner, P. Gilster, A. Linehan, M. Petrik, V. Tabjulu, J. Manzi, J. Brook

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

Chair Barbara Arietta called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm and led 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.

**4. Consent Calendar**

**4.a. Approval of Minutes of the CAC Meeting of October 31, 2023**

**TA Board Meeting Agenda for December 7, 2023**

**4.b. TA Board Item 6.b Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the  
Period Ending October 31, 2023**

**4.c. TA Board Item 6.c Acceptance of Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 1st Quarter  
Fiscal Year 2024**

Regarding Item 4.a, Giuliano Carlini requested to amend the minutes as follows:

Mr. Carlini asked regarding the Managed Lanes project, what happens if the TA decides not to proceed with the ~~project~~ [selected alternative](#). Mr. Gilster said they would then deprogram the funds and the funding would be made available to future projects in the

Highway program. [Mr. Carlini asked if there could be a “back and forth” discussion where the Board could provide direction. Mr. Gilster replied that the proposal could be modified and brought back as a new request to the Board.](#)

Motion/Second: Arietta/Carlini

Ayes: Arietta, Bucio, Carlini, Enriquez, Lang, Londer, Paul, Swire

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Fox, Kuklin, Mattammal, Ohtaki

Regarding Items 4b and 4c:

Motion/Second: Enriquez/Bucio

Ayes: Arietta, Bucio, Carlini, Enriquez, Lang, Londer, Paul, Swire

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Fox, Kuklin, Mattammal, Ohtaki

Chair Arietta announced that Mike Swire was participating via Zoom per Assembly Bill (AB) 2449:

Motion/Second: Lang/Bucio

Ayes: Arietta, Bucio, Carlini, Enriquez, Lang, Londer, Paul, Swire

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Fox, Kuklin, Mattammal, Ohtaki

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

There were no comments.

**6. TA Board Item 11 State and Federal Legislative Update**

Amy Linehan, Government and Community Affairs Officer, provided a summary of federal and state legislation and recent activity.

On the federal side, she said the government is operating under a two-tiered continuing resolution (CR). She said there are four Fiscal Year 2024 appropriations bills, including funding for transportation, that are extended until January 19, 2024 at their Fiscal Year 2023 funding levels.

*Gus Mattammal arrived at 4:43 pm.*

On the state side, she said the legislature would return to Sacramento in early January. She said there would be some new leadership in January.

Sandra Lang asked what CR did the President not sign off on. Ms. Linehan said the President was referring to supplemental aid for efforts in Ukraine and Israel that is not included in the current CR package, but said that there would be a supplemental CR later on.

**7. TA Board Item 12 2024 Draft Legislative Program**

Ms. Linehan noted the program was in the packet. She outlined the proposed changes to the program, which she noted were in red font.

*Peter Ohtaki arrived at 4:53 pm.*

Gus Mattammal asked how alarmed should we be that the State will be short \$14 to 18 billion budget-wise. Ms. Linehan said they advocate for additional funding wherever they can.

Peter Ohtaki asked if there was a way to make grade separations eligible for cap and trade funding. Ms. Linehan noted there was a grade separation category under the state regional funding platform that could theoretically be explored. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, said there is not significant GHG (greenhouse gas) reduction associated with grade separations when compared to other projects that are eligible for cap and trade grants, which in turn makes grade separations much less competitive for such grants. Nheeda Enriquez asked how much of the topic priorities are proactively driven by TA staff. Ms. Linehan said sometimes priorities come from Board members and/or CAC members. She said they look to see if any new issues need to be added into the agenda.

Mike Swire said regarding the conversion option that there are regulatory challenges to converting a general-purpose lane to a toll lane. Ms. Linehan said they would typically take a position on a specific bill. Mr. Skinner said legislation would be required for an agency to convert a general-purpose lane to a toll lane.

Ms. Lang asked regarding the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) area as a topic if it indicated a lessening of the environmental protections that CEQA provides. Ms. Linehan said the legislative platform attempts to streamline processes while working within CEQA guidelines.

Mr. Carlini said the legislative program has items that are directed to very specific things. He asked if the requests could be broadened at a higher level. Ms. Linehan said she could take that suggestion back to the legislative team for discussion.

Mr. Swire requested that the TA to endorse legislation that focuses on safety and saving lives, especially on streets and in bike lanes. He also suggested that the TA oppose highway widening.

## **8. TA Board Item 13.a Countywide Autonomous Vehicles Strategic Plan Update**

Vamsi Tabjulu, Project Manager, provided the presentation.

Ivan Bucio asked if there was data available from private companies describing the type and number of incidents. Mr. Tabjulu said there is data but the companies do not want the company names revealed. He said there would be requirements to provide incident data in the future.

Mr. Mattammal asked if the team had been staying abreast of what different jurisdictions are doing about how the technology and regulatory landscape is changing so as to remain on the cutting edge and not repeat other people's mistakes. Mr. Tabjulu said there have not been any plans in that direction and the local agency level, but cities had expressed interest at the County level.

Mr. Carlini asked that there be strategies to insure we have accurate data and incident management. He said the AV systems are complex and the outcomes can be disastrous. He asked about pulling money from the TDM (Traffic Demand Management) category. Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, said AVs are actually funded from a

subcategory of the alternative congestion relief category, which is dedicated to intelligent transportation systems.

Allie Paul asked what data sharing with AVs referred to, and Mr. Tabjulu said that referred to communication with the vehicles themselves.

Mr. Swire emphasized the need for safety and safety reporting.

Mr. Bucio asked would there be infrastructure vulnerabilities making the technology susceptible to hackers. Mr. Tabjulu said the testing was like a pilot project and that there are no active deployments.

Chair Arietta asked about when the equity program would be implemented for the Coastside and also expressed concern for the vehicles knocking bicyclists into the roadway. She also said there were concerns about data sharing and the fact that the vehicles are dependent on the internet. Mr. Tabjulu said that the vehicles also have internal sensors that allow them to operate independently. Chair Arietta asked if the 15 miles per hour speed for Bishop Ranch employee transportation would be the speed used for pilot vehicles, which Mr. Tabjulu confirmed would be the case for similar types of pilot projects.

Mr. Carlini advised to be suspicious of failure modes on the vehicles since they are very complex and difficult to program and noted that AV cars pulled over to the side of road could pose a potentially dangerous situation.

Ms. Enriquez said it is important to keep the end user in mind and focus more on solving the last-mile problem and less on advocating for a new technology for its own sake. Mr. Gilster said the TA is getting a blueprint of what they should be focusing on and that the TA does not have much regulatory authority over the private AV companies. He added that the companies' permits limit them to run only in specific locations.

## **9. TA Board Item 14.a Program and Allocate \$350,000 for the Development of the Strategic Plan 2025-2029**

Mr. Gilster provided the presentation.

Peter Ohtaki noted the increase in electric vehicles coming in the next few years and that the Strategic plan could help with policy changes.

*Peter Ohtaki left the meeting at 6:02 pm.*

Ms. Enriquez asked how the \$350,000 cost compare to the last time the plan was updated. Mr. Gilster said the \$350,000 includes about \$210,000 for consultant work and the remainder for internal staff time.

Mr. Swire urged staff to include as many metrics as possible to determine success or failure of programs.

Motion/Second: Lang/Mattammal

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

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Fox, Kuklin, Ohtaki

**10. TA Board Item 14.b Programming and Allocation of \$135,916,790 in Measure A and Measure W Highway Program Funds for 11 Highway Projects; Deprogramming of \$32,698,304 in Funds for Four Highway Projects**

Mr. Gilster provided the presentation.

Mr. Carlini said he hoped the Board would reject the US 101/SR 92 area improvement project, which involves widening lanes, causing increased GHGs and VMT (vehicle miles traveled), induced demand, more congestion, sea-level rise, and reduced safety.

Mr. Swire echoed Mr. Carlini's comments. He asked if staff could confirm the Holly Street project failed due to the Express Lanes project. Mr. Skinner said the project was compensated by the TA for the delay caused by the 101 Express Lanes project. He said the City of San Carlos had failed to move forward with the project in a timely manner and had lost over \$4 million in grants funds as a result. He said the TA had provided the City of San Carlos with a list of actions to help fully fund the project; however, the City declined to follow the recommended actions and elected to cancel the project earlier this year. He said the TA is attempting to be stricter with applicants about adhering to timely use of funds guidelines so that money could be used for active projects.

Chair Arietta said she did not understand why the City of Pacifica was not adhering to the time guidelines. Mr. Skinner said TA staff does meet with senior agency staff to communicate issues with applications and projects.

Mr. Carlini said he hoped the Board would take the opportunity before the project comes back to them again to let the project sponsors of the 101 Managed Lanes know that they – either as a Board or as individuals – will not support the widening alternative. Regarding deprogramming, he asked why funding was taken from a project that reduced GHGs to be reprogrammed to a project that potentially increases GHGs. He asked about the pedestrian/bicycle project and Mr. Gilster said they could discuss offline.

Motion/Second: Mattammal/Lang

Ayes: Arietta, Bucio, Carlini, Enriquez, Lang, Londer, Mattammal, Paul

Noes: Swire

Absent: Bojack, Fox, Kuklin, Ohtaki

**11. Report of the Chair**

**11.a Appointment of Nominating Committee for 2024 Chair and Vice Chair**

Chair Arietta designated Ivan Bucio, Peter Ohtaki, and Jeff Londer to be on the Nominating Committee and briefly explained the process for designating nominees to be proposed at the January CAC meeting.

Motion/Second: Lang/Mattammal

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

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Fox, Kuklin, Ohtaki

## **12. Report From Staff**

Mr. Skinner said the report was in the packet.

TA Director Emily Beach thanked the CAC for their support of the Board and making their comments, and wished them happy holidays.

## **13. Member Comments/Requests**

The members wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mr. Carlini said he hoped there was some way they could increase safety requirements for incoming projects. He said if transit or bike infrastructure remains dangerous, it will be difficult to get people out of their cars and use other modes of transportation.

Chair Arietta thanked everybody on the Committee for fitting in so well and being so conscientious about what they believe.

Ms. Enriquez and Ms. Paul thanked the Committee for welcoming them as newer members.

Mr. Swire said he attended an SFCTA (San Francisco County Transportation Authority) meeting regarding the plan for I-280 in San Francisco and said he was discouraged to hear the highway widening was the preferred option due to the congestion problems in that area. He added that he felt that projects are not being fully vetted before including widening as default.

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

Chair Arietta announced that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 4:30 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

## **15. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 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).