

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

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

April 2, 2024

**Members Present:
(In Person)** B. Arietta (Chair), G. Carlini, N. Enriquez, J. Fox (Vice Chair) (left at 6:17 pm), K. Kuklin, S. Lang, J. Londer, G. Mattammal, P. Ohtaki (arrived at 4:46 pm), A. Paul, M. Swire

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

Members Absent: D. Bojack, I. Bucio

Staff Present: P. Skinner, P. Gilster, M. Wright Petrik, J. Brook

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Barbara Arietta called the meeting to order at 4:35 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 March 5, 2024

TA Board Meeting Agenda for April 4, 2024

4.b. TA Board Item 5.b Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending February 29, 2024

4.c. TA Board Item 5.c Amending the Investment Policy for the San Mateo County Transportation Authority

4.d. TA Board Item 5.d Programming and Allocating \$475,000 in Measure W Funds From the Pedestrian and Bicycle Program Category for the Safe Routes to School Program in San Mateo County

4.e. TA Board Item 5.e Authorizing an Amendment to On-call Transportation Planning, Management, and Support Services Contracts with WSP USA, Inc. and Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. to Increase the Contract Capacity by \$2.5 Million

4.f. TA Board Item 5.f Authorizing the Submittal of an Allocation Request for Regional Measure 3 Funding in the Amount of \$19.277 Million for the US 101/State Route 92 Area Improvements Project

Giuliano Carlini requested to pull Items 4.e and 4.f. Regarding Item 4.e, he asked what was happening with the projects. Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, said the \$2.5 million was not slated for any particular project and was for all project-related costs.

Regarding Item 4.a, Sandra Lang asked if there would be a report out from the three areas that were discussed at the Strategic Plan Workshop. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, said all the summaries are being sent to their consultants to aggregate all the responses from both the CAC and Board. Ms. Lang asked if they would get updates on the areas that the CAC members focused on. Mr. Gilster said they planned to bring periodic updates to both the CAC and the Board.

Regarding Item 4.d, Mr. Carlini asked how to acquire more funding for the Safe Routes to School (SRT) project. Mr. Gilster said that would be incorporated in the next Strategic Plan. He added if the change were to be made now, they would have to formally amend the current Strategic Plan. Nheeda Enriquez asked if the number of walk audits was appropriate. Mr. Gilster said they have created a database inventory of all the walk audits across the County for every school as the basis for a template to be used for future walk audits. Ms. Enriquez asked how a neighborhood could be added to the list. Mr. Gilster said they could reach out to Theresa Vallez-Kelly, Director of the SRTS program at the San Mateo County Office of Education.

Peter Ohtaki arrived at 4:46 pm.

The members voted to approve Item 4.d:

Motion/Second: Londer/Kuklin

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

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Bucio

Regarding Item 4.f, Mr. Carlini said the allotted funds exceeded the TA's ceiling of 50 percent. Mr. Skinner said this was MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) funding provided to the TA for 101/92 Interchange and is considered matching funds to the TA's expenditure.

The members voted to approve Item 4.f:

Motion/Second: Londer/Fox

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

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Bucio

The members voted to approve Items 4.a, 4.b, 4.c, and 4.e:

Motion/Second: Kuklin/Lang

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

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Bucio

5. TA Board Item 5.a Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of March 7, 2024

Mike Swire noted the Board's comments were very positive around grade separations, school safety, and bike path projects.

6. TA Board Item 10.a Transit – Ferry Program Update

Mr. Skinner provided the background on the project.

Kristine Zortman, Executive Director, Port of Redwood City, provided the Redwood City part of the presentation.

Ms. Lang asked about sea-level rise. Ms. Zortman said the Port of Redwood City was built to withstand a three to five feet of sea-level rise in 2017. She said the ferry terminal would be designed with sea-level rise in mind.

Mr. Swire asked how commuters would get to and from the proposed ferry terminal in Redwood City. Ms. Zortman said they are working with local employers and Commute.org regarding the first/last mile connections. Mr. Gilster said there is a plan within the Ferry Terminal Business Plan that addresses the first/last mile.

Mr. Carlini asked about the first mile for commuters coming from the East Bay. Ms. Zortman said they are looking at the service providers. Mr. Gilster said there are multiple A/C (Alameda County) Transit buses serving those areas going to the Jack London Ferry Terminal.

Peter Ohtaki asked what the preliminary ridership numbers were. Ms. Zortman said that WETA (Water Emergency Transportation Authority) is proposing a 300-person ferry to provide the service with multiple morning and evening trips.

Gus Mattammal asked about riders for recreational events, such as ballgames. Ms. Zortman said they are investigating that.

Vice Chair John Fox said that publicity would be key. He suggested the feasibility of a southern terminus on the East Bay side.

Chair Arietta asked about the Alameda ferry. Mr. Gilster said it goes from Alameda to Oakland to downtown San Francisco.

Ms. Enriquez asked if there were metrics for ridership pre and post pandemic for the South San Francisco ridership that would be useful for planning the Redwood City service. Ms. Zortman said they would be looking at South San Francisco and Vallejo data. She said the Business Plan and Feasibility study are available on the Redwood City website.

Mr. Carlini asked why someone would want to take the ferry instead of BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit). Ms. Zortman said the trip may be more enjoyable due to being on the water and the

scenery, in addition to there being only two stops. She said the travel time was about the same as a BART trip.

Mr. Mattammal asked what level of ridership was needed for the service to be viable. She said the Oakland service would be the most viable. Mr. Gilster said 850 riders were the projected daily boarding on an average weekday. Ms. Zortman said two crossings going to work and three crossings going back home.

Mr. Carlini said the funding amount from the TA was small. Mr. Skinner said the TA's funding for ferry services is limited and the project will require significant external funding.

Eunjune Kim, Director of Public Works, City of South San Francisco, provided the South San Francisco portion of the presentation.

Mr. Carlini asked if liquefaction would be a factor during an earthquake given that the terminal was built on landfill. Mr. Kim said the geotechnical requirements are being considered at all levels, including sheet pile for containment, seismic, as well as liquefaction.

Mr. Ohtaki asked about grants with public/private partnerships. Mr. Kim said the City of South San Francisco is always engaged with the biotech community.

Mr. Mattammal asked how sensitive the project was to the accuracy of the forecast of growth rate.

Ms. Enriquez asked about the environmental impact of operating the ferry service. Mr. Kim said they would have a dredging program that they need to monitor. Mr. Skinner said that would be under the provenance of WETA, which had received a grant to procure battery electric (non-diesel) ferry.

Ms. Lang asked about the extent of sea-level rise. Mr. Kim said approximately six to seven feet by 2100 due to it being landfill. He said they also need to address sinking of the docks/pilings.

Karen Kuklin said BCDC (San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission) is the main agency concerned with sea-level rise in the Bay Area. She said the clay cap presented some concerns.

Mr. Carlini asked how many people currently take the ferry from South San Francisco and how does that compare to the projected ridership of the RWC ferry. Mr. Gilster said in 2019, it was 601 passengers for Redwood City. Mr. Carlini said the current levels projected for sea-level rise was 15 feet by 2050.

The meeting recessed from 5:40 to 5:46 pm.

7. TA Board Item 10.b Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Grant Award for Connect4SSF

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

Mr. Swire asked how much each of the three options would cost. Mr. Gilster said El Camino alone would cost anywhere from \$50 to 100 million depending on redevelopment of the area and setbacks.

Mr. Carlini asked if the program was exclusively for active transport or is it partly for motor vehicles. Mr. Gilster said it would depend on what the community wants to see, but it is primarily for active transport and transit modes.

Vice Chair Fox asked if the planning looking at if the current heavy industry changes to more residential or commercial use. Mr. Gilster said the City of South San Francisco is addressing the emerging residential use.

Ms. Enriquez said the project was an interesting effort in terms of thinking more holistically.

Ms. Kuklin congratulated staff for their work on their project.

Mr. Carlini said that given the large amount of money in play, it might be possible to consider plans that would connect multiple communities. He asked if there are plans for a regionally connected active transit network. Mr. Gilster said that MTC has a network. He said they are trying to connect the dots. Mr. Carlini asked from a multimodal perspective how active transit will be segregated from motor vehicles. Mr. Gilster said they would be looking at that during the planning process.

8. TA Board Item 11 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 Congress had wrapped up the 2024 appropriation process. She said President Biden released his proposed budget on March 11.

On the state side, she said the House is hearing bills under the April 26 deadline. She said the state released a “shrink the shortfall” budget in early March. She said Senate Bill (SB) 1031 replaces SB 925 (Wiener) and SB 926 (Wahab). She said it would stabilize transit systems operations in the amount of \$1 to 1.5 billion. She said they are working with MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) staff on amendments to the consolidation language.

Ms. Lang asked if the earmark money is immediately available. Mr. Skinner said there is a process to receive it: federal earmarks are on a reimbursement basis while state earmarks are in the form of a cash advance.

Vice Chair Fox left the meeting at 6:17 pm.

Mr. Swire asked if the TA weighed in on the issue of whether the measure would potentially fund highway widenings. Ms. Wright Petrik said that issue was intentionally left on the table and they are taking it to the Board to get some direction. Mr. Skinner said the bill primarily concerns SamTrans and Caltrain.

Mr. Carlini said the Wiener bill was supposed to fund repair of roadways and not widening. Ms. Wright Petrik said the parameters have not be set yet.

Mr. Ohtaki asked if state or federal budgets were increasing funding for grade separations. Mr. Skinner said the existing funding earmarked for grade separations was already awarded to projects.

Mr. Mattammal said all possible taxes are mentioned in the bill. Ms. Wright Petrik said those are the options, but MTC has not yet decided on which one.

9. Report of the Chair

Chair Arietta provided an update on Caltrain. She said they have begun storing older vehicles to make way for their new electric fleet.

Mr. Carlini asked when the electric train preview would come to the Peninsula. Ms. Wright Petrik said it would be May 11 at the San Carlos Station and that the members would receive an invitation to the event.

10. Report from Staff

Mr. Skinner said the report was in the packet. He said Caltrain would be providing an update on the electrification project at the next CAC meeting on April 30.

Mr. Carlini asked if it were possible to provide input on the Highway 92/101 direct connector that is mentioned in the Executive Director's report. Mr. Skinner said that project is currently in the environmental phase and anyone may attend scoping meetings to provide input. He said the Highway 84/101 project is being sponsored by the City of Redwood City and is in the funding phase. He said the TA has allocated the full 50 percent to build that project.

11. Member Comments/Requests

Ms. Lang said re highway widening she would like to see an overlay of health-related data and health impacts of projects. Mr. Skinner said part of the environmental impact process, they do study health impacts and provide project alternatives.

Mr. Swire concurred with Ms. Lang and said that past health impacts should also be study.

Ms. Kuklin said when consultants are hired for EIRs (environmental impact reports), they collect fresh data.

Mr. Swire noted the materials he had forwarded to the CAC and TA Board inbox. He said he would like to see some data on safety on the Express Lanes with people weaving in and out of the lanes to avoid paying tolls.

Mr. Carlini requested having a CAC member present the CAC report in person at the Board meeting. Mr. Skinner said the ad hoc committee to discuss the Rules of Procedure will be making recommendations in the future. Mr. Carlini asked when that would be, and Mr. Skinner said late summer. He added that the Board would discuss revising their own Rules of Procedure in May and that they would review the CAC Rules of Procedure after that.

Mr. Carlini asked when the CAC and Board hear about KPIs (key performance indicators) overall and for specific projects. Mr. Gilster said the Strategic Plan team would be looking at overall all KPIs. He said a lot of data and metrics ends at construction.

12. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting

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

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at <https://www.smcta.com/video-board-directors>. Questions may be referred to the CAC Secretary's office by phone at 650.508.6223 or by email to cacsecretary@smcta.com.