

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

April 4, 2024

Members Present: E. Beach, J. Mates (Vice Chair), R. Medina, M. Nagales, C. Romero (Chair)
(In Person)

Members Present: None
(Via Teleconference)

Members Absent: N. Corzo, R. Mueller

Staff Present: A. Chan, J. Cassman, S. van Hoften, P. Skinner, P. Gilster, J. Epstein,
A. Linehan, J. Manzi, J. Brook, D. Seamans

1. Call to Order

Chair Carlos Romero 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 Romero requested that Vice Chair Julia Mates lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Darryl Yip noted that highway widening has resulted in increased congestion and asked the Board to take a stand against widening.

Giuliano Carlini said that he would like to receive increased metrics and KPIs (key performance indicators) from staff to help him understand the decisions made on various projects.

4. Report of the Citizens Advisory Committee

Chair Romero noted that the report was posted on the website.

5. Consent Calendar

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

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

**5.c. Amending the Investment Policy for the San Mateo County Transportation Authority –
*Approved by Resolution No. 2024-3***

- 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 – Approved by Resolution No. 2024-4**
- 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 – Approved by Resolution No. 2024-5**
- 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 – Approved by Resolution No. 2024-6**

Regarding Item 5.b, Director Emily Beach said bank investment fees had increased and Connie Mobley-Ritter, Director, Treasure, responded that the line item also includes debt expenses, which have increased. She noted that in the same period, investment income had also increased.

The Board voted to approve Items 5.a, 5.b, 5.d, 5.e, and 5.f:

Motion/Second: Beach/Mates

Ayes: Beach, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Corzo, Mueller

Regarding Item 5.c, Chair Romero asked how they had arrived at the terms of maturity greater than five years shall not exceed 30 percent of the overall portfolio value Ms. Mobley-Ritter said that although the State allows them to go with a longer term, they felt it was prudent to restrict it.

Chair Romero asked about the local government investment pool. Ms. Mobley-Ritter said the Board has authorized the TA to invest in local agency investment funds (LAIF) and the San Mateo County Investment Fund.

The Board voted to approve Item 5.c:

Motion/Second: Romero/Medina

Ayes: Beach, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Corzo, Mueller

6. Report of the Chair

Chair Romero said he had no report.

7. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

Director Medina said that the report was posted on the website. He summarized events of the April 3 meeting, including:

- Appointment of a new SamTrans CAC member
- An update on the 2024 SamTrans Strategic Plan

- Adoption of the Code of Conduct on Use of District Services and development of a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
- An update on the Bus Stop Improvement Plan (BSIP)
- A discussion on Senate Bill (SB) 1031, a bill proposing consolidation of Bay Area transit operators. The Board voted to have staff send a letter to legislators stating opposition unless amended.

8. Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

Director Medina said that the report was posted on the website. He noted there was robust discussion on SB 1031 and announced an Caltrain electric train event at the San Carlos Station would be on May 11.

9. Report of the Executive Director

April Chan, Executive Director, said the report was in the packet. She said that the State of California has, under the newly established Reconnecting Communities program, awarded the Transportation Authority (TA) and the City of South San Francisco a grant for the new Connect4SSF program. She said that this is only one of three projects awarded in the state and that the three agencies will share a total of \$149 million. She thanked Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management; former TA Principal Planner Martin Reyes; and summer intern Alyssa Suzukawa for their work on the project.

Ms. Chan said SB 1031 would be discussed during the State and Federal Legislative Update. She said they are recommending to monitor and watch. She noted the May 11 Caltrain electric train event. She announced the upcoming retirement of Ms. Mobley-Ritter on April 26.

Director Beach thanked Ms. Mobley-Ritter for her leadership and helping the Board to understand the TA's investment strategy.

Public Comment:

Giuliano Carlini requested that staff provide project descriptions early in the process before the projects are pursued.

10. Program

10.a. Transit – Ferry Program Update

Jessica Manzi, Director, Project Delivery, provided the background portion of the presentation.

Kristine Zortman, Executive Director, Port of Redwood City, gave an overview of the past and current work on the Redwood City-San Francisco ferry project.

Director Beach asked how the Port of Redwood City and WETA (Water Emergency Transportation Authority) is thinking about de-carbonizing, and Ms. Zortman said alternative modes of power at the Port, including electrification. She said that WETA is also exploring grant opportunities for electrifying their fleet. She said commuters prefer commutes of approximately one hour or less, which is being taken into consideration as fleets transition to zero emissions technology.

Chair Romero asked what the commute times were, and Ms. Zortman said the trips are 55 to 65 minutes.

Eunjune Kim, Director of Public Works, City of South San Francisco gave an overview of the past and current work on the South San Francisco-Oakland ferry project.

Director Mark Nagales said it is projected that in 2040, there will potentially be 100,000 employees commuting from the East Bay. He noted the City of South San Francisco's plans to develop the area.

Vice Chair Mates said she supported the project and asked him to keep safety in mind with the larger ships in the water and when providing future project updates.

Chair Romero asked if the project would be replacing the existing terminal. Mr. Kim said the project was to add a water taxi terminal since the current terminal does not have enough space. He asked how they would go about the allocation process. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, said only Redwood City and South San Francisco are eligible for the program funds, which are divided 50-50. Chair Romero asked what a new ferry terminal would cost. Ms. Chan said a past terminal cost \$7.5 to 8 million. She said both cities are looking for funds from external programs.

Director Beach asked what the South San Francisco ridership is. Mr. Gilster said 2019 figures indicate that there were 601 weekday boardings to the ferry from Oakland/Alameda to San Francisco.

10.b. Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards Grant Award for Connect4SSF

Mr. Gilster provided the presentation.

Vice Chair Mates asked about the scope of the grant, and Mr. Gilster said the program was the largest of the three grants. Vice Chair Mates asked where in San Mateo County were they able to meet the narrow program criteria. Mr. Gilster said they did a lot of mapping analysis of where the project would fit after layering the various criteria on top of one another.

Directors Beach and Nagales commended staff for making a compelling case to get a grant award for the project. Director Beach also commended Chair Romero's remarks at the press conference in March.

Chair Romero asked if staff capacity needed to be increased to work on the project. Mr. Gilster noted they expect the grant will pay for the additional staff needed and will be discussing options with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Mr. Gilster added that they will likely issue a separate on-call contract for a consultant to provide additional assistance.

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 Congress had wrapped up the 2024 appropriation process. She said that due to it being an election year, there would not be a lot of movement from Congress

and continuing resolutions were likely towards the end of the year. She said President Biden released his proposed budget on March 11. She said there would be a three-way race for Anna Eshoo's seat in November.

At the state level, 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.

Chair Romero commended Ms. Linehan on her presentation.

Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, discussed Senate Bill (SB) 1031, a consolidation bill that seeks to control all the transit agencies in the nine-county Bay Area. She noted that the SamTrans and Caltrain Boards had voted to oppose the bill unless amended.

Director Beach asked if the TA has members of their Peninsula delegation on some of these key committees. Ms. Epstein said they are setting up meetings for Ms. Chan and herself to meet with their delegation. She said on the SamTrans side, they will be a letter to Senator Wiener, Senator Wahab, and MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission), and will be cc'ing the full delegation.

Director Medina commended Ms. Epstein on the clarity of her report.

Chair Romero said he supported having an open mind when examining and discussing the bill. Ms. Epstein said that MTC is working on regional coordination efforts.

Ms. Chan said they are fundamentally supportive of a revenue measure, noting her participation as Vice Chair on the Regional Network Management Council. She said they should also wait for results from the state task force on how to improve transit. She said they are supportive of their sister transit agencies to ensure they have the funding to survive.

12. Requests from the Authority

There were no requests.

13. Written Communications to the Authority

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

14. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting

Chair Romero announced the next meeting would be on Thursday, May 2, 2024, 5:00 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

15. Report of Legal Counsel

Ms. Cassman said she had nothing to report.

16. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 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 Authority Secretary's office by phone at 650.508.6242 or by email to board@smcta.com.