

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

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

April 30, 2024

**Members Present:
(In Person)** B. Arietta (Chair), I. Bucio, G. Carlini, N. Enriquez (left at 6:23 pm), J. Fox (Vice Chair) (left at 6:16 pm), K. Kuklin, S. Lang (left at 6:23 pm), J. Londer (left at 6:23 pm), G. Mattammal (arrived at 4:36 pm)

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

Members Absent: D. Bojack, P. Ohtaki, A. Paul, M. Swire

Staff Present: P. Skinner, P. Gilster, A. Linehan, J. Manzi, J. Epstein, C. Mamaradlo, K. Beltz, 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 April 2, 2024

TA Board Meeting Agenda for May 2, 2024

4.b. TA Board Item 5.b Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending March 31, 2024

4.c. TA Board Item 5.c Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook

4.d. TA Board Item 5.d Call for a Public Hearing at the June 6, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

Gus Mattammal arrived at 4:36 pm.

Motion/Second: Fox/Kuklin

Ayes: Arietta, Bucio, Carlini, Enriquez, Fox, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Mattammal

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Ohtaki, Paul, Swire

5. TA Board Item 5.a Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of April 4, 2024

There were no comments.

6. TA Board Item 10.a US 101 Express Lanes: Quarterly Update on Variable Rate Bond and Operations

Kevin Beltz, Manager, Treasury Debt and Investments, provided the initial part of the presentation on the variable rate bond.

Sandra Lang asked if another bond would be a stopgap measure. Mr. Beltz said once the express lanes have demonstrated three to four years of steady state revenues, SMCEL-JPA (San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority) will then be able to go out into the capital markets and issue debt that would pay off the \$100 million that is currently outstanding for the TA.

Gus Mattammal said he favored having an update on the bond twice a year.

Vice Chair John Fox asked if the current environment was different from the original plan that we would not have that much revenue. Mr. Beltz said the original plan was that revenues would cover the debt service, cost funded reserves, and pay down principal. He said that the rates go up and down with the market use of the lanes and that they have not made any principal payments at this time.

Giuliano Carlini asked how long would it take to pay off the principal with current revenues. Mr. Beltz said they may be able to pay them off in 10 to 15 years. Mr. Carlini asked if the assets are from the \$100 million. Mr. Beltz said no, it was completely unrelated. Mr. Carlini said he would like to continue to see quarterly reports on the operations of the lanes but was happy with having financial reports presented twice a year.

Lacy Vong, Policy Program Manager, SMCEL-JPA, provided the presentation on the Express Lanes Operations, which included highlights on quarterly performance.

Ms. Lang asked what a "unique" vehicle was. Ms. Vong said a driver making a single trip.

Mr. Mattammal asked what the revenue per enforcement contract. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, said the TA does not make any money and the money flows to the CHP (California Highway Patrol).

Vice Chair Fox asked if the TA keeps track of the citation revenue, and Mr. Skinner said no.

Mr. Mattammal asked if there were heat maps of US 101 travel before the express lanes opened. Jessica Manzi, Director, Project Delivery, said they do have heat maps from the development phase of the project. Mr. Mattammal asked if the heat map data could be

automated. Mr. Skinner said the tolling equipment is collecting the data at present with a high level of granularity.

Ivan Bucio asked if the data on the heat maps was smoothed out, since based on his usage in the southbound direction, the traffic was moving no more than 30 miles per hour. Ms. Vong said the maps can hone in on particular times and drill down to five-minute resolution.

Mr. Bucio asked if there was a ceiling for tolls that has been set. Ms. Vong said the average maximum is a dollar a mile. Ms. Manzi said there is a point when a driver cannot buy their way into the lane because it is too congested.

Ms. Kuklin said she uses the express lanes from Millbrae to the San Mateo Bridge and finds it very useful.

Nheeda Enriquez asked how the program is doing against its own goals to reduce congestion. She asked how the pricing algorithm responds to the goals of going green. Ms. Vong said one of the goals is to get people moving at least 45 miles per hour. She said they monitor carpools and express buses.

Vice Chair Fox said he appreciated the heat maps, which indicated where the congestion is. He suggested having a pie chart indicating revenue showing how many came from FasTrak tolls, how many came from the image-based tolls and whether those were ever recovered. He also requested data on the percentage of people with just license plates, and those drivers without license plates. Ms. Vong said they do focus on those percentages and that it was sometimes difficult to get that data, but they would work with staff to provide it at future updates.

Mr. Carlini asked for a table that generates the heat maps. Ms. Vong said the maps are generated from the data that's collected. Mr. Carlini asked if there was any data from the sensors before the express lanes were open to traffic. Ms. Vong said there was not because they were doing testing of the equipment prior to opening the lanes. Mr. Skinner noted that testing data was not available. Mr. Carlini asked if someone could do a distribution, and Ms. Vong said that she believed so but would need to check.

Public Comment:

Mike Swire had questions about the revenue mix and cost per trip based on the number of segments. He noted that there was still congestion in the general-purpose lanes. Mr. Skinner said requests for information that is not already collected or requests specifically for Ms. Vong need to go through the JPA Board directly.

Chair Arietta asked if the method of paying the CHP (California Highway Patrol) for enforcement changed to more regular payments instead of solely overtime pay. Mr. Skinner said the TA is bound by state law to contract with the CHP.

7. TA Board Item 10.b Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2025

Cleo Liao, Manager, Budgets, provided the presentation.

Mr. Carlini asked why revenue is expected to go up 147 percent and expenditures are expected to go up 174 percent for the express lanes. Ms. Liao said after March 2024, the interest relating to the bond will no longer be covered by the bond proceeds. She said Fiscal Year 2024,

including four months of the interest in Fiscal Year 2025 is including the whole year's interest expenses. She said the income went up the same amount to cover the expenditures.

Vice Chair Fox said it looks like the TA is allocating less in Fiscal Year 2025 than in Fiscal Year 2024. Ms. Liao said they are using a placeholder amount to try to be conservative for Fiscal Year 2025.

Ms. Enriquez asked what happens to the projected budget if interest rates do not come down. Ms. Liao said they would come back to the Board with the actuals.

Mr. Mattammal asked why there was not interest for original Measure A in Fiscal Year 2024. Ms. Liao said it was because they are presenting in a new format this year. She said in past years, they budgeted the interest in the income.

Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, thanked Ms. Liao and the Budget team for their work in producing the report.

8. 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 President signed a foreign aid program \$68 billion into law. She said for the Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations process is proceeding as scheduled. She said the TA has been working on earmark requests from local cities. She said a continuing resolution or two was expected before the end of the fiscal year.

On the state side, she said the Legislature reconvened on April 1. She said the Governor signed a package on April 15 to address a large budget deficit before he issues the May budget revise.

Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, provided the presentation on Senate Bill (SB) 1031.

Vice Chair Fox asked if bike/ped was included, and Ms. Epstein said it was likely to be included under the Safe Streets category. She said it was new potential funding, not Measure A or Measure W.

Mr. Carlini asked how collaboration could be enforced. Ms. Epstein said the Regional Network Management Council (RNMC) oversees all collaborative efforts among the various agencies. She said there are multiple levels of interrelationship between agencies as they try to work toward collaboration and move projects forward, and for there to be more accountability. Mr. Carlini acknowledged that there is a desire to coordinate and asked how the RNMC would compel coordination. Ms. Epstein replied that there was a goal to coordinate.

Vice Chair John Fox left at 6:16 pm.

Mr. Carlini said it appeared that the RNMC did not have authority over the different operators. Ms. Epstein said the transit agencies are working to align their schedules.

Ms. Kuklin asked if the program percentages remain the same, which Ms. Epstein confirmed.

Ms. Epstein said if SB 1031 goes on the ballot, it would require a two-thirds vote because it is operational. She said ACA (Assembly Constitutional Amendment) 1, the bill to lower the voter threshold, only applies to purely capital projects.

Public Comment:

Mike Swire said he wondered why the consolidation of transit agencies had not occurred to date, given that factors such as unified fares indicate that we are moving in that direction. He said the public is interested in cost-effectiveness and noted that consolidation could potentially reduce transit costs and help such measures pass in the future.

The meeting recessed at 6:22 pm.

Jeff Londer, Nheeda Enriquez, and Sandra Lang left the meeting at 6:23 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 6:29 pm.

9. Report of the Chair

Chair Arietta reminded the members about the May 11 Caltrain electric train event at the San Carlos Caltrain station, to be held from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm.

10. Report from Staff

Mr. Skinner said the report was in the packet.

10.a. Draft of Updated Rules of Procedure for the San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors

Mr. Skinner said that legal counsel was bringing this item to Board on May 2. He recommended that CAC members read the proposed Rules of Procedure. He noted that after further discussion, the Board would then be voting on the rules at a future meeting.

11. Member Comments/Requests

Mr. Carlini said he would like to be able to review the data that was discussed during the meeting.

Public Comment:

Mike Swire encouraged the members to join the 101/92 Direct Connect meeting in Foster City on May 1. He said there were community concerns that the project could increase traffic in the Shoreview neighborhood. Chair Arietta asked if there was a virtual way to attend. Carolyn Mamaradlo, Senior Project Manager, noted a virtual meeting took place the previous week and the meeting on May 1 would be held in person at 6:00 pm at the Foster City Community Center, 1000 East Hillsdale Boulevard. She said that a video of the virtual meeting would be posted online and staff would provide a link once available. Mr. Skinner noted the purpose of the meeting was to hear what alternatives and ideas should be studied as part of the two-year environmental review process.

12. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting

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

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 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.