

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

**May 2, 2024**

**Members Present:** E. Beach, N. Corzo, J. Mates (Vice Chair), R. Medina, C. Romero (Chair)  
**(In Person)**

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

**Members Absent:** R. Mueller, M. Nagales

**Staff Present:** A. Chan, J. Cassman, S. van Hoften, P. Skinner, P. Gilster, J. Epstein,  
A. Linehan, J. Manzi, K. Beltz, C. Liao, 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, called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

Chair Romero requested that Director Rico Medina lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**

There were no comments.

**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 April 4, 2024**

**5.b. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending March 31, 2024**

**5.c. Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook**

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

Motion/Second: Mates/Medina

Ayes: Beach, Corzo, Mates, Medina, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Mueller, Nagales

## **6. Report of the Chair**

Chair Romero announced that May was National Bike Month, and that the annual Bike-to-Work Day would be May 17. He also provided a reminder about the electric train event on May 11 at the San Carlos Caltrain station.

## **7. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report**

Director Medina said that the report was posted on the website. He summarized the events of the May 1 meeting, including:

- Bus passes issued for school field trips
- New headquarters building design and preparation
- Art Takes a Bus Ride awards
- Monthly Performance Report for March 2024
- Approved Bus Stop Improvement Plan

Chair Romero said he was that current ridership was at 94 percent of pre-pandemic ridership.

## **8. Joint Powers Board Liaison Report**

Director Medina said that the report was posted on the website. He noted the following topics of discussion at that morning's meeting:

- New headquarters on the Caltrain side
- May 11 electric train event
- Electrification milestones completed in April

## **9. Report of the Executive Director**

April Chan, Executive Director, said the report was in the packet. She noted that she had attended a legislative conference in Washington, DC with Amy Linehan, Government and Community Affairs Officer. She announced that Dora Seamans, District Secretary, would be retiring from the District in August.

Director Noelia Corzo said she had concerns about the 101/92 interchange project regarding air pollution and congestion. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, said they are currently at the start of the environmental process for the project and welcome input from the public on what specific concerns needed to be studied. The environmental scoping period would be open for 30 days and he said there would be additional opportunities for future public comment once the environmental document is released in about two years' time.

## **10. Program**

### **10.a. US 101 Express Lanes: Quarterly Update on Variable Rate Bond and Operations**

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

Vice Chair Julia Mates asked about revenue generation. Ms. Chan said they were seeking Board feedback about having an annual or semiannual variable rate bond report.

Director Emily Beach said as a member of the JPA (San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority) that she received regular updates. She suggested, however, that members of the TA Board who do not sit on the JPA Board may want more frequent reporting.

Director Medina said he supports having either an annual or a semiannual report on the bond.

Vice Chair Mates said she supported having either annual or semiannual.

Chair Romero said the membership of the TA Board may change and said he favored having a semiannual report.

Director Corzo said she was in favor of having the bond report annually and the operations updates at more frequent intervals.

Chair Romero asked if there was anything that they wanted to flag for the Board regarding the fed increasing interest rates. Mr. Beltz said that an increase was less likely due to it being an election year.

Lacy Vong, Policy Program Manager, SMCEL-JPA (San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority) provided the presentation on the Express Lanes Operations, which included highlights from the quarterly performance period.

Director Beach said she was happy that Slide 5 included the administrative costs.

Director Corzo asked what the utilization was for the equity program, Community Transportation Benefits Program. Ms. Chan said \$1 million was allocated and the TA contributed \$400,000 with \$600,000 being set aside. She said they are working on a 2.0 version of the Community Transportation Benefits Program in the future where participants receive a transportation credit card with a set dollar amount instead of choosing either a Clipper card or FasTrak transponder.

#### **Public Comment:**

Giuliano Carlini said more outreach was needed to publicize the Community Transportation Benefits Program. He said VMT (vehicle miles traveled) needs to be decreased by 25 percent to mitigate climate change. He said the heat maps show that we have the data on key performance indicators, he suggested publishing data on a weekly basis.

Chair Romero said he wanted to see how the express lanes impact GHG (greenhouse gases) and if there is an optimal speed to generate the least carbon dioxide.

Director Beach noted the JPA Board typically meets the second Friday of every month and invited members of the public to join.

## **10.b. Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2025**

Cleo Liao, Manager, Budgets, provided the presentation.

Director Beach said she appreciated the attachment to the report.

Chair Romero asked if the interest reserve from old Measure A is just a fund balance.

Mr. Skinner said they are trying to spend down the original Measure A funds, which are very prescriptive about the projects where they can be expended. Chair Romero asked if he could receive a report on that allocation process.

Chair Romero asked in terms of Measure W, he said there was no ACR (Alternative Congestion Relief) category. Ms. Chan explained that it was funded out of the highway category.

Mr. Skinner thanked Mr. Gilster and Leslie Fong, TA Financial Program Manager, who helped Ms. Liao prepare the new budget format.

## **11. State and Federal Legislative Update**

Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, provided a summary of federal and state legislation and recent activity.

On the federal side, she said the President signed a \$68 billion foreign aid program into law. She said the Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations process is proceeding as scheduled. She said the TA has been working on earmark requests from local cities, including one for the Broadway grade separation with the City of Burlingame. She said a continuing resolution or two were expected before the end of the fiscal year.

At the state level, she said there was a \$38 billion budget deficit and a discretionary spending freeze across all departments for the next 90 days. She said there was an update on AB (Assembly Bill) 2535 from what is in the packet. The bill now has an amended target of 15 percent for investment into zero-emission freight infrastructure and that target will increase 5 percent each cycle until 50 percent is reached.

Ms. Epstein provided the presentation on Senate Bill (SB) 1031.

Director Beach asked how capital projects would be handled. She asked if there should be more discretionary funding for operational projects. Ms. Epstein said they would not have complete discretion over capital funding in San Mateo County.

Vice Chair Mates said there is the potential for the loss of local control over choosing the projects.

Director Medina noted that progress had been made with amending the bill.

Director Corzo asked whether the return to source numbers are projected to increase for the County. Ms. Epstein said they could go above if there is money available for regional projects. Or they could go down if BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) or Caltrain project funding is no longer needed. She said actual numbers could go up or down based on how much tax is collected.

Chair Romero noted the reality of the fiscal cliff. He said he was trying to understand how the potential measure would intersect with the 2033 renewal of Measure A.

Director Beach concurred that it was crucial that Measure A funding be protected.

Director Corzo said she wondered how the failure other transit agencies would impact the County. She asked what would need to happen for the TA to get on board to support the bill.

## **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, June 6, 2024, 5:00 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

## **15. Report of Legal Counsel**

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

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, presented the staff report. She outlined amendments and additions.

Chair Romero asked the Board if they wanted to bring the item back for further discussion at the June 6 Board meeting. Director Medina suggested having more discussion so that Directors Nagales and Mueller could participate. Ms. Cassman suggested having further discussion and then possibly bringing the item back for approval at the July 11 meeting.

Director Corzo said she supported updating bylaws on a regular basis and asked for guidance on what sections should be prioritized for review.

Vice Chair Mates said she felt modernization was key since so much has changed since the 1980s when the Rules of Procedure first came into being, such as Zoom and having hybrid meetings. She also said more transparency is also needed regarding the Citizens Advisory Committee and advocacy.

Chair Romero said they would agendaize the Rules of Procedure for the June meeting.

### **15.b. Closed Session: Conference with Conference with Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8**

**Properties: (1) 50-foot-wide Property Located Directly West of the Caltrain Corridor from 20th Avenue to Approximately 1,000 Feet Past 25th Avenue, City of San Mateo (Portion of APN 035-320-999) and (2) 2777 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94403**

**Negotiators: April Chan and Joan Cassman**

**Negotiating Parties: Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board and the City of San Mateo**  
**Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Transfer**

Ms. Cassman 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.

*The Board recessed to closed session at 7:17 pm.*

**16. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 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](mailto:board@smcta.com).