

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

July 11, 2024

Members Present: 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. Manzi,
C. Mamaradlo, C. Liao, M. Rush, A. Linehan, K. Jordan Steiner, J. Epstein,
J. Brook, D. Seamans

1. Call to Order

Chair Carlos Romero called the meeting to order at 5:01 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 Medina lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Giuliano Carlini asked why the TA does not have an official policy regarding VMT (vehicle miles traveled) and GHG (greenhouse gases) and noted other jurisdictions that have such policies.

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 June 6, 2024

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

5.c. Approving and Ratifying the Transportation Authority Insurance Program for Fiscal Year 2025 – *Approved by Resolution No. 2024-12*

5.d. Programming and Allocating \$9,720,000 in Measure A Funds to the San Mateo County Transit District for the SamTrans Paratransit Program and Caltrain – *Approved by Resolution No. 2024-13*

Motion/Second: Medina/Nagales
Ayes: Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero
Noes: None
Absent: Corzo, Mueller

**6. Nominating Committee Report for the Citizens Advisory Committee (R. Medina/
R. Mueller/M. Nagales)**

6.a Appointment of Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Director Rico Medina announced the following recommendations for CAC membership, and the Board voted to appoint the following members:

Incumbent Members

- Barbara Arietta
- Ivan Bucio
- Nheeda Enriquez
- Gus Mattammal

New Member

- Rich Hedges

Motion/Second: Medina/Mates
Ayes: Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero
Noes: None
Absent: Corzo, Mueller

7. Report of the Chair

7.a. Appointment of Representative to the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority

Chair Romero appointed Vice Chair Julia Mates to represent the TA on the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority (SMCEL-JPA) Board.

7.b. Regional Transit Connections/Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee Report-out

Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, provided a report on the Regional Transit Connections/Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee meeting on June 10.

7.c. Expressing Appreciation to Emily Beach – Approved by Resolution No. 2024-14

Chair Romero summarized the resolution. Emily Beach expressed her appreciation for having served on the Board for seven years. The Board members shared their thoughts and congratulated Ms. Beach on her new position as Chief Communications Officer for the San Mateo County Transit District.

Public Comment:

Rich Hedges noted Ms. Beach's advocacy for working people while serving on the Burlingame City Council.

Motion/Second: Medina/Nagales
Ayes: Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero
Noes: None
Absent: Corzo, Mueller

8. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

Director Medina said that the report was posted on the website. He summarized the events of the July 10 meeting, including:

- Approval and ratification of the District's insurance contract
- Allocation of Regional Measure 3 (RM3) funds
- Successful June 18 workshop on the District's Strategic Plan
- Service recovery reached at 90.5 percent of pre-pandemic levels compared to 80 percent for the rest of the country
- The final phase of Reimagine SamTrans to kick off on August 4

9. Report of the Executive Director

April Chan, Executive Director, said the report was in the packet. In addition to previewing the items on the evening's agenda, she noted the following:

- She announced that the local chapter of WTS International, which supports women's career advancement in the transportation industry, made a special recognition in June of the equity program put in place by the San Mateo County Express Lanes project.
- Regarding the demise of Senate Bill (SB) 1031, a special Select Committee of MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) is working with Senators Wiener and Wahab on how to move forward. A special Select Committee meeting was held in early June. She noted that Director David Canepa is one of the nine MTC commissioners included in the Select Committee. She reported that the goal of the MTC Select Committee is to work toward coming up with a game plan by Fall 2024. She noted that she and Michelle Bouchard, Caltrain Executive Director, are part of an advisory committee who will be providing input to this process

Vice Chair Mates asked if David Canepa was the only representative from San Mateo County, which Ms. Chan confirmed.

10. Program

10.a. Update – US 101/SR 92 Interchange Projects

Carolyn Mamaradlo, Senior Project Manager, provided the presentation.

Director Nagales said he was interested in lessons learned from projects in other jurisdictions, especially regarding reducing congestion, vehicle miles traveled, air pollution, and reversible direction. Ms. Mamaradlo said they have identified some examples within California that use a removable barrier for access control.

Director Medina noted that property impacts brings concern from residents and asked staff to quantify for the Board what property impacts are related to the project. Ms. Mamaradlo said 15 properties were affected, assuming no refinements to the project scope.

Jessica Manzi, Director, Project Delivery, said a sliver means the property owner still has viable use of their land.

Vice Chair Mates noted that the project was in the very early stages and asked if most comments were generally around transit investments rather than about this specific project. Ms. Mamaradlo said the comments reflect a desire to repurpose funding to projects that are not vehicle focused.

Chair Romero asked how the project connects with the 101 Corridor Connect project. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, said they were wrapping up the North County multimodal study and that the next phase would be looking at the central part of the County, which includes the area around the US 101/SR 92 interchange.

Chair Romero asked when there would be a cost benefit analysis for the different alternatives. Mr. Skinner said they would be doing a cost benefit analysis as part of the environmental review process.

Chair Romero asked how the lanes would be used with express buses and high-occupancy vehicles. Ms. Mamaradlo said the direct connector would be a managed lanes facility and they are looking at HOV (high-occupancy vehicle) and express lane operations within that facility. She added that while there are currently no express buses or transit routes that currently use the interchange, the Regional Transit Connections program could help fund service that mirrors the former route.

Public Comment:

Rich Hedges asked that the TA look at the eminent domain costs and ensure that homes are not taken.

Karen Cutler said her home would be affected if the build alternative is chosen, among 33 parcels in the Parkside neighborhood.

Danielle CG, President, Shoreview Parkside Neighborhood Association, mentioned that 31 homes would be affected. She requested more transparency and making for efforts to reach out to the community.

Chris Florkowski indicated there are several lower-cost alternatives available and requested that residents be provided with a cost benefit analysis.

Giuliano Carlini said that adding capacity does not work.

Director Medina said regarding the City of San Mateo not being aware of all project aspects. He suggested more clarity in terms of definitions and number of affected properties.

Vice Chair Mates asked staff to elaborate how they are letting people know about the project. Ms. Mamaradlo said they are partnering with San Mateo and Foster City social media accounts, TA channels with Countywide audiences. Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, said the TA is developing a proactive approach to work with residents in the area.

Director Nagales concurred that more is better as regards communications and that the TA needs to be proactive and appreciates staff making an effort to do more moving forward.

10.b. Input on Policy Governing Use of Land-banked Properties for Transportation Authority-supported Projects

Ms. Manzi provided the presentation.

Vice Chair Mates asked what is the TA trying to accomplish with the proposed policy and what is the best way to approach the decision. Ms. Chan suggested one question: is the TA trying to help control the project or maximizing the amount of funds brought back into the grade separation program.

Chair Romero asked if they would include the value of the land as part of the 50 percent contribution to the project. Mr. Skinner said they are not considering changing the policy related to the 50 percent contribution costs.

Chair Romero asked if the TA should use its land to facilitate transportation projects as opposed to maximizing the amount of funds that are generated from the sale of those properties. Chair Romero indicated that guiding principles related to the sale of properties is a good idea. Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, briefly outlined the history of the TA's purchase of property starting with buying parcels from Union Pacific in the 1990s. Chair Romero said he would reject valuing these properties at market value and would like the TA to recoup its original investment adjusted for opportunity costs.

Director Nagales said he would not want to impede projects and agreed with Chair Romero that he would like to make the TA whole and bring back those funds into the program.

Vice Chair Mates said the Board would like to receive as much concrete information as possible about factors such as project status, readiness, types of tenants, and types of properties to provide some context to help guide the policy.

Chair Romero said it would be easier to carry out the second part of the policy, which is fact based.

11. Finance

11.a. Allocating \$20,145,000 from the Measure A Highway Program for the Right-of-way Phase of the US 101/Woodside Road (SR 84) Interchange Improvements Project – *Approved by Resolution No. 2024-15*

Mr. Gilster provided a brief background of the project. He introduced Leo Scott, Project Manager, Gray-Bowen-Scott, who provided the presentation.

Director Nagales asked if they were considering adding Class 4 protected bike lanes. Mr. Scott referred to the simulation in the presentation that indicated the different levels of bike lines in the interchange, including Class 1, 2, and 4.

Mr. Gilster presented a slide on details of the request for the right of way allocation.

Director Medina asked about configuration of the SR 84 off-ramps from Northbound US 101. Mr. Scott indicated a new intersection will be created while a new ramp will provide direct access to Veterans Boulevard.

Vice Chair Mates said she supports the project and allocation request but has concerns about construction costs increasing while the TA is waiting to receive the final grants.

Motion/Second: Nagales/Mates

Ayes: Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Corzo, Mueller

12. State and Federal Legislative Update

Ms. Epstein provided a summary of federal and state legislation.

On the federal side, she said the House took up six bills and the Senate is currently marking up their annual spending bill.

At the state level, she said the Legislature passed the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 state budget bill, including the transportation trailer bill, on June 26. She said the Legislature and Governor came up with \$46.9 billion in solutions to close the deficit gap. She reviewed the status of current bills. Regarding grade separations, she said they were able to secure a promise of \$150 million (\$75 million for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and \$75 million for Fiscal Year 2026-2027) after \$70 million had previously been cut from the Broadway Grade Separation project. She said the budget cut the highways to boulevard program in half. She said that MTC has started negotiations on a regional transit measure in forming its Select Committee, which includes a group of transit operator executives from across the Bay Area, including Ms. Chan.

13. Requests from the Authority

There were no requests.

14. Written Communications to the Authority

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

15. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting

Chair Romero announced the next meeting would be on Thursday, August 1, 2024, 5:00 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

16. Report of Legal Counsel

16.a. Adoption of Updated Rules of Procedure for the San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors – *Approved by Resolution No. 2024-16*

Ms. Cassman presented the staff report. She noted changes and comments made by the directors since the discussion at the June 6 Board meeting, including electronic communication use during Board meetings, setting forth a code of ethics and good governance, and conduct rules.

Motion/Second: Medina/Romero

Ayes: Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Corzo, Mueller

17. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 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.