

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

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

July 30, 2024

Members Present: I. Bucio, G. Carlini, J. Fox (Vice Chair), R. Hedges, K. Kuklin, S. Lang,
(In Person) J. Londer

Members Present: G. Mattammal
(Via Teleconference)

Members Absent: B. Arietta (Chair), N. Enriquez, P. Ohtaki, M. Swire

Staff Present: P. Skinner, P. Gilster, A. Linehan, J. Manzi, C. Mamaradlo, J. Brook

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair John Fox called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Committee voted to approve Gus Mattammal's request to participate via teleconference per Assembly Bill 2449.

Motion/Second: Hedges/Lang

Ayes: Bucio, Carlini, Fox, Hedges, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Mattammal

Noes: None

Absent: Arietta, Enriquez, Ohtaki, Swire

2. Introduction of New CAC Member

Vice Chair Fox welcomed Rich Hedges back to the Committee.

3. Roll Call

Jean Brook, CAC Secretary, called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

4. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

There were no comments.

5. Consent Calendar

5.a. Approval of Minutes of the CAC Meeting of July 9, 2024

TA Board Meeting Agenda for August 1, 2024

**5.b. TA Board Item 6.b Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income
Market Review and Outlook**

5.c. TA Board Item 6.c Information on Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ended June 30, 2024

Motion/Second: Hedges/Kuklin

Ayes: Bucio, Carlini, Fox, Hedges, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Mattammal

Noes: None

Absent: Arietta, Enriquez, Ohtaki, Swire

6. TA Board Item 6.a Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of July 11, 2024

Mr. Hedges noted that at their July 11 meeting, the TA Board decided not to get current value for land-banked properties but work out deals with the cities.

Vice Chair Fox asked for a member to take notes of the evening's meeting for the Report of the TA CAC and in the absence of any volunteers, he agreed to provide his notes to Ms. Brook to prepare the report.

7. TA Board Item 10.a Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project Update

Brent Tietjen, Manager, External Affairs, Caltrain, provided the presentation.

Jeff Londer asked when they would be accepting passengers for the soft rollout, and Mr. Tietjen confirmed it was mid-August.

Sandra Lang asked if Caltrain coordinated with cities for assisting paratransit riders with wayfinding and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility. Mr. Tietjen said the trains including the bathrooms are ADA-accessible. He said he would need to check on the parking/drop-off restrictions for the different stations.

Mr. Hedges said he had heard they would be using diesel trains to travel between San Jose and Gilroy. Mr. Tietjen said they had received funding to purchase and test a battery electric train for the San Jose/Gilroy service.

Ivan Bucio asked what was happening between May, when the construction was completed, and the start of service in September. Mr. Tietjen said they would be completing paperwork and going out into the field to perform final checks. He explained the shared-risk pool.

Vice Chair Fox asked if Caltrain had a protocol if a bad actor tries to disrupt the coordinated signaling network. Mr. Tietjen said all trains have a wireless failsafe and gates would stop in the down position. He said they have two tractor power stations that are directly connected to PG&E (Pacific Gas and Electric). He confirmed that they have been testing the electric trains every evening.

Giuliano Carlini asked if the battery electric trains for the Gilroy service would be in service on September 21; Mr. Tietjen said those trains were years away from being available. He confirmed that service would increase to every 30 minutes on both weekdays and weekends.

Gus Mattammal asked how copper wire theft is being mitigated and how that would impact service. Mr. Tietjen explained the biggest impact from copper wire theft is on the service itself. He added that once the system is energized, theft of the wire is much riskier.

Mr. Carlini asked for examples of the two contingency pools. Mr. Tietjen noted additional tree planting, connection to low-power units, and connecting to PG&E from signal boxes.

Mr. Bucio asked if they had reached out to the various city councils. Mr. Tietjen said Caltrain works closely with the Local Policy Makers Group and each city along the Caltrain line has one representative in the group.

8. TA Board Item 10.b Input on Policy Governing Use of Land-Banked Properties for Transportation Authority-Supported Projects and Update on Broadway Grade Separation Project

Jessica Manzi, Director, Project Delivery, provided the portion of the presentation about valuing the property.

Mr. Carlini said the TA is reducing the cost to the first sponsor to ask. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, said the properties were originally purchased with the purpose of building grade separations and that those are the only projects that are going to benefit. Mr. Carlini said the sales price is \$0, which obscures the project cost, and suggested to keep the dollar amounts the same.

Mr. Bucio said if the cost is artificially lowered, then there will not be enough money for future projects. Ms. Manzi said it had implications for the program that are not significant. Mr. Bucio asked about the difference between the market value and the escalated value, which Ms. Manzi explained. Mr. Bucio said he felt the program was not equitable.

Ms. Lang asked what the land and cash contributions were, which Ms. Manzi explained.

Mr. Hedges said the TA is not giving the money away but trying to find a fair way to do it.

Mr. Mattammal said the TA has already made back all the money used to purchase the land so is attempting to divest itself of the land at a nominal or zero-dollar cost. Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, said the cost savings would have to stay in the grade separation program.

Ms. Manzi introduced Jianmin Fong, Deputy Director, Capital Program Delivery, Caltrain, who presented the portion of the presentation about the Broadway Project.

Ms. Manzi discussed the various parcels owned by the TA and provided examples of project funding scenarios and staff recommendations.

Ms. Lang asked about purchases. Ms. Manzi said the right of way affects total project costs. She said there would be future discussions about what the construction costs would be.

Mr. Hedges said he hoped the TA could purchase the property quickly to avoid an increase in construction costs.

Vice Chair Fox suggested sharing an inventory of what is the current land bank for future presentations on grade separations. He asked if a parking lot or parking garage would be included in the policy.

Karen Kuklin said the money from Measure A needs to be applied to grade separations, which Mr. Gilster confirmed. He said projects using that money need to be associated with grade separations in some way.

Mr. Bucio said he had concerns about equity because another project would have to pay market value. Mr. Gilster said if the cost goes up because we require them to pay market value, the TA's overall contribution to the project increases, which takes away money from other future projects.

Mr. Carlini said if all the benefits go to the two projects that have properties, the project without property suffers. He expressed his concerns about transparency of costs.

Vice Chair Fox opined that the policy issue needs to be addressed when properties are purchased for a land bank.

The meeting recessed from 6:12 to 6:21 pm.

9. TA Board Item 11.a Program and Allocate \$826,000 in Measure A Alternative Congestion Relief Funds to the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance (Commute.org) to Support General Operations, Shuttle Administration, and the Countywide TDM Monitoring Program for Fiscal Year 2025

Mr. Gilster introduced John Ford, Executive Director, Commute.org, who provided the initial part of the presentation. He introduced Carmen Chen, TDM Program Manager, Commute.org, who provided the final portion of the presentation on C/CAG (City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County) TDM (Traffic Demand Management) policy and the monitoring program.

Mr. Londer said he appreciated the work of Commute.org.

Ms. Lang asked what the exemptions are for. Ms. Chen said the Cities of Redwood City and East Palo Alto had more stringent requirements than C/CAG.

Mr. Hedges said the shuttle service has improved over the years. He asked about the Community Benefit program. Mr. Ford said they are happy to incentivize all commuters.

Vice Chair Fox suggested giving awards to employees to promote shuttle use to employers.

Mr. Carlini said VMT (vehicle miles traveled) reduction is more efficient than building new capacity. He said he was surprised that the City of Millbrae was not using TDM, and Ms. Chen said the projects preceded TDM. Mr. Carlini suggested that Commute.org reach out to the Bike Coalition, and Mr. Ford said that bike education was in the work plan.

Mr. Mattammal asked how they enforce compliance. Ms. Chen said they have discussed linking compliance with the TA funding. Mr. Gilster noted the different ways the TA encourages compliance.

Public Comment:

Chris Florkowski said we need to train engineers how to recognize risk and change the infrastructure. She wanted to know how the shuttles would match the new Caltrain schedules.

Motion/Second: Hedges/Kuklin

Ayes: Bucio, Carlini, Fox, Hedges, Kuklin, Lang, Londer, Mattammal

Noes: None

Absent: Arietta, Enriquez, Ohtaki, Swire

10. TA Board Item 12 State and Federal Legislative Update

Mr. Skinner provided a summary of federal and state legislation.

On the federal side, the Senate approved the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development spending bill.

On the state side, he said the Legislature had adjourned for summer recess. He said MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) has been meeting with transit agency general managers to formulate the next version of the regional measure bill.

11. Report of the Chair

Vice Chair Fox said the report was in the packet.

12. Report from Staff

Mr. Skinner said the report was in the packet. He noted they had updated the TA Strategic Plan website, which includes a Frequently Asked Questions section based on stakeholder feedback. He said the CAC would have the chance to review the draft Strategic Plan later in the year.

13. Member Comments/Requests

Mr. Hedges said he had recently ridden in a Waymo autonomous vehicle. He said that electric vehicles (EVs), which are very heavy, do not pay freight or increased road taxes based on weight, which will become an equity issue as more EVs get on the road.

Mr. Carlini said he was supportive of cycling education. He said EVs are heavier and do more damage to roads and cause more severe damage in accidents. He noted that gas taxes only cover a fraction of road maintenance and noted that there was talk of having a mileage tax in the future.

Vice Chair Fox said he had ridden on the new Chinatown subway in San Francisco. He noted there has been an increase in fare collection and ticket checking on Caltrain.

14. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting

Vice Chair Fox announced that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at 4:30 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 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 650.551.6108 or by email to cacsecretary@smcta.com.