

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

August 1, 2024

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

Members Present: N. Corzo
(Via Teleconference)

Members Absent: R. Mueller

Staff Present: A. Chan, D. Santoro, S. van Hoften, P. Skinner, P. Gilster, J. Manzi,
A. Linehan, K. Jordan Steiner, K. Beltz, J. Epstein, J. Brook, D. Seamans

1. Call to Order

Chair Carlos Romero called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. Swearing-In:

2.a. Anders Fung for an unexpired term ending 12-31-2025 (Cities-at-Large Representative)

Dora Seamans, Authority Secretary, administered the Oath of Office to new Director Anders Fung for a term expiring December 31, 2025.

3. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Seamans called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

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

4. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Giuliano Carlini remarked that many projects increase congestion by increasing road capacity.

5. Report of the Community Advisory Committee

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

6. Consent Calendar

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

6.b. Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook

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

Chair Romero asked if the Board minutes could be changed to action minutes since the meetings are video-recorded. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, concurred that there is no legal reason to provide detailed minutes.

Motion/Second: Medina/Mates

Ayes: Corzo, Fung, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Mueller

7. Report of the Chair

7.a. 101 Corridor Connect Ad Hoc Committee Report-out

Chair Romero provided a summary of the ad hoc meeting discussion, including:

- An update on the North County Multimodal Strategy
- Results of the community engagement process
- Outreach to underserved populations
- Proposed methodology and weighting of how to prioritize projects

He said staff will be incorporating the ad hoc committee's feedback and working on finalizing the prioritized project list for the draft North County Multimodal Strategy, which will be presented to the Board later this year.

7.b. Proclamation Expressing Appreciation to Dora Seamans

Chair Romero summarized the proclamation commemorating Ms. Seamans on her years of service to the TA. The Directors expressed their appreciation of her work with the Board and wished her well in her future endeavors.

Motion/Second: Mates/Medina

Ayes: Corzo, Fung, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Mueller

8. Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

Director Rico Medina briefly summarized the discussion and actions from that morning's JPB meeting, including:

- A closed session regarding a performance review for the Executive Director and a closed session regarding a location for Caltrain headquarters
- Adoption of a new naming policy
- Acknowledgment and recognition of the contributions to Caltrain and its three-county jurisdictions by Representatives Anna Eshoo, Nancy Pelosi, and Jackie Speier

9. Report of the Executive Director

April Chan, Executive Director, welcomed Director Fung to the TA. She commended Ms. Seamans for her dedication and expressed gratitude for her service.

She said the report was in the packet and noted the following:

- A Select Committee of nine MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) commissioners, including David Canepa representing San Mateo County, and community stakeholders are working with Senators Wiener and Wahab on future regional transportation legislation.
- Ms. Chan is part of an Advisory Committee consisting of general managers of Bay Area transit agencies that will advise the Select Committee on issues such as revenue sources.
- SamTrans was selected as one of four public transportation agencies in the country to receive an Outstanding Public Transportation System award

10. Program

10.a. Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project Update

Michelle Bouchard, Executive Director, gave a background on the project.

Casey Fromson, Chief of Staff, Rail Administration, provided the presentation.

Vice Chair Mates asked when the wrap-up would be for electrification. Ms. Bouchard said they anticipate financial closeout by the end of the year, with some elements of the project going into 2025.

Director Corzo asked what the rollout of electrified service would mean for students in terms of safety. Ms. Fromson said they are providing education about train safety and that there will still be train horns at at-grade crossings.

Ms. Fromson said the new higher-frequency Caltrain schedule would go into effect on September 21 and that diesel trains would also be removed from service between San Jose and San Francisco at that time.

Director Corzo asked for data about air quality improvement. Ms. Fromson said they expected to have data in the future and currently had data points that she could share.

Chair Romero asked about how the shared risk pool with Balfour Beatty works. Ms. Bouchard explained the financial incentives they used. Chair Romero asked about safety issues that may occur with the overhead wires. Ms. Bouchard said that because the trains will be quieter, people need to be more vigilant. She said that first responders need to learn how to deal with downed powerlines. Ms. Bouchard discussed how they reduced the large number of change orders on the project. She said before signing the contract, they held a risk workshop with their teams to determine every risk that might materialized on the project and setting aside money to address changes that arise.

Chair Romero asked about protecting the copper wires. Ms. Bouchard said they are working with rail service providers around the county on how to mitigate copper wire theft.

Director Medina and Vice Chair Mates commended the coordinated efforts of staff and the Caltrain Board to bring the project to fruition. Ms. Bouchard said they planned to do an extensive lessons-learned exercise.

Public Comment:

Chris Florkowski said she was happy about the Caltrain team transferring the knowledge from electrification. She said she is looking forward to being able to determine the bike car capacity before the train arrives and is also looking forward to an improved alert system.

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.

Chair Romero said there was a financial advantage to moving up construction starts.

Director Fung asked about the necessity of purchasing the parcels. Ms. Manzi said they are trying to develop a policy for how to value the properties that were purchased in the past.

Vice Chair Mates said she appreciated how staff had captured past Board input in the presentation.

Director Corzo asked if any city would be eligible. Ms. Manzi said at present that the policy would just apply to Burlingame and Redwood City.

Shayna van Hoften, Legal Counsel, explained that the TA can set restrictions and limitations in funding agreements.

Director Fung asked about the remaining properties. Mr. Skinner said some of the properties used in past projects may not have been land-banked.

Ms. Chan said if they need to purchase land for any reason, a policy helps protect the TA into the future.

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

Ms. Manzi reviewed the property acquisitions map and discussed issues such as relocating tenants. She provided the recommendations from staff. She introduced Andrew Wong, Senior Engineer, City of Burlingame.

Director Fung had questions about cost and high-speed rail.

Chair Romero asked about the SFPUC's (San Francisco Public Utilities Commission) involvement with the properties and Ms. Manzi said it was likely the conveyance of water.

11. Finance

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— Approved by Resolution No. 2024-17

Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, 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.

Chair Romero said that the City of East Palo Alto has a high TDM number.

Director Nagales asked about remote work's impact on commuting. Mr. Ford said on days when commuters are coming into the office, there is a greater percentage driving alone rather than using carpooling or transit.

Public Comment:

Chris Florkowski urged education for engineers as well as cyclists and requested the Board's support of improved bicycle infrastructure.

Director Medina said he sits on the Commute.org Board as well and they would take infrastructure engineering into consideration when they vote on bike projects.

Motion/Second: Mates/Fung

Ayes: Corzo, Fung, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Mueller

12. State and Federal Legislative Update

Amy Linehan, Government and Community Affairs Officer, provided a summary of federal legislation. She said there is a shakeup due to the President dropping out of the election race. She discussed the THUD (Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development) bill. She said the House was aiming to pass all 12 appropriations bills, but is on recess until the beginning of September. She said it is likely that a continuing resolution is likely to keep the government running.

Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, provided an update on MTC regional transit legislation. She introduced the TA's state lobbyist, Chris Lee, Principal, Politico Group, who provided a summary of state legislation, highlighting the Governor's policy on infill housing.

Kiana Valentine, Principal, Politico Group, noted that the majority of their work on behalf of the TA thus far has been around specific projects and grant-funding opportunities. She said they are also engaged in the rollout of Senate Bill (SB) 1 competitive grant programs.

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, September 5, 2024, 5:00 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

16. Report of Legal Counsel

Ms. van Hoften expressed gratitude for working with Ms. Seamans.

17. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 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.