

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

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

September 3, 2024

Members Present: B. Arietta (Chair), I. Bucio, G. Carlini, N. Enriquez, J. Fox (Vice Chair) (left
(In Person) at 6:15 pm), K. Kuklin, S. Lang, J. Londer, G. Mattammal

Members Present: None
(Via Teleconference)

Members Absent: R. Hedges, P. Ohtaki, M. Swire

Staff Present: P. Skinner, P. Gilster, M. Wright Petrik, J. Manzi, K. Beltz, S. Atkinson,
J. Brook

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Barbara Arietta called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm and requested that Nheeda Enriquez lead 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 July 30, 2024

TA Board Meeting Agenda for September 5, 2024

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

4.c. TA Board Item 5.c Acceptance of Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2024

4.d. TA Board Item 5.d Programming and Allocating \$250,000 in New Measure A Funds for the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) for the Countywide Transportation Plan

Sandra Lang requested to pull Items 4.c and 4.d.

The Committee voted to approve Item 4.a:

Motion/Second: Fox/Enriquez

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

Noes: None

Absent: Hedges, Ohtaki, Swire

The Committee voted to approve Item 4.b:

Motion/Second: Fox/Enriquez

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

Noes: None

Absent: Hedges, Ohtaki, Swire

Ms. Lang asked for clarification about Item 4.c being a motion. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, said it was a motion to accept the report.

The Committee voted to approve Item 4.c:

Motion/Second: Kuklin/Fox

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

Noes: None

Absent: Hedges, Ohtaki, Swire

Regarding Item 4.d, Ms. Lang asked if C/CAG was receiving funds for consulting. Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, confirmed that C/CAG was bringing on a consultant to assist with the update of the Countywide transportation plan, as required by MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission).

Ms. Enriquez asked if the allocation was in line with prior TA contributions. Mr. Gilster said this request is higher and the TA has agreed to a 50-50 cost share with C/CAG.

The Committee voted to approve Item 4.d:

Motion/Second: Lang/Kuklin

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

Noes: None

Absent: Hedges, Ohtaki, Swire

5. TA Board Item 5.a Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of August 1, 2024

There were no comments.

6. TA Board Item 10.a Regional Transit Connections Plan Public Review Draft

Mr. Gilster provided the presentation.

Karen Kuklin asked if they would be accruing the taxes and making fund estimates every four years, which Mr. Gilster confirmed.

Ms. Enriquez asked how they arrived at the four-year cycle. Mr. Gilster said larger transit agency projects take longer to complete, and the transit agencies are supportive of this approach.

Mr. Gilster commented on the survey responses, saying that most of the engagement was in San Mateo County with some in adjacent counties.

Giuliano Carlini asked if they talked to any cycling organizations regarding issues such as first/last mile. Mr. Gilster said discussions about the first/last mile category would happen between the transit agency and the groups themselves.

Chair Arietta asked about the status of the Manor Drive Overcrossing Improvement Project. Mr. Gilster said they are not proposing to move that project out of the highway category, which would make the project eligible in the next highway cycle in 2025.

Mr. Carlini asked why the first/last mile is capped at three miles, saying that the main reason people do not take transit is because of the first/last mile commuting. Mr. Gilster said that while first/last mile access is important, the Regional Transit Connections (RTC) program was developed to focus on the transit element first.

Public Comment:

Chris Florkowski there is a direct link between ridership levels and the first/last mile problem, which needs to be solved.

7. TA Board Item 11.a US 101 Express Lanes: Semiannual Update on Variable Rate Bonds and Express Lanes Performance

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

Vice Chair John Fox said the revenue from the tolling operations was supposed to be sufficient pay off the loan. Mr. Beltz said revenues are sufficient to cover the loan and once the reserves are funded to their required levels, they will be able to meet principal payment deadlines.

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

Vice Chair Fox asked about invoiced violations versus collection of fees/penalties. He asked how to incentivize express lanes users to be honest. Ms. Vong said drivers who mis-declare their occupancy will risk getting an occupancy violation of \$490. She said that unlike with the bridges, there is no invoicing for usage of the express lanes. She said the violations are for people without FasTrak accounts, and include the toll amount plus a penalty. Vice Chair Fox requested receiving a summary of enforcement. He asked for people relying on IBT (image-based tolling) if there could there be a different pricing structure to incentivize them to get FasTrak. Ms. Vong said there are discussions going on across the region regarding establishing an IBT surcharge.

Chair Arietta said she disagreed with paying overtime to CHP (California Highway Patrol) to provide enforcement. Ms. Vong said express lane operators statewide are required by State law to use CHP for toll enforcement. Mr. Skinner said changing the enforcement process would require a change to state legislation.

Ms. Kuklin said it may not be convenient for people to obtain toll tags and suggested pop-up locations for commuters to obtain the transponders. She noted that rental car agencies may charge \$15 per day for a transponder. Ms. Vong said there have been popups, such as one at the San Mateo County Fair in June.

Ivan Bucio asked if the Committee could have a graph of the toll revenue per quarter instead of community. He asked if there was a maximum value of assessed tolls. Ms. Vong said there is an operational max. Mr. Bucio noted that you get charged double if you travel in both the Santa Clara and San Mateo express lanes.

Mr. Carlini requested data for VMT (vehicle miles traveled). Ms. Vong said they do not monitor that for the express lanes. Mr. Skinner said it would be up to the JPA (San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority) Board whether they wanted that data collected. Regarding the heat map, he suggesting having the foundation data to analyze. Regarding the Community Transportation Benefits Program, would the mobility debit card track usage, which Ms. Vong confirmed.

Vice Chair John Fox left the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Public Comment:

Chris Florkowski said she would like to see data on carpooling and transit use.

Mike Swire said the presentation is providing a spin to paint a positive picture and is unsatisfactory as it does not provide enough supporting data. He requested data about what percentage of users requesting HOV 3 (high-occupancy vehicle with three or more people) are cheating. He asked why the tolls are only in effect between 5:00 am and 8:00 pm, which represents 44 percent of the time, and not during other times.

The meeting recessed from 6:24 to 6:29 pm.

8. TA Board Item 12 State and Federal Legislative Update

Michael Wright Petrik, Government and Community Affairs Officer, provided a summary of federal and state legislation.

On the federal side, she said Congress would have three weeks to pass a continuing resolution to keep the government running to November.

On the state side, she said the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved fund estimates and guidelines for the next round of Senate Bill (SB) 1 competitive grant programs in August.

Ms. Lang asked if the regional funding measures would go into the legislative proposals. Ms. Wright Petrik said they would be covered in the upcoming draft of the TA 2025 legislative program.

Public Comment:

Mike Swire noted Senate Bills (SB) 960 and 961 would require warning lights in cars to indicate when drivers are speeding.

9. Report of the Chair

Chair Arietta discussed her report in the packet about the launch of electrified Caltrain service starting September 21. She said there was a promotional discount for youth. She noted celebrations on September 21 and 22 at the Palo Alto and San Mateo stations.

10. Report from Staff

Mr. Skinner said the report was in the packet. He noted the Broadway Burlingame grade separation cost increase. He said they are working with Caltrain and the City of Burlingame to explore options to redesign the project to reduce the total project cost. He added that the project is the number-one priority grade separation in the state.

Mr. Skinner introduced Sue-Ellen Atkinson, the TA's new Manager of Planning and Fund Management.

11. Member Comments/Requests

Ms. Lang said she felt that the CHP toll enforcement payments did not need to be legislated.

Mr. Bucio suggested asking the contractors to re-bid the Broadway Burlingame grade separation construction.

Mr. Carlini said he was supportive of increasing the frequency of Caltrain service to be comparable with such service in other industrialized areas. He noted the Board turned away a CAC applicant.

Public Comment:

Mike Swire thanked staff for attending the bike summit. He said he had enjoyed riding the electric train since the soft launch.

12. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting

Chair Arietta announced that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 4:30 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 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.