

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

October 10, 2024

Members Present: N. Corzo, A. Fung (arrived at 5:14 pm), J. Mates (Vice Chair), R. Mueller
(In Person) (arrived at 5:11 pm), M. Nagales, C. Romero (Chair)

Members Present: R. Medina
(Via Teleconference)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: A. Chan, D. Santoro, J. Cassman, S. van Hoften, P. Skinner, P. Gilster,
J. Manzi, Sue-Ellen Atkinson, A. Linehan, K. Jordan Steiner, D. Covarrubias,
J. Epstein, J. Brook, M. Tseng

1. Call to Order

Chair Carlos Romero called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

2. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Margaret Tseng, Acting Authority Secretary, called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

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

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Mike Swire said he had shared with the Board and CAC a *San Mateo Daily Journal* article about a recent C/CAG (City and County Association of Governments of San Mateo County) meeting where multiple Board and community members asked why the JPA (San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority) was not sharing data on whether the recently completed 101 Express Lanes south of I-380 had achieved its stated goal of reducing congestion. He said at their meeting on Tuesday the CAC had tabled approving the update of their Rules of Procedure pending further discussion by their Rules of Procedure ad hoc committee on several items, including an amendment on voting procedures.

4. Report of the Community 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 September 5, 2024

5.b. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2024

5.c. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending August 31, 2024

5.d. Approval of the 2025 Board of Directors Meeting

Motion/Second: Corzo/Nagales

Ayes: Corzo, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Fung, Mueller

6. Report of the Chair

Chair Romero said he had no report.

7. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

Director Rico Medina noted the report was posted online.

8. Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

Director Medina noted the report was posted online.

9. Report of the Executive Director

April Chan, Executive Director, said the report was in the packet and noted the following:

- Noted the success of the various activities to celebrate the launch of the Caltrain's electric service on September 21 and 22
- Noted the unveiling of Karyl Matsumoto Plaza in at the South San Francisco Caltrain Station on September 21
- Briefly summarized the progress on the regional transit measure, noting that MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) is hoping to produce a framework of legislation that can go before voters in 2026.

Chair Romero said it appeared that the TA was oversubscribed on the bike/ped side but undersubscribed on the ACR/TDM (Alternative Congestion Relief/Transportation Demand Management) side. Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, said they have been working with applicants to understand what their limitations were, and reached out to others and been having conversations with them as part of the strategic plan interviews.

10. Program

10.a. Adopting the Regional Transit Connections Plan – *Approved by Resolution No. 2024-19*

Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, provided the presentation.

Director Noelia Corzo said she appreciated that staff already had answers for Board questions from the September presentation, and Vice Chair Mates concurred.

Motion/Second: Mates/Fung

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

10.b. Strategic Plan 2025-2029 Update

Mr. Gilster provided the presentation.

Chair asked if the VMT (vehicle miles traveled) indicated was annual, monthly, or weekly.

Mr. Gilster said he would investigate and get back to him.

Director Noelia Corzo left the meeting at 5:37 pm.

Director Anders Fung asked about projection comparisons. Mr. Gilster said there was an escalation rate that was adjusted for inflation. Director Fung asked if inflation was based on the Bay Area CPI (consumer price index) or state CPI. Ms. Chan said the projection did not reflect the actual numbers they were able to increase the amount based on actual revenues.

Chair Romero commented that the plan should address the significant increase in the number of people driving alone.

Director Ray Mueller noted that there is a reduction in congestion on days there is no commuting for people who telecommute.

Mr. Gilster presented the initial strategic plan recommendations.

Director Mark Nagales commended the availability of the TA's technical assistance was important for smaller cities without dedicated transportation staff.

Vice Chair Mates commented that the commute patterns and trends are likely to evolve as more commuters are asked to return to the office.

Regarding geographic funding distribution, Mr. Gilster said as part of ACR/TDM subcategories, they had created different subcategories for small and coastal cities and the mid-to-large cities so that cities of similar sizes are competing with one another. He said they would have one more meeting with the ad hoc committee before bringing the public review draft to the Board in November and adopting the final draft in December.

Public Comment:

Mike Swire said he appreciated the concern for VMT reduction. He said he hoped that spending could be directed towards projects that include congestion reduction and that it is important to adjust spending priorities to support such projects.

Chair Romero concurred on the importance of sharing metrics with the public.

10.c. Countywide Automated Vehicles (AV) Strategic Plan – Final Draft

Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, and Mr. Gilster introduced Vamsi Tabjulu, Project Manager, Project Delivery, who provided the presentation.

Vice Chair Mates said they should consider how to prepare drivers and labor groups prior to the pilot.

Director Nagales asked they had reached out to public safety groups such as police and fire departments about what safety improvements they would like to see. Mr. Tabjulu said during the AV pilot planning, they would be talking about the specific projects, how to implement

them, and what to prioritize. He added that they mainly want to get a better understanding of the federal, state, and local guidelines.

Mr. Skinner said the strategic plan's purpose is to create a roadmap for the cities to prepare for AV rollout.

11. Legislative Update

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

On the federal side, she said the House and Senate passed a continuing resolution to cover the government until December 20. She noted that the outcome of the upcoming election will significantly impact the budget.

On the state side, she noted that the Assembly, at the Governor's request, convened a special session to explore reducing the cost of fuel. She said the Legislature will reconvene on December 2.

Director Mark Nagales recused himself from the regional legislative discussion due to his involvement with BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) at 6:43 pm.

Ms. Epstein provided a presentation on the latest regional transit measure alternatives.

Vice Chair Mates asked about the old SB (Senate Bill) 1031. Ms. Chan said all numbers have been gathered and updated by each of the transit operators.

Chair Romero asked about the number of counties involved, and Ms. Epstein said that SB 1031 included nine counties as contributors.

Director Fung asked if there had been any kind of discussions at all about representation on the BART Board at all, because paying into something without representation is problematic due to the uncertainty of governance and spending decisions. Ms. Epstein noted that SB 1031 was a nine-county measure, and the question had been raised on whether San Mateo County wanted a seat on the BART Board; other than that, there were no active conversations about County representation.

Ms. Epstein reviewed the revised Scenarios 1 and 2, and a new Option 1(a), a 10-year measure focused almost entirely on agencies with fiscal cliffs.

Director Mueller asked if the select committee had provided options for the payroll tax component. Ms. Chan said most businesses and commissioners on the committee voted no on that. She said the TA needs to consider the share of BART that the County would be responsible for. She said Measure A currently provides a wide range of funding for transit and asked if there were other funding sources that could be relied on.

Vice Chair Mates asked if there were other hybrid scenarios to consider. Ms. Chan said that BART had the authority to put out a three-county measure in the BART District counties. Ms. Epstein said with Measure A, it would depend on when the new measure would go on the ballot.

Director Mueller said Scenarios 1 and 2 were unlikely to happen and that the TA needs to get ready to put a measure on the ballot and figure out what its obligations are now.

Chair Romero suggested that the County have a seat on the BART Board, and Director Fung concurred.

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, suggested as a potential funding source adding a nominal annual amount to Bay Area car registrations.

Director Mark Nagales rejoined the meeting at 7:38 pm.

12. Requests from the Authority

There were none.

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, November 7, 2024, 5:00 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

15. Report of Legal Counsel

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, announced that a special meeting with a closed session would start immediately after adjournment.

16. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 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 650-551-6108 or by email to board@smcta.com.