

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: E. Beach (Chair), D. Horsley, J. Mates, R. Medina (Vice Chair),
Via M. Nagales, C. Romero
Teleconference

MEMBERS ABSENT: C. Groom

STAFF PRESENT: C. Mau, A. Chan, J. Cassman, S. van Hoften, D. Hansel, P. Gilster,
P. Skinner, J. Williams, J. Brook, D. Seamans

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Emily Beach called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Seamans confirmed that a quorum was present.

Chair Beach requested that John Ford, Chair, Commute.org, lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments.

4. REPORT OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair Beach noted that the report was in the packet.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

a) Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of August 5, 2021

b) Program and Allocate \$3,859,822 in Measure A Funds to the San Mateo County Transit District for the SamTrans Paratransit Program –*Approved by Resolution No. 2021-22*

c) Program and Allocate \$301,000 of Measure A Grade Separation Program Funding for Whipple Avenue Grade Separation Project Program –*Approved by Resolution No. 2021-23*

d) Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending July 31, 2021

e) Acceptance of Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2021

Public Comment:

Tina Dubost, Manager, Accessible Services, thanked the Board for its continued support of the paratransit program.

Chair Beach said she was pleased that funds were being allocated to the Whipple Avenue grade separation project, noting that it was the fifth most dangerous at-grade railroad crossing in the State of California.

Motion/Second: Romero/Nagales

Ayes: Beach, Horsley, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Groom

6. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Beach said that TA and SamTrans staff have been working together to coordinate the joint virtual workshop on autonomous vehicles, which will focus on how agencies and local jurisdictions may need to adapt for a driverless future in the County. She also announced that there would be a ribbon-cutting event for the 25th Avenue grade separation project on September 17.

7. SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT LIAISON REPORT

Vice Chair Rico Medina said that the report was posted on the website and that he would be available for questions offline.

8. JOINT POWERS BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Carter Mau, Acting Executive Director, said the report was in the packet. He noted that there was a discussion about integrating the historic Diridon Caltrain station into the major development going on in downtown San Jose.

9. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Mau said that his report was in the packet. He noted that the virtual scoping meeting was held on August 4 for the 101 Express Lanes project and that they would be accepting public comments until September 3. He also said the TA was working on a call for projects for the 2021 highway projects.

10. PROGRAM

a) Alternative Congestion Relief and Traffic Demand Management (ACR/TDM) Plan

Patrick Gilster, Manager, Programming and Monitoring, provided the presentation.

Director Don Horsley said the Coastsides is unique in that it is low density and car-dependent. He said his Coastsides constituents note that automobile traffic is worse when school is in session.

Director Carlos Romero remarked that "sustainable transportation options" in the revised definition could be interpreted as electric cars. He said he was happy to hear that the surveys have pointed to Commute.org as the TDM entity for the County. He said TDM should be set up from a citywide perspective instead of a one-off, per-development perspective. Mr. Gilster said that there are a number of ways to address that, such as developing strategies that cities can refer to or making planning funds available to cities as part of the TA's competitive process.

b) Alternative Congestion Relief Program Update

John Ford, Chair, Commute.org, provided the presentation.

Director Mark Nagales asked how they planned to entice employers and the community to stay off the roads. Mr. Ford said that it is important to capture people's attention on such needs before there can be a behavior change.

Director Julia Mates noted that there would still be hesitancy for carpooling given the current state of the pandemic. Mr. Ford said he was discouraged that some employers were telling their employees not to carpool.

Director Horsley talked about transit challenges of the Coastsides. He said that carpooling would require park-and-ride lots, which he noted the County was planning to develop, and suggested having express buses. He noted that the location of the Coastsides precludes bicycling to the Bay side of the Peninsula.

Chair Beach said she applauded the efforts of all agencies to make transit affordable, convenient, safe, and attractive to prospective riders.

11. FINANCE

a) Program and Allocate \$572,535 in Measure A Alternative Congestion Relief Funds to the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance (Commute.org) to Support the Countywide Congestion Relief Program for Fiscal Year 2022 –Approved by Resolution No. 2021-24

Mr. Gilster presented the staff report.

Vice Chair Medina noted that those TA members who are on the Commute.org board can vote.

Motion/Second: Horsley/Romero

Ayes: Beach, Horsley, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Groom

12. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Casey Fromson, Acting Chief Communications Officer, briefly summarized the highlights of recent federal and state legislation. She said that they are monitoring the infrastructure package, which had passed the Senate but not yet the House; the reconciliation package, which has no timeline yet on the Senate side; whether or not there is a CR (continuing resolution) for the appropriations bills; and taking an action on the debt ceiling. She said at the state level, there are potential negotiations about the transportation package.

Chair Beach asked about \$4.5 billion coming into the Bay Area in formula funds. She asked if and how formula funds are allotted. Ms. Fromson said that MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) has funding processes based on the type of funds.

April Chan, Chief Officer, Planning, Grants/Transportation Authority, in responding to a question Chair Beach posed regarding Plan Area 2050, remarked that funding for projects in Plan Area 2050 is done at very high level. She said that the color of funds is not necessarily attached to the programs and projects at the planning level. She

added that staff will still need to see the details that come out for the infrastructure bill before formulating funding strategies. Ms. Fromson said there are also multiple discretionary pots of funding that the TA will have access to.

13. REQUESTS FROM THE AUTHORITY

There were no requests.

14. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE AUTHORITY

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

15. DATE/TIME OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Chair Beach announced that the next meeting would be on Thursday, October 7, 2021, 5:00 pm. She asked if there was any news about whether they would be able to meet in person. Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, clarified that if new legislation is passed, it would extend the Governor's orders to continue virtual meetings only if emergency health orders are in place.

16. REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Ms. Cassman said that there was nothing to report.

17. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at www.smcta.com. Questions may be referred to the Authority Secretary's office by phone at 650.508.6242 or by email to board@smcta.com.