

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

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

June 4, 2024

Members Present: B. Arietta (Chair), I. Bucio, G. Carlini, N. Enriquez, J. Fox (Vice Chair)
(In Person) (arrived at 4:37 pm), K. Kuklin, J. Londer, G. Mattammal (arrived at 4:38 pm), P. Ohtaki (arrived at 4:43 pm), M. Swire

Members Present: None
(Via Teleconference)

Members Absent: D. Bojack, S. Lang, A. Paul

Staff Present: P. Skinner, P. Gilster, A. Linehan, J. Manzi, J. Epstein, T. Bartholomew,
C. Liao, K. Yin, D. Covarrubias, J. Brook

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Barbara Arietta called the meeting to order at 4:35 pm and led 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.

Vice Chair John Fox arrived at 4:37 pm.

4. Consent Calendar

4.a. Approval of Minutes of the CAC Meeting of April 30, 2024

TA Board Meeting Agenda for June 6, 2024

4.b. TA Board Item 6.b Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending April 30, 2024

4.c. TA Board Item 6.c Acceptance of Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 3rd Quarter Fiscal Year 2024

4.d. TA Board Item 6.d Establishing the Appropriations Limit Applicable to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority During Fiscal Year 2024-25

4.e. TA Board Item 6.e Authorizing the Submittal of an Allocation Request for Regional Measure 3 Funding in the Amount of \$2.685 Million for the US 101/State Route 92 Area Improvements Project

Gus Mattammal arrived at 4:38 pm.

Regarding Item 4.a, Mike Swire asked why he was counted as absent when he attended the April 30 meeting as an attendee. Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, briefly explained the Brown Act teleconferencing requirements and requested that Ms. Brook email the guidelines to the Committee again.

Regarding Item 4.c, Mr. Swire said some of the projects had their aggregate costs listed while other projects only had the cost for a single phase listed. Mr. Skinner said they report on individual project phases and if a report is inconsistent, they could review the details after the meeting to ensure the report is correct.

Regarding Item 4.e, Nheeda Enriquez asked how the \$2.685 million gets allocated. Carolyn Mamaradlo, Senior Project Manager, said the additional funds are requested to cover construction support costs originally committed under the STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program).

Peter Ohtaki arrived at 4:43 pm.

Regarding Item 4.a, Giuliano Carlini asked what if the video, which is supposed to be the official record of the meeting as opposed to the minutes, is taken down. Mr. Skinner clarified that there is not an established time limit for the meeting videos to remain online.

The Committee voted to approve Items 4.a through 4.d:

Motion/Second: Fox/Kuklin

Ayes: Arietta, Bucio, Carlini, Enriquez, Fox, Kuklin, Londer, Mattammal,-Ohtaki, Swire

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Lang, Paul

Regarding Item 4.e, Mr. Carlini said the project increases GHG (greenhouse gases) and congestion and thought the CAC should reject it.

Motion/Second: Kuklin/Bucio

The Committee voted to approve Item 4.e:

Ayes: Arietta, Bucio, Enriquez, Fox, Kuklin, Londer, Mattammal,-Ohtaki

Noes: Carlini, Swire

Absent: Bojack, Lang, Paul

5. TA Board Item 6.a Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of May 2, 2024

There were no comments.

6. TA Board Item 7.a Proclamation Recognizing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month and Reaffirming a Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Tasha Bartholomew, Media Relations Manager, noted the activities recently undertaken by SamTrans, including the creation of the Rainbow Employee Resource Group. She noted that SamTrans would be participating in Pride Month events in San Mateo, Half Moon Bay, and San Francisco.

Motion/Second: Kuklin/Enriquez

Ayes: Arietta, Bucio, Carlini, Enriquez, Fox, Kuklin, Londer, Mattammal, Ohtaki, Swire

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Lang, Paul

7. TA Board Item 11.a Public Hearing: Adopting a Budget in the Amount of \$189,035,418 for Fiscal Year 2025

Cleo Liao, Manager, Budgets, provided the presentation.

Peter Ohtaki said he wanted to ensure that the TA is taking into account that the high level of interest income may not continue through the last half of the year. Ms. Liao said they did conservative estimates of interest income to factor that in.

Ms. Enriquez asked why there was an increase in expenditures for the C/CAG (City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County) report. Ms. Liao said it was a new item on the budget. Mr. Skinner said they want to be more transparent and have a set-aside of interest income to assist C/CAG in their transportation planning; he noted that this assistance previously came out of the TA's oversight budget, which is also funded by interest income.

Mr. Carlini asked why there would be opposition to the delegations of authority. Mr. Skinner said delegations of authority are not always obvious. Mr. Carlini asked where the C/CAG support would be listed. Ms. Liao said it was included under interest income.

Motion/Second: Ohtaki/Bucio

Ayes: Arietta, Bucio, Carlini, Enriquez, Fox, Kuklin, Londer, Mattammal, Ohtaki, Swire

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Lang, Paul

8. TA Board Item 11.b Awarding a Contract to Kadash & Associates LLC for a Total Not-to-exceed Amount of \$572,755 for Federal Legislative Advocacy Services for Five Years

9. TA Board Item 11.c Awarding a Contract to Politico Group, Inc. for a Total Not-to-exceed Amount of \$470,000 for State Legislative Advocacy Services for Five Years

Kevin Yin, Director, Contracts and Procurement, presented the staff reports for both Items 8 and 9.

Jeff Londer asked what the TA paid for the previous five years. Mr. Skinner said there was only a slight difference from what was paid previously.

Vice Chair John Fox asked which firms were used previously. Mr. Yin said it was the same group, Kadesh & Associates, for federal and Khouri Consulting was the firm used previously for state legislative advocacy services. Vice Chair Fox asked if they asked for references from other client agencies, which Mr. Yin confirmed that they did.

Gus Mattammal asked if there were separate contracts from each of the three agencies and if so, why was that necessary. Mr. Yin said each agency has its own priorities and agenda.

Mr. Ohtaki asked how the TA incentivizes the lobbyists. Mr. Yin said they score firms based on their experience. Mr. Skinner they do not provide incentives beyond the retainer. He said they have a competitive process every five years.

Karen Kuklin said it appeared that the contracts do not adequately cover the time required to provide the services. Mr. Yin said they add an extra \$50,000 for as-needed services.

Mr. Bucio asked for the scores used to determine the winning bid for state legislative advocacy services. Vice Chair Fox asked if they asked for references from other client agencies, which Mr. Yin confirmed. Mr. Yin said out of 100, Politico scored 91.5 and Khouri scored 76.5.

Mr. Swire asked what the TA's role is regarding lobbying, endorsing candidates, and political contributions. Michaela Wright Petrik, Government and Community Affairs Officer, said the lobbyists help the TA strategize to support our community.

Mr. Carlini asked what bucket does state/federal lobbyist services funding come from. Ms. Liao said they are not using income tax, but are using Measure A interest income. Mr. Carlini said he assumed that the three agencies had 90-percent common goals and suggested they could pool resources. Mr. Yin said each agency wants its own lobbyist and Mr. Skinner said there are often conflicts of interest amongst the agencies.

Ms. Enriquez said she thought there would be more overlap in the proposals, making a joint RFP (Request for Proposal) a possibility. Mr. Yin reiterated that there would be a potential conflict of interest.

The Committee voted to approve Item 8 (federal legislative advocacy services):

Motion/Second: Enriquez/Kuklin

Ayes: Arietta, Bucio, Carlini, Enriquez, Fox, Kuklin, Londer, Mattammal, Ohtaki, Swire

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Lang, Paul

The Committee voted to approve Item 9 (state legislative advocacy services):

Motion/Second: Swire/Mattammal

Ayes: Arietta, Bucio, Carlini, Enriquez, Fox, Kuklin, Londer, Mattammal, Ohtaki, Swire

Noes: None

Absent: Bojack, Lang, Paul

10. TA Board Item 12 State and Federal Legislative Update

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

From the federal side, Congress was working on the FY 2025 budget cycle. She said earmark requests were being submitted for the Broadway grade separation project.

On the state side, bills were passed from the Assembly to the Senate on May 16. She said the Governor submitted his May revised budget on May 10. She said it maintains the \$5.1 billion for public transit. She said on May 29, the Assembly and Senate leaders released a joint budget agreement.

She noted bills of interest, she said on May 31 that SB 1031 would no longer be moving forward in 2024 and new legislation would happen in 2025.

Mr. Swire asked if the 25th Avenue bikeway was submitted. Ms. Wright Petrik said she had not received an update, but would look into it.

Mr. Carlini asked if there was any threat to the 101 Managed Lanes project. Mr. Skinner said the North of I-395 and the South of I-395 funding is not impacted.

Mr. Swire asked if the TA had taken a position on Senate Bill (SB) 1031, and Ms. Wright Petrik said it had not.

Mr. Swire said he would like to see continued legislative focus on safety for non-drivers, specifically pedestrian and bike improvements.

Mr. Skinner said moving forward, he would provide the verbal presentations to the CAC on a monthly basis, with Government and Community Affairs (GCA) staff presenting to the CAC on a quarterly basis for the state and federal legislative updates. Mr. Ohtaki said he thought the Board may need more frequent updates, and Mr. Skinner confirmed that the Board would continue to receive monthly updates from GCA staff.

11. Report of the Chair

Chair Arietta reported on the May 11 Caltrain Electrification event that was held at the San Carlos Caltrain station and a copy of her report was posted on the meeting website.

Mr. Swire and Ms. Enriquez said they also attended the event.

Mr. Carlini said that only seven seats have visibility of the bikes in the new bike cars, while Chair Arietta said she heard they had added seats. Mr. Skinner said he would ask Caltrain to discuss bike capacity at a future presentation in August.

12. Report from Staff

Mr. Skinner said the report was in the packet. He said they want Caltrain staff to present on the electrification item before service begins in the fall.

12.a. Proposed Updated Rules of Procedure for the San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors

Mr. Skinner said that legal counsel was bringing this item to Board for further discussion on June 6 and would then be voting to approve the rules at the July 11 meeting.

Mr. Carlini said he was pleased that the rules were being revised, but questioned that CAC members could be removed without reason.

13. Member Comments/Requests

Ms. Enriquez said the AV (autonomous vehicles) strategic plan was open for comment for another week or so. Mr. Skinner said it was coming up on future agendas.

Mr. Carlini applauded staff and board for their support of the LGBTQ community. He encouraged the members to read the text of Measures A and W on what is permitted. Mr. Skinner said the TA relies on the advice of legal counsel on how funds can be spent.

Vice Chair Fox said he hoped everyone would have a great summer. He said he appreciated the diversity of interests on the Committee.

Mr. Swire said he had heard complaints from the Mayor of the City of San Mateo that she was not informed of the meetings regarding the 101/92 direct connector project, which would involve eminent domain. Mr. Skinner said that eminent domain has not been discussed and there has not been sufficient design completed to determine the potential impacts of the various project alternatives. He said that the TA works to ensure that city councilmembers, staff, and residents are notified of all project events.

Mr. Mattammal said the 101/92 interchange is a disaster and encouraged people to explore alternatives.

14. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting

Chair Arietta announced that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 4:30 pm in person at the SamTrans Auditorium and via Zoom teleconference.

15. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 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 650.508.6223 or by email to cacsecretary@smcta.com.