

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

**November 7, 2024**

**Members Present:** N. Corzo, A. Fung (arrived at 4:33 pm), J. Mates (Vice Chair), R. Mueller  
**(In Person)** (arrived at 4:37 pm), M. Nagales (arrived at 5:11 pm), 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, E. Beach, S. Atkinson, A. Linehan, A. To, D. Covarrubias, J. Epstein, J. Brook, M. Tseng

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Carlos Romero called the meeting to order at 4:30 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. Legislative Update**

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

On the federal side, she said Republicans took control of the White House and the Senate. Sam Liccardo will replace Anna Eshoo as a member of Congress. Kevin Mullin was re-elected.

On the state side, she noted there would be a significant change of who is in the Legislature, with many termed out. She noted that Senators Wiener and Becker were re-elected. She said Proposition 5 to reduce voting thresholds for housing and infrastructure bonds was substantially defeated, noting that is a bellwether for where the voters are at in terms of their willingness to fund transportation or infrastructure. She said San Francisco's Measure L to tax TNCs (Transportation Network Companies) looks likely to pass.

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

Director Anders Fung asked how factual was BART's (Bay Area Rapid Transit) declaration of agency improvements, including installation of new fare gates. April Chan, Executive Director, said she had experienced that BART had shortened the number of cars in each train set,

thereby increasing the number of passengers in each car so riders feel safer. Chair Romero said in his recent trips on BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit), he had also noticed more of a transit police presence.

Chair Romero asked regarding gathering signatures for the measure if it mattered which counties were represented. Ms. Epstein said it is MTC's believe they would need to get their signature threshold county by county.

Ms. Epstein said the voting public is looking for transit to improve safety, cleanliness, and money management.

Chair Romero asked if the proposal turns into a bill, would there still be the possibility of amending it. Ms. Epstein said yes, but the changes would need to be introduced by February.

Public Comment:

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area, said they would not get help from the State of California anytime soon. She said she was happy to see how San Mateo County depends on the different services.

**4. Report from Closed Session at October 10 Special Board Meeting**

**4.a. Closed Session: Conference with Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8**

**Properties: (1) 50-foot-wide Property Located Directly West of the Caltrain Corridor from 20th Avenue to Approximately 1,000 Feet Past 25th Avenue, City of San Mateo (Portion of APN 035-320-999) and (2) 2777 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94403**

**Negotiators: April Chan and Joan Cassman**

**Negotiating Parties: Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board and the City of San Mateo  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Transfer**

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, said no action was taken and discussion would continue after the meeting in closed session.

**5. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda**

There were no comments.

**6. Report of the Community Advisory Committee**

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

**7. Consent Calendar**

**7.a. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of October 10, 2024**

**7.b. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending September 30, 2024**

**7.c. Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook**

**7.d. Accepting the Countywide Automated Vehicles Strategic Plan – Approved by Resolution No. 2024-20**

**7.e. Adopting the Amended Conflict of Interest Code – Approved by Resolution No. 2024-21**

Motion/Second: Corzo/Fung

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

**8. Report of the Chair**

Chair Romero remarked on the imminent reelection of a number of Board members in their respective jurisdictions.

**9. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report**

Director Rico Medina noted the report was posted online, and noted the following:

- Adopted the 2026-2025 Strategic Plan
- Announced the new Day of the Dead bus wrap that debuted at the recent celebration in Redwood City
- Announced the recent relaunch of the Grand Boulevard Initiative to transform El Camino Real to improve multimodal access for all users including transit in the corridor.

**10. Joint Powers Board Liaison Report**

Director Medina said the report was posted online, and noted that the Municipality of Lima, Peru is purchasing 90 gallery cars and 20 retired diesel locomotives from Caltrain.

Director Ray Mueller said the diesel trains can only be used for passenger service.

**11. Report of the Executive Director**

Ms. Chan said the report was in the packet and noted the following:

- Congratulated Directors Fung, Mates, Medina, Nagales, and Chair Romero on their reelection in their home jurisdictions
- Said the 101 Express Lanes North of I-380 is taking longer than anticipated. Environmental studies are slated for completion by mid-2025 and they are hoping to release the draft environmental document by late 2025. She said they are working to bring the information back to the Board.
- Announced the 101/92 Area Improvement Project is going into the construction phase

**12. Program**

**12.a. 2024 Joint Cycle 7 Pedestrian and Bicycle Program and Cycle 2 Alternative Congestion Relief/Transportation Demand Management Calls for Projects Draft Recommendations**

Peter Skinner, Executive Officer, Transportation Authority, introduced Sue-Ellen Atkinson, Manager, Planning and Fund Management, who provided the presentation.

Director Noelia Corzo asked whether there was a funding gap on the Fashion Island Boulevard project. Ms. Atkinson said the total project construction cost exceeds the \$2 million limit that is available through the bike/ped program. She said the \$2 million that project requested was to fulfill a portion of the construction cost, and they have also provided technical assistance to the City of San Mateo to apply for Regional Measure 3 safe routes to the Bay Trail and Transit program from MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission). She said there is still a small funding gap for that project depending on the MTC grant program. Director Corzo asked what money was available for the ACR/TDM (Alternative Congestion Relief/Transportation Demand Management) project and if the TA could do additional outreach. Mr. Skinner said they could do so. Director Corzo said one of the community concerns is traffic near schools and said she would like this project to open up for another round of applications in 2025. Chair Romero said he would like to see further metrics before opening up the project again.

Public Comment:

Giuliano Carlini said he was pleased that there was more cycling education included in the project recommendations.

Ms. Atkinson asked the Board if they preferred Option 1 or Option 2. The Board members said they favored Option 2.

**12.b. Strategic Plan 2025-2029 Public Review Draft Release**

Mr. Gilster provided the presentation.

Director Corzo thanked staff and said she enjoyed serving on the Regional Transit Connections / Strategic Plan ad hoc committee.

Ms. Chan congratulated the project team: Mr. Gilster, Mr. Skinner, Jess Manzi, and Amy Linehan. Chair Romero said they would be accepting comments for the next month.

**13. Requests from the Authority**

There were none.

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

**16. Report of Legal Counsel**

**16.a. Closed Session: Conference with Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8**

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Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, announced the closed session and said that since no Board action was anticipated, she would provide a report-out at the next regular meeting.

*The Board recessed to closed session at 5:48 pm.*

**17. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 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](mailto:board@smcta.com).