

**San Mateo County Transportation Authority
Board of Directors
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California 94070
Minutes of January 9, 2025**

Members Present: N. Corzo, A. Fung, R. Medina, J. Mates (Vice Chair), C. Romero (Chair)

Members Present via M. Nagales

Teleconference

Members Absent: R. Mueller

Staff Present: J. Cassman, A. Chan, J. Epstein, P. Gilster, Chris Kierig (Kadesh and Associates), L. Lumina-Hsu, Ben Miller (Kadesh and Associates), P. Skinner, M. Tseng

1. Call to Order

Chair Romero called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Chair Romero noted Director Mark Nagales invoked AB2449 and attending remotely.

Motion/Second: Fung/Medina

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

Noes: None

Absent: Mueller

2. Oath of Office

2.a. San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) Representative for a term ending 12-31-2026

2.b. Carlos Romero for a term ending 12-31-2026 (Cities – Southern County Representative)

2.c. Julia Mates for a term ending 12-31-2026 (Cities – Central County Representative)

2.d. San Mateo County Board of Supervisors Representative(s) for terms ending 12-31-2026

Acting Authority Secretary Margaret Tseng administered the Oath of Office to Rico E. Medina, San Mateo County Transit District Representative, Carlos Romero, Cities – Southern County Representative, and Julia Mates, Cities – Central County Representative.

3. Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Tseng called the roll and confirmed a Board quorum was present.

Vice Chair Mates led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Election of 2025 Officers

Nominations for 2025 Chair opened. Director Medina nominated Director Romero. There were no further nominations. Nominations closed.

Motion/Second: Medina/Mates

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

Noes: None

Absent: Mueller

Nominations for 2025 Vice Chair opened. Director Fung nominated Director Julia Mates. There were no further nominations. Nominations closed.

Motion/Second: Fung/Medina

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

Noes: None

Absent: Mueller

5. Adoption of 2025 Legislative Program

Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, provided the presentation and reported updates requested by the Board were included in the 2025 Legislative Program.

Motion/Second: Fung/Corzo

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

Noes: None

Absent: Mueller

6. Legislative Update

Ms. Epstein, introduced the TA's Federal lobbyists, Chris Kierig and Ben Miller from Kadesh and Associates, who provided the presentation that included the following:

- Incoming Federal Administration stated intentions and planned reconciliation package
- Budget reconciliation process to enact policies that have a budget impact with simple majority
- Senator Schiff was selected to serve on Environment and Public Works Committee
- Representative Kevin Mullin was selected to serve on the house Energy and Commerce Committee

Ms. Epstein continued the presentation on the State legislative update that included the following:

- No indication of new funding proposals; additional funding must be found in existing programs or existing funding streams
- Senator Cortese remains Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee
- Senator Wiener will serve as Chair for the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

- Committee member Laura Richardson will serve as Chair of Subcommittee 5 of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee. Subcommittee 5 reviews transportation funding.

Director Nagales recused from the meeting at 5:29 pm.

Ms. Epstein then provided the Board with an update on the proposed regional funding measure, which included the following:

- Discussions with transit agencies and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) have been ongoing.
- Polling on ballot measures will begin soon
- Advocating to have an option for San Mateo County to opt-in
- County of Santa Clara's stated commitment to contribute to Caltrain if polling is favorable
- Other agencies polling results are public records which staff will be able to review polling data

The Board Members had a robust discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions, which included the following:

- Regional measure funding responsibility by county, determination, responsibilities, and measurements
- Measure A renewal
- Fund distribution, receiving agency obligations, and government transparency

Director Nagales rejoined the meeting at 5:56 pm.

7. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Giuliano Carlini commented on vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction goals, project funding, housing, and mode shift to micromobility.

- #### **8. Report of the Community Advisory Committee** - Chair Romero stated the report was posted on the website and will discuss with Vice Chair Mates and staff if comments for Board should be agendaized.

9. Consent Calendar

- 9.a. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of December 5, 2024**
- 9.b. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending November 30, 2024**
- 9.c. Awarding Contracts to AppleOne, Inc., COGENT Infotech Corporation, Domain Experts Corporation, and InterSources, Inc. for On-call Full-cycle and Sourcing Recruitment Services for an Aggregate Total Not-to-exceed Amount of \$500,000 for a Five-year Base Term, with up to Two Additional One-year Option Terms –
*Approved by Resolution No. 2025-01***
- 9.d. US 101 Express Lanes: Quarterly Update on Variable Rate Bonds and Express Lanes Performance**

The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions, which included the following:

- Working with the TA's sales tax consultant to ascertain if a decline in sales tax revenue is a temporary slowdown and provide the Board with an update on impacts to the budget

Motion/Second: Medina/Fung

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

Noes: None

Absent: Mueller

10. Report of the Chair

Chair Romero stated it is National Day of Remembrance for Former President Jimmy Carter and led a moment of silence.

11. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

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

- Election of Chair Jeff Gee, Vice Chair Maria Chuang, reappointment for Directors Brooks Esser and Josh Powell, Director Medina reappointed as San Mateo County Transit District (District) Representative, and appointment of bus rider representative to Citizen Advisory Committee.
- District's ridership recovery high 90 percentile and added programs and opportunities that are essential to this county

12. Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

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

- Election of Chair Steve Heminger, Vice Chair Rico Medina
- Ridership increased weekdays 28 percent, Saturday 63 percent, and Sunday 74 percent
- Still need to increase ridership and address deficit as Fiscal Year 2027 deficit has increased

- Horn noise lowered as allowed by federal and state law
- Chair Heminger initiative to address suicide and referred the item to Technology, Operations, Planning, and Safety Committee

13. Report of the Executive Director

April Chan, Executive Director, stated the report was in the packet and noted multiple Calls for projects will be initiated this year for shuttles, regional transit connections, highway projects, and transportation demand management.

Peter Skinner, Transportation Authority Executive Officer, explained the roll out of primary agreements with project sponsors including stronger language for invoicing and timely use of funds requirements.

14. Program

14.a. Strategic Plan 2029-2025 Final Plan and Promotional Video

Patrick Gilster, Director Planning and Fund Management, stated the Strategic Plan has been posted on the TA's website and played a promotional video on the plan.

The Board Members had a robust discussion and staff provided further clarification on the 101 corridor connect program and explaining to the public what it means to connect bike, pedestrians, and scooters.

15. Requests from the Authority – There were none.

16. Written Communications to the Authority – Available online.

17. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 5:00 pm

18. Report of Legal Counsel

18.a. Closed Session: Public Employee Performance Evaluation under Government Code Section 54957(b). Title: Executive Director

Ms. Cassman announced the closed session item and stated any action taken will be reported at the next regular meeting.

The Board adjourned to closed session at 6:25 pm.

19. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 8:15 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.