

**San Mateo County Transportation Authority  
Board of Directors  
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California 94070  
Minutes of March 6, 2025**

**Members Present:** N. Corzo (arrived at 5:03 pm), A. Fung (arrived at 5:03 pm), R. Medina, M. Nagales, J. Speier (arrived at 5:03 pm), J. Mates (Vice Chair), C. Romero (Chair)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** R. Barnard, M. Bouchard, J. Cassman, A. Chan, N. Dhaliwal, J. Epstein, P. Gilster, L. Lumina-Hsu, J. Manzi, P. Skinner, V. Tabjulu, J. Taskovic, M. Tseng

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Romero called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

**2. Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance**

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

Director Medina led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Giuliano Carlini commented on additional data being available for the US 101 express lanes.

Mike Swire spoke in support of regional funding measure.

Malcolm Robinson commented on countywide bicycle planning and prioritization.

**4. Report of the Community Advisory Committee** - Chair Romero stated the report is available online.

**5. Consent Calendar**

**5.a. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of February 6, 2025**

**5.b. Accept Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending January 31, 2025**

**5.c. Accept Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 2nd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025**

**5.d. Adopting a TA Debarment Policy – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-05***

The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions on the sponsored project statuses and funding, partnerships with cities, and lessons learned.

Motion/Second: Mates/Medina

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

## **6. Report of the Chair**

Chair Romero appreciated the release of additional data on the US 101 express lanes, acknowledged the pedestrian fatality in the City of San Mateo, and stated City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) is developing a comprehensive countywide bicycle and pedestrian plan.

## **7. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report**

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

- Legislative updates
- Regional measure polling results around funding public transit
- Debarment Policy adopted by San Mateo County Transit District and Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board

## **8. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Liaison Report**

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

- At-grade crossing improvements
- Mental health strategy update
- Railroad achieved 94 percent on-time performance in February

## **9. Report of Executive Director**

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

- Strategic Plan included increased level of technical assistance to applicants and cities including highlighted projects in Half Moon Bay, South San Francisco, and Menlo Park
- Working with City of San Carlos for Holly 101 interchange project for short term solutions and potential long-term solutions to secure funding
- Caltrain funding from San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) and primary responsibility with San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans)
- San Mateo County contribution to Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)
- Measure A sunset in 2033

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

- Board feedback on grade separation projects, funding requests, existing policy and if changes were needed
- Environmental Impact Report (EIR) data and status

## **10. Program**

### **10.a. US 101 Managed Lanes North of I-380 Project Schedule Update**

Vamsi Tabjulu, Project Manager, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Project alternatives: no build, lane add, lane conversion
- Project updates: schedule delays, COVID-19 impacts, traffic modeling and forecasting
- Upcoming schedule and engagement with Board

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

- Analysis to be completed followed by Board guidance
- Public engagement and multilingual outreach
- Timing of Board decision on whether to continue project
- Funds spent on project of \$10.15 million in current phase and \$1.75 million in previous phase which included segments in San Francisco and southern San Mateo County
- Clarification regarding funding; funds from highway category and which must be spent on a highway project

#### Public Comment

Darryl Yip commented on VMT mitigation measures, alternatives to driving, and spoke in support of lane conversions or halting project to allocate monies to another project.

Mike Swire commented on highway projects funding; increased greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and traffic violence; and public outreach equity in priority areas.

Adina Levin, Transbay Coalition, commented on funding priorities, Measure A, and expenditure plan to reflect current needs.

The Board Members continued the discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions on agendaizing project expenditures thus far and data gathered.

### **10.b. Update on Grade Separation Program and the South Linden-Scott and Broadway Grade Separation Projects**

Jess Manzi, Director Project Delivery, and Robert Barnard, Chief Rail Design and Construction, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Program background
- South Linden Avenue and Scott Street Grade Separation Project
  - Current preliminary engineering/environmental phase and project constraints
  - Rationale for optimized alternative

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

- Project current estimate \$320 million using 5 percent escalation rate

- Design elements

Mr. Barnard, continued the presentation:

- Broadway Grade Separation Project
  - Project history and funding to date
  - Reviewed project cost estimate increases from December 2022 to August 2024
  - September 2024 design paused for project review and value engineering, pending City of Burlingame Council direction
  - Lessons learned for grade separation projects; mismatch between design and construction realities; construction and labor cost escalation
  - Preliminary construction cost estimates for value engineering alternatives

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

- Increased construction costs
- Safety history at Broadway
- Lessons learned from previous grade separation projects

Navdeep Dhaliwal, Government Affairs Community Manager, stated every grade separation project will have an early estimated construction costs analysis to provide clarity on project costs to inform project advancement.

Peter Stevenson, Mayor of the City of Burlingame, and Donna Colson, Councilmember, spoke on the City's experience with the Burlingame Grade Separation Project, which included the following:

- City offered Caltrain guidance, direction to complete the project before electrification
- Giving up the station limits plans for the area
- Project importance, critical infrastructure to maintain city services

#### Public Comment

Adrian Brandt commented on grade separation project cost increases and value engineering.

Gina Papan commented on grade separation project, cost increases, and construction schedule.

Mike Swire commented on Broadway intersection safety, Measure A funding allocations, and project pedestrian and bicycle safety features.

Malcolm Robinson commented on grade separation project costs.

Michelle Bouchard, Executive Director, Caltrain, stated staff is addressing how Caltrain can deliver and do many projects better with integrated project teams. Ms. Bouchard explained

Burlingame as number one grade separation project due for safety and reviewed immediate safety measures already installed.

Ms. Manzi continued the presentation:

- Potential funding scenarios for pipeline projects (Broadway, South Linden-Scott, and Ravenswood)
- Short and longer-term policy questions

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

- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) prioritization list
- Ramification of unfunded/underfunded projects when Measure A returns to the ballot

*Director Speier left the meeting at 7:12 pm.*

- Recommend ad hoc committee to review short and long-term policies for consideration

## **11. Finance**

### **11.a. US 101 Express Lanes: Semiannual Update on Variable Rate Bonds and Express Lane Performance - Deferred**

## **12. Legislative**

### **12.a. Legislative Update and Approve Legislative Proposal: Senate Bill 71 (Wiener)**

Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Local Federal Transit Administration office terminated eight employees
- Senate Bill 71 includes eliminating the sunset date for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions for various sustainable projects, including transit

Motion/Second: Corzo/Nogales

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

Noes: None

Absent: Speier

*Director Nagales recused and left the meeting at 7:46 pm.*

Ms. Epstein continued the presentation on regional funding measure

- Received regional transit measure polling results from Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)
- Focused on how a measure would impact renewal of Measure A

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

- Impacts of Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) failing on public's trust of local public transit system
- Include meaningful accountability in measure
- Concern with voter support when approaching and or going over a 10-cent tax

Chair Romero announced public comment time reduced to one minute.

#### Public Comment

Adrian Brandt commented on Measure A funding priorities and grade separation projects.

Adina Levin commented on regional transit agencies' coordination.

Katherine Dumont commented on improving all transit agencies in the region and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Gina Papan spoke against a proposal of MTC deciding what each county will pay.

Dylan Finch commented on traffic impacts in San Mateo County if BART reduces service.

Geoff S spoke in support of funding public transit, progressive measures, and not just sales taxes.

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

- Public transit riders using various transit agencies
- Reauthorization considerations and contribution adjustments for Caltrain and BART

**13. Requests from the Authority** – There were none.

**14. Written Communications to Authority** – Available online.

**15. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, April 3, 2025, at 5:00 pm**

#### **16. Report of Legal Counsel**

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, stated there was no report.

**17. Adjourn** - The meeting adjourned at 8:27 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).