

**San Mateo County Transportation Authority
Board of Directors
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California 94070
Minutes of April 3, 2025**

Members Present: N. Corzo (arrived at 5:25 pm), A. Fung, R. Medina, M. Nagales, C. Romero (Chair)
Members Absent: J. Mates, J. Speier
Staff Present: J. Cassman, A. Chan, J. Epstein, P. Gilster, L. Lumina-Hsu, C. Mamaradlo, J. Manzi, P. Skinner, J. Taskovic, M. Tseng, K. Yin

1. Call to Order

Chair Romero called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

2. Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

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

Director Nagales led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda – There were none.

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

Motion to modify the agenda and hear Item 11.a. before Item 10/Second: Medina/Fung

Ayes: Fung, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Corzo, Mates, Speier

5. Consent Calendar

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

5.b. Accept Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending February 28, 2025

5.c. Approve Revised 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Calendar

Motion/Second: Medina/Nagales

Ayes: Fung, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Corzo, Mates, Speier

6. Report of the Chair

Chair Romero stated Grade Separation ad hoc committee will meet on April 7, and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Recruitment Committee will be reviewing and interviewing applicants.

7. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

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

- Increase in weekly and youth ridership
- Reached 89.9 percent of pre-pandemic ridership recovery with year-to-date 96.2 percent ridership recovery

8. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

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

- Preventing trespassing, accidentally or suicide, using available technology
- Expanding education, engineering, increased enforcement training and outreach

9. Report of Executive Director

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

- Regional Transit connections call for projects releasing April 30; applications due May 30
- \$70 million available to call for projects: \$42 million for capital projects; \$17.5 million for operations; \$10.5 million for first and last mile connection
- Highway call for projects planned for summer 2025
- Staff determining which parts of San Carlos 101 Holly Interchange project may be eligible for the highway call for projects

The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions regarding the Holly Interchange project and working with city and community on both short and long-term safety improvements.

Director Corzo arrived at 5:25 pm

10. Program

10.a. US 101/SR 92 Direct Connector Status Update

Carolyn Mamaradlo, Senior Project Manager, and Amy Linehan, Government Affairs Officer, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Area safety and operational improvements at four locations
- Near-term improvements within Caltrans right-of-way over next two years
- Direct connector project study for four alternatives with one no build and three build alternatives
- Project owner and environmental lead is California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and project funders are the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) and the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG)

- Currently in environmental review phase; project is subject to TA approval and funding availability, and which property acquisition will be consideration, if necessary, if project moves forward
- Currently no funding allocated for detailed design and construction phases of the project
- Reviewed public participation opportunities and activities during project phases
- Inform public on how and when to provide input that will become part of the project record during the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) release with the public comment period anticipated to begin in Fall 2026 or early 2027

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

- Project information and communication outreach to potentially impacted neighbors and the public
- Collaboration with Caltrans to advance community outreach and to determine if and where there may be potential property impacts and the project property needs
- Outreach to City of Foster City council
- Clarification of Board's decision-making timing for project funding or stoppage
- Measure A and new Measure A ballot language dates back to 1988 to identify 92/101 improvements to address congestion
- Amount of spent funds for EIR process
- Funding allocation clarification
- Expenditure plan was part of the voter approved ballot measure and thus the Board does not have authority to change the expenditure plan categories or percentages
- Opportunity with upcoming Measure A ballot renewal can include changes in measure funding categories and percentages

Director Medina left the meeting at 6:07 pm.

Public Comment

Karen Cutler spoke in opposition to the project and commented on impact to neighborhoods and construction disruption.

James Cutler commented on traffic congestion, adding lanes, and public transit authorities.

Mike Swire commented on Measure A funding allocations, project objectives and congestive relief, and spoke in opposition to the project.

Andrew Comans spoke in opposition to the project and paid high-occupancy lanes.

Giuliano Carlini spoke in opposition to the project and commented on data and metric gathering and public transit.

Dylan Finch commented on bridge capacity and paid express lanes.

Danielle Cwirko-Godycki spoke in opposition to the project.

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

- Potential if design standards can be relaxed as to minimize or eliminate property impacts
- Traffic analysis, modeling, and designs results
- EIR process and identification of impacts of various alternatives
- Investing taxpayer monies if project will not move forward; better investment in regional transit
- Outreach and engagement with local cities that previously supported project to gauge current support or opposition
- Opportunities for the members of the public to speak in support of regional transit measures at County of San Mateo meetings

11. Finance

11a. Awarding Contracts to Arup US, Inc.; Fehr & Peers; HNTB Corporation; and Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. for On-Call Planning, Grants, & Engagement Services for an Aggregate Total Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$14 Million for a Three-Year Base Term, with up to Two Additional One-Year Option Terms – Approved by Resolution No. 2025-06

Kevin Yin, Director, Contracts and Procurement, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Nine qualified proposals received; ranked and interviewed by committee; four firms selected with negotiated prices that are fair and reasonable
- Qualified and experienced firms to provide planning, grants, and engagement services on an as needed basis

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

- Contractor assignment to projects based on requirements of projects
- Built-in ability to select specific contractor or ask all contractors to provide a proposal
- Distribution of information of Request for Proposals to firms

Motion/Second: Fung/Nagales

Ayes: Fung, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Corzo, Mates, Speier

11b. US 101 Express Lanes: Semiannual Update on Variable Rate Bonds and Express Lane Performance

Julijana Taskovic, Director, Treasury, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Variable rate bonds issues on behalf of San Mateo County Express Lanes - Joint Powers Authority (SMCEL-JPA)
- Looking at bond history, opting for variable rate bond has led to significant savings compared to a fixed rate bond
- Principal payments, remaining principal, and timing
- Monitoring Federal policies, proposed legislation, and regulatory changes

The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions regarding potential to make additional payments to bring down principal.

Lacy Vong, SMCEL-JPA Policy Program Manager, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Average tolls increased, trip volume and revenue increased; Toll distribution by location and time
- \$4.2 million expended on toll operations and maintenance costs; \$1.5 million in debt related payments so far in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025

The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions, which included debt service repayments, revenue increases as operations and maintenance costs increases, and variable cost component related to volume.

12. Legislative Matters

12a. Receive Legislative Update

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

Federal:

- Earmarks from Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 eliminated; Earmark process started and San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) will apply for bus stop improvements

State:

- Brown Act bills update; State budget request efforts to secure additional \$2 billion for public transit over FY26 and FY27
- Senate Bill (SB) 752 extension; Assembly Bill (AB) 1070: prevention of compensation for Board meeting attendance unless public transit is taken; Board members must include transit riders and transit union representatives

SB 63 – Regional Ballot Measure:

- 10 to 15 years duration focused on public transportation agencies
- San Mateo County may opt-in; Written into bill that San Mateo and San Francisco Counties can run separate measures
- Creates a new Transportation Revenue Measure District (TRMD) as body that oversees the measure and district sunset tied to existence of measure
- Transit Operations Financial Responsibility Plan (T-FRIP) funding allocation
- Caltrain funding allocations determined by Joint Powers Authority (JPA)
- Accountability requirements of Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) consultant to provide financial review; operators and funding recipients action plans; and MTC to provide annual report to legislature
- Measure set to 1/2 cent; Potential to use regional measure with Measure A renewal; Current Measure A Funding Allocations and Caltrain obligation

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

- Sales tax option; parcel tax no longer a consideration; Transit agency authority to opt-in San Mateo County
- Historically, SamTrans has been the mobility manager in San Mateo County
- TA is a funding agency and SamTrans partners with TA to meet funding obligations
- San Mateo County being an active and positive partner in region; Each agency will have the opportunity to vote in support of or opposition to the bill
- Importance of funding public transit; Level of Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) contribution; usage and accountability of funding
- Increasing public transit system connections for riders; Taxpayer sentiments in San Mateo County and polling to understand community
- Representation of San Mateo County and Santa Clara County on BART Board of Directors; Success of BART services in San Mateo County; equitable representation to the system

Public Comment

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area, spoke in support of the regional funding measure, and commented on BART and Caltrain contributions.

Dylan Finch spoke in support of the regional funding measure and commented on adding capacity to US 101.

13. Requests from the Authority – Director Corzo spoke on improving communication with BART, ongoing check-ins quarterly or biannually.

14. Written Communications to Authority – Available online.

15. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 5:00 pm

16. Report of Legal Counsel – Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, stated there was no report.

17. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:02 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.