

**San Mateo County Transportation Authority
Board of Directors
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California 94070
Minutes of May 1, 2025**

Members Present: N. Corzo (arrived 5:04pm), R. Medina, J. Speier, J. Mates (Vice Chair),
C. Romero (Chair)

**Members Present
via Teleconference:** M. Nagales

Members Absent: A. Fung

Staff Present: S. Atkinson, J. Cassman, A. Chan, J. Epstein, P. Gilster, J. Jest,
A. Linehan, L. Lumina--Hsu, L. Millard-Olmeda, P. Skinner, J. Taskovic,
M. Tseng

1. Call to Order

Chair Romero called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

2. Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

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

Director Nogales invoked AB2449 and attended remotely.

The Chair called the motion.

Ayes: Corzo, Medina, Speier, Mates, Romero

Noes: None

Abstain: Nagales

Absent: Fung

Vice Chair Mates led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Stephen Sanger commented on consulting services for grant writing.

Allison Chang spoke in support of the regional funding measure, permanent progressive funding, spoke against removing funding for interagency coordination, and commented on transit passes working across Bay Area transit agencies.

Aaron Posternack spoke in support of regional transit funding, Senate Bill (SB) 63, regional coordination on fare scheduling, and wayfinding coordination.

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area, commented on regional transit funding, spoke against proposal to defund transit coordination, and commented on Bay Pass, rider mobility opportunities, and proposal of a different organization running the regional transit funding measure.

Ren Fitzgerald commented on University of California, Berkeley Bay Pass for students, and spoke in support of regional coordination and funding.

Matt Jones, Advocacy Director of Silicon Valley Bike Coalition, spoke in support of regional funding measure for transit, SB 63, opt in to regional funding measures options, and counties coordination.

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 April 3, 2025

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

5.c. Awarding Contracts to AppleOne, Inc.; SearchPros Staffing, LLC; and Tellus Solutions, Inc. for On-Call Temporary Staffing Services for an Aggregate Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$1,250,000 for a Five-Year Base Term, with up to Two Additional One-Year Option Terms for an Aggregate Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$500,000 – Approved by Resolution No. 2025-07

5.d. Authorize Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement to Fund Regional Sales Tax Measure Polling Activities – Approved by Resolution No. 2025-08

Director Speier pulled item 5.d. Authorize Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement to Fund Regional Sales Tax Measure Polling Activities for further discussion.

Motion 5.a. to 5.c./Second: Medina/Corzo

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

Noes: None

Absent: Fung

The Board Members had a discussion on Item 5.d. and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions, which included the following:

- Economic consideration of residents
- Consider ballot in 2026 to allow TA flexibility to adjust funding buckets for projects and for supporting Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and Caltrain operating expenses
- Use existing funds more wisely
- Regional funding measure and Santa Clara County participation
- Gather feedback via polling and community engagement

- Coordinated and regional transit needs for residents, renters, and low income in San Mateo County
- Use or non-use of current funds in Measure A, public's perception, and impact of position to renew Measure A
- Impact on public when renewing or raising taxes; tax thresholds
- Polling provides opportunity to gather information on tax threshold; TA funding buckets; Measure A elasticity; regional, local, and coordinated transit importance; community-based feedback on prioritization; regional transportation programs
- Federal administration and implications; funding cuts from federal; increased importance of regional and local funding; tariffs effect on the economy, stock markets, consumer confidence
- Polling now provides data of community stance on regional funding measure; ground baseline for Measure A renewal or adjustments; risk assessment; voter responsiveness to different measures
- Outreach efforts include community groups and City Councils
- Polling timing, analysis of data, and information gleaned

Chair Romero announced public comment speaking time was reduced to one minute.

Public Comment

Mike Swire commented on need for transit and regional coordination and use taxpayers monies wisely.

Adina Levin commented on Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) polling presentation, Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit) polling results, and increased tax versus vehicle affordability.

Matt Jones, Advocacy Director of Silicon Valley Bike Coalition, commented on sales tax, public transit riders economic stats, and need for multiple funding sources for public transit.

Motion 5.d./Second: Corzo/Romero

Ayes: Corzo, Medina, Mates, Romero

Noes: Speier

Abstain: Nagales

Absent: Fung

6. Report of the Chair

Chair Romero stated financial strategies ad hoc meeting received staff presentation on 40 years of expenditures, how much remains, and where it can be expended. Letter regarding regional transportation measure was mailed and included in Board correspondence. Grade separation ad hoc discussed San Mateo County locations, potential locations for consideration, initial policy discussion, funding of right-of-way, local match requirements, and use of Caltrain category funds for grade separation projects.

Public Comment

Adina Levin commented on the potential additional government Board and public participation of many agencies and Boards.

7. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

Director Medina stated there is no report as the next San Mateo County Transit District meeting is Wednesday, May 7, 2025.

8. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

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

- 95 percent on-time performance for March
- Ridership up 17 percent with San Francisco Giants baseball season and long wait to Board the trains

9. Report of Executive Director

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

- Call for projects for regional transit program for variety of capital and operating projects; connecting transit system to San Mateo County or neighboring counties; \$70 million available; cities can work with transit operators

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

- Polling questions and voter sensitivity to different tax levels
- Active 101 grant funding from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to develop a plan for a bike and pedestrian corridor along US 101 that is supported by communities

10. Program

10.a. San Mateo County Shuttle Program Update and Call for Projects Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Draft Recommendations

Sue-Ellen Atkinson, Manager, Planning and Fund Management, and Julian Jest, Manager, Market Research, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Measure A allocation history; shuttle program operating cost is twice expensive per rider compared to pre-pandemic
- Shuttle rider frequency increased; connect riders to other public transit; bring riders within walking distance of final destination
- Riders satisfied with shuttle attributes of quality, driver courtesy, cleanliness, reliability, and on-time performance
- Joint call for projects (CFP) Measure A \$16 million, and congestion relief program \$1 million
- Eligibility criteria includes commuter and community shuttles

- Slight reduction in applications from previous CFP due to increased shuttle operations cost; fewest shuttle routes proposed since cycle 1 (Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 - FY12) but highest allocation in program history (\$14.4 million)
- 23 requested shuttle routes up for funding

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

- Improve and optimize shuttle services
- Per rider subsidy compared to SamTrans local bus service; shuttles are free for riders
- Shuttle operations within county boundaries and BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) Balboa Park station
- Matching funds requirement; shuttle popularity; rider awareness of shuttles
- Shuttle stops, ride lengths, express services to major hubs
- Explore potential for shuttles between transit and newly built buildings
- 23 applicants same from previous cycles; no new applicants; all recommended for funding
- Cost/benefit analysis over longer period of time (more than 3 years)
- Community and commuter shuttles, first mile/last mile options
- Commute.org manages public/private relationships connecting local businesses with local governments, no fares on shuttle, 25-35 percent of costs borne by private sector to fund the shuttles

11. Finance

11.a. Accept Quarterly Investment Report

Julijana Taskovic, Director, Treasury, and Tom Tight, Public Trust Advisors, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Objectives: Preservation of capital, liquidity, yield and return
- Public Trust Advisors (PTA) manages two portfolios: reserve funds and Measure W funds while under California Government Code
- Reviewed portfolio in total: very safe, very liquid, and good income coming from portfolio

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

- Investment types in the environment, social, or governance; PTA reviewed and difficult under California Government Code; employ equity-based type strategy
- Portfolio amount under \$300 million; total is \$800 million
- Should retain investments for 1.5 to 2 years; portfolio liquidity is more sensitive in decline of interest rate
- 100 percent of PTA portfolio is in U.S. Treasury investments; 1/3 of overall TA portfolio

Motion/Second: Corzo/Medina

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

Noes: None

Absent: Fung

11.b. Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Budget

Cleo Liao, Manager, Budgets, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Reviewed Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 preliminary budget sources including Measure A and Measure W sales tax revenues
- FY26 slight increase over FY25; Review FY26 preliminary budget expenditures including a 13 percent decrease compared to FY25 for one-time allocation of Measure A rental income spending
- Annual pass throughs and programs for New Measure A authorizations and Measure W authorizations
- Interest expenditures covering oversight and administrative expenses
- Administrative expenditure increases from 37.5 percent to \$4.8 million for new full-time employees (FTEs)

The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions regarding the repayment of the operating loan that was provided to the San Mateo County Express Lanes-Joint Powers Authority (SMCEL-JPA); the operating loan was for administrative expenses for the start-up of the express lanes program.

12. Legislative Matters

12.a. Receive Legislative Update

Amy Linehan, Government Community Affairs Officer, provided the presentation that included the following:

Federal

- Budget reconciliation process approved by House and Senate; differ on how to extend 2017 tax cuts
- Transportation funding not central to reconciliation talks
- Surface transportation reauthorization back in discussion; working with staff and lobbyists to make it part of the conversation

State

- Legislature in policy committee hearing with fiscal impacts by May 2
- Budget process picking up; Governor's May revision expected to be difficult general funding and not much for transportation or public transit

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

- Earmarks process reinstated; anticipate earmarks to be available and TA has submitted a request
- 2025 earmarks eliminated; starting over for 2026
- 2017 reconciliation act and state income tax impact to county
- SB 63 regional measure update; no decision to opt-in or opt-out; Requested regular updates with details
- Clarify local versus regional transit and what the words mean
- Joint letter sent by TA, SamTrans, and City/County Associations of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) with consent of all Boards Chairs
- Letters sent on behalf of Board brought to full Board for discussion so full Board stance can be reflected in future communications

Chair Romero reinstated public comment time to two minutes.

Public Comment

Adina Levin commented on public's ability to watch or attend overlapping transit agencies public meetings, and regional transit polling.

13. Requests from the Authority – Director Medina requested to agendize the regional transit connections request and consider BART fare gates at the June 5 regular meeting if feasible.

14. Written Communications to Authority – Available online.

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

16. Report of Legal Counsel

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, stated there was nothing to report.

17. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:41 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.