



TA Board of Directors
Meeting of July 10, 2025

Correspondence as of July 10, 2025

Subject

1. Public Comment: Please Re-appoint Mike Swire to the SMCTA CAC
2. Public Comment: Mike Swire Renomination
3. Public Comment: Reappointment of Mike Swire to the SMCTA CAC
4. Public Comment: Item 6, 7/10/25, in support of Mike Swire
5. Public Comment: Please support Mike Swire's reappointment to the SMCTA Community Advisory Committee.
6. Public Comment: public comment - agenda item #6
7. Public Comment: Reappointment of Mike Swire to the SMCTA Community Advisory Committee
8. Public Comment: In support of Mike Swire
9. Public Comment: Support for Mike Swire reappointment to CAC
10. Public Comment: Keep Mike Swire on the SMCTA
11. Public Comment: Support for Joining the Regional Funding Measure
12. Public Comment: Please re-nominate Mike Swire for SMCTA CAC
13. Public Comment: Free Speech, Not Loyalty, Should Guide CAC Appointments
14. Public Comment: Regional transit funding
15. Public Comment: Community Advisory Roles
16. Public Comment: Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety
17. Public Comment: Comment for July 10th meeting: Keep Mike on the board!

From: [Zack Deutsch-Gross](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Subject: Please Re-appoint Mike Swire to the SMCTA CAC
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 4:26:23 PM

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Hello SMCTA board members,

I am writing today to strongly encourage you to reappoint Mike Swire to the SMCTA Citizens Advisory Council. Mike is a strong and longtime advocate for the transportation needs of San Mateo residents. He is actively engaged in the community and provides valuable contributions and perspectives to taxpayers and decision makers alike.

Thank you for your consideration,
Zack Deutsch-Gross

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Zack Deutsch-Gross (he/him)

Policy Director, [Transform](#)

Cell: (415) 637-0101

560 14th Street, Suite 400, Oakland, CA 94612

From: [Gene McKenna](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Subject: Mike Swire Renomination
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 6:08:00 PM

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Dear SMCTA Board Members,

I want to voice my strong support for Mike Swire as a Community Advisory Committee member.

Mike works tirelessly to provide a voice for safe streets for pedestrians and cyclists in San Mateo county.

Mike's role is critical to ensuring that our tax dollars are spent wisely on infrastructure for today, and for the future of our community.

I would not support any attempt to remove or silence Mike. Dedicated community members who share their valuable time are a precious commodity and Mike is a voice for many of us.

I strongly support his renomination.

Sincerely

Gene McKenna
San Mateo

From: [Phoebe S Venkat](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Subject: Reappointment of Mike Swire to the SMCTA CAC
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 8:31:04 PM

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Good evening Chair Romero, Vice Chair Mates, and Board of Directors,

Thank you for serving on the San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board, and for recently approving more than \$83 million for transit and first/last mile improvements that will help reduce traffic congestion across our County.

I am a council member in Foster City, and on the Commute.org board, though I am speaking for myself in this message.

I highly support the reappointment of Mike Swire to the SMCTA Community Advisory Committee. Mike is a thoughtful community advocate with data-informed views on climate resilience, public transit, and safe streets. Mike is engaged with community members who represent diverse walks (or bikes) of life, generations, and ways of thinking. I consider Mike a trusted thought partner who takes the time to actively listen and engage.

I've also observed how Mike is able to bring people together, especially youth and young adults who trust him. We need Committee Members who can authentically connect with younger generations. Not reappointing Mike would potentially have a chilling effect on much-needed engagement from younger folks who we can all agree are the future of our County and Region

Please vote to reappoint Mike Swire to the SMCTA CAC.

In community,
Phoebe

photo



Phoebe Shin Venkat 潘煦琦

she/her/hers/ella

Councilwoman and Community Advocate

732-258-5422 | phobeshinvenkat.com | phoebe.venkat@gmail.com



From: [Cliff Bargar](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Subject: Item 6, 7/10/25, in support of Mike Swire
Date: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 9:05:01 PM

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Dear SMCTA board members,

My name is Cliff Bargar, I'm a resident of San Francisco and current chair of the Caltrain BATAAC. I'm reaching out in my personal capacity expressing my hope that you will reappoint Mike Swire to the CAC. As a member of a similar body I find it disturbing that Mike is being challenged here for his advocacy outside of his work on the CAC despite not violating any rules or having any issues with his committee service. This sort of action would set a bad precedent across the region when we need members of the public to continue to step up and do the important but often thankless work of serving on these committees. Having members who are civically engaged is a benefit to the committees' work, not something to be discouraged.

Thank you,
Cliff

From: [Robert Kahn](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Please support Mike Swire's reappointment to the SMCTA Community Advisory Committee.
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 7:38:39 AM

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Dear San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board Members,

Please support Mike Swire's reappointment to the SMCTA Community Advisory Committee. Mike brings creative and progressive leadership at a time when our county needs to play a vital role in promoting clean air and staving off the effects of greenhouse gases on our climate.

In San Mateo County, transportation is the single largest source of greenhouse gas pollution, making this a priority. And with recent Federal actions to undo the progress our nation has been making to create a greener and healthy economy, the role of local government agencies becomes that much more important.

At this point, we would benefit from having leadership that motivates behavior change among consumers, businesses, and government in thoughtful and cost effective ways. I believe that Mike is well equipped to help provide that leadership.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rob Kahn

San Carlos Resident

From: [Allie Paul](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: public comment - agenda item #6
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 8:44:20 AM

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Hello Members of the SMCTA Board,

I support the re-nomination of Mike Swire to the Community Advisory Committee. Mike is a dedicated advocate of projects to reduce vehicle miles traveled, and the committee has been fortunate to have someone so passionate serve on it for the last three years.

I am a resident of San Bruno and travel throughout San Mateo County by bike, public transportation, and car. I served on the CAC from 2023 to 2024, but ultimately faced challenges with my work schedule and had to give up my spot. I knew my interests were still represented on the committee because of outspoken members like Mike.

The CAC has a responsibility to ensure the smart use of taxpayer dollars as an independent advisory committee. As such, the CAC should be composed of people engaged in these issues and active in other community organizations. These activities are exactly what make Mike strong in an advisory role on the CAC.

I request that the Board reaffirm its commitment to making the CAC an active forum for genuine community input by supporting the re-nomination of Mike Swire.

Thank you,
Allie

From: [Bennet Meyers-Im](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Reappointment of Mike Swire to the SMCTA Community Advisory Committee
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 9:08:37 AM

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Dear SMCTA Board Members,

It has come to my attention that the committee is considering removing or replacing Mike Swire from the SMCTA Community Advisory Committee. As a community member who lives in San Mateo and bikes and rides Caltrain regularly for my daily commute, I have found Mike to be a valuable voice on the Committee. I am extremely disappointed to learn that apparently the recommendation to remove him is not to be based on any misconduct or violation of rules, but rather on disagreement with his advocacy outside of his Committee work. If true, this is completely unacceptable and would thoroughly erode the public's trust in the Board. I urge you to reject the recommendation to remove Mike swire.

Sincerely,
Bennet Meyers-Im, Ph.D.

From: Leslie Ragsdale
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: In support of Mike Swire
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 10:11:06 AM

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Hi, all. Thank you for serving on this important board, especially in a turbulent time for transportation. I am Vice Mayor of Hillsborough but writing in my personal capacity. I am in strong support of Mike Swire being on the CAC. I have seen Mike for years give impassioned and well-informed public comment at various meetings. He walks the walk (and bikes the roads!) and knows all the ins and outs of transportation, with an emphasis on bike safety and connectivity.

I do not know all of your considerations, but I wanted to give my personal opinion that having someone like Mike — knowledgeable, reasonable, willing to put in hours of work — on the CAC is a strong asset. If the CAC were limited to people who did not have strong opinions on the relevant topics, I do not feel it would be as valuable to your work.

Thank you for your consideration. — Leslie Ragsdale

From: [Rick Bonilla](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Support for Mike Swire reappointment to CAC
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 10:29:50 AM

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Dear SMCTA members,

I write today in support of Mike Swire's reappointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee. I also write with a strong urging to not seek the quieting or replacing of members of any of your advisory committees, who ask questions and/or look for a better way.

While I was a member of the San Mateo City Council I was a member of CCAG's CMEQ committee. I can't tell you how many times I was disappointed with that experience when I learned that any advice we may have offered at the time would have come back to the CCAG members too late to make a difference. More than once, I made comments, indicating the resemblance of window dressing to the CMEQ Committee. Many times we were disappointed to find that the advice we were seeking to offer as an advisory committee would reach the CCAG board too late to make a difference.

Please consider that, right now in Washington DC and across this country, people are being told to withhold their comments (especially if the administration disagrees with those comments) and tow the official line. It's not unusual for threats to be issued should people continue with making the supposedly undesirable comments or taking actions demonstrating opposition. That is not the way we have done things in San Mateo County and this is not a good time to start. We need to have advocates on our advisory committees because those are the people who have been paying attention and know the facts regarding that which the county is seeking to do. We have always found a way to get the important work done even with advocates on our advisory committees.

Never forget that the county belongs to the people and that all government ultimately derives its authority from the people.

Finally, and again, I strongly urge the reappointment of Mike Swire to the CAC this evening.

Rick Bonilla
Former Council Member and Mayor, City Of San Mateo.

From: [Justin Fang](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Keep Mike Swire on the SMCTA
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 12:00:13 PM

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Dear SMCTA Board Members,

Please keep Mike Swire on the SMCTA. Mike has been a vocal and reliable advocate who makes informed, common-sense steps towards a better transit system. In a time where so many people are losing faith in our political systems in America, having an outspoken progressive voice who takes pragmatic approaches to building up America is exactly who we need to reinforce a strong relationship with the public at large.

From San Bruno,
Justin Fang

From: Paul Dagnelie
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Support for Joining the Regional Funding Measure
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 12:17:02 PM

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Hello,

As a longtime resident of San Mateo County and the bay area in general, I feel that providing adequate funding for transit is critically important. As a regular user of Caltrain, BART, and SamTrans busses, these services provide essential connectivity for me and my community. I support joining SB63 to prevent service cuts on Caltrain, BART, SamTrans and all other Bay Area transit agencies. Voters strongly support regional transit solutions, with 86% backing a well-connected Bay Area system and recognizing that regional coordination is essential to success. The measure must provide funding supporting seamless coordination of fares, schedules, and signs, and coordinated paratransit, to make our entire transit system faster and more reliable. Coordinated schedules are particularly important, as a transit system operating in isolation can only provide coverage for a small part of the greater Bay Area.

A supermajority of voters support funding all the agencies serving the county, with 84% supporting funding for Caltrain, 82% supporting funding for Samtrans, and 79% supporting funding for BART. I would not support cannibalizing this funding for local street safety; while also an important topic, it should be funded separately. Increasing transit use will already improve street safety by reducing traffic.

Please help bring the Bay Area into a healthier, more pleasant, and more sustainable future by joining the regional measure to provide the funding that our transit systems need.

Thank you,
Paul Dagnelie

From: [Rick Ballard](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Subject: Please re-nominate Mike Swire for SMCTA CAC
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 1:36:22 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to urge you to re-nominate Mike Swire for the SMCTA Community Advisory Committee. I was distressed to learn that the nominating committee has proposed removing him. Mike is a dedicated community member whose energy and public service I greatly appreciate. His engagement on community matters is appropriate and respectful. We need more voices not his, and should not silence people for their valuable community advocacy and engagement.

Thank you,

- Richard Ballard
San Mateo resident and commuter

From: [David Hunt](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Subject: Free Speech, Not Loyalty, Should Guide CAC Appointments
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 1:39:36 PM

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Dear SMCTA Board Members,

I'm writing to urge you to vote in favor of reappointing Mike Swire to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC).

From my understanding the Nominating Committee's recommendation to block this reappointment is not based on any rule violations or performance issues. Rather, it appears to be a response to this individual's public speech against unpopular highway widening and pervasive traffic violence. Views that are expressed outside the scope of their CAC role. That is deeply concerning.

An effective advisory committee must be independent. Dismissing a qualified, engaged volunteer for their outside advocacy not only undermines that independence, but sends a chilling message to others who serve or may wish to serve. It suggests that voicing dissent, even on your own time, puts your role at risk.

This decision should not be about one person's beliefs, but about the principle of free speech and the value of robust, diverse input in shaping transportation policy. I urge you to uphold those values and reappoint Mike Swire to the CAC.

Sincerely,

David Hunt

Resident, homeowner, and avid driver in the City of San Mateo

From: Tim Ryan
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Regional transit funding
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 3:15:54 PM

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America is so far behind much of the world in funding, safe reliable public transit. I see this every time I travel overseas, stunned by the value, cleanliness, on time rate of buses and subways. We have to get there somehow. This seems as though it is one tool. Please support regional transit as it's ridiculous. They have this many redundant agencies all doing a relatively mediocre job.

Tim Ryan San Carlos
Play hard ♂

From: [Phil King](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Subject: Community Advisory Roles
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 3:23:46 PM

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To the members of the board -

I saw on tonight's agenda that the board will be considering nominations for the SMCTA Community Advisory Committee. I wanted to offer support for Mike Swire, who I've gotten to know over the past 18 months through a City of San Mateo committee we served in.

I joined a committee focused on creating Safe Routes to School here in San Mateo. We met 6-8 times over the course of several months and created a set of recommendations that will hopefully be influential over the coming years. Mike was a helpful and constructive voice throughout, and I appreciated his perspective on helping make buses and transit more accessible to our middle and high school students. He seemed very knowledgeable about the practicality of lining up stops and timing with our schools, and generally helping provide options that older students would value. I worked with him in one of our small group exercises and I thought he did a great job facilitating.

I hope you'll consider Mike's continued role with the Community Advisory Committee. I believe he's a positive voice for transit in and around San Mateo. Thank you!

Phil King
Portola Dr in San Mateo
650-575-7746

From: [Malcolm Robinson](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#); [Public Comment](#); [cacsecretary \[@smcta.com\]](#)
Subject: Pedestrian & Bicycle Safety
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 3:38:40 PM

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I am writing this note from Telluride, Colorado. As I watch people walk and bike on a dirt trail while rafters float down the San Miguel River, I am reminded that all early settlers traveled to California by boat, by horse, in covered wagons or on foot. And yet, motor vehicles are the primary focus of this committee? Please help me understand your focus on concrete and kaboki.

The SMC TA bike/ped plan put forward a few years ago was called Plan 2050, a.k.a. Not in My Lifetime. That morphed into the Local Road Safety Plan. The Vision Zero Deaths Plan that other countries and localities accept and promote was too much effort?

The SMC TA appears steadfast in 2 things, freeway construction and control of transport funding and narrative. Please alter how you support transportation in the county. Please make it safe for ALL modes (small m) of transport. It appears that 64% of county poll respondents agree!

Specifically, please allow advocacy of the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists on our county committees. Silencing Bike/Ped proponents, and those who confess alarm at the desecration of our planet by transport pollution does a disservice to us all.

Knowledgeable and courageous advocates are an important part of the American experiment. The SMC TA must stop your efforts over the last 2 years to silence voices of the impassioned, to control transport discussion, allow questionable committee membership practices to continue, and most importantly, who ranks projects. Guiding funds to pet projects with questionable benefit should be addressed in public, and not hidden from view.

Last year two members of your own Community Advisory Committee addressed you, and asked that you work WITH the CAC. A member of the SMC TA said, "Git, go back to your committee." This brazen condescending treatment of people is unworthy of the SMC TA, our county or the America I grew up in. You should be looking for input, not silencing it.

Thank you.

Rgds,

Malcolm Robinson
SMC Resident Since 1970

Sent from my iPad

From: [Drew Lobo](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Comment for July 10th meeting: Keep Mike on the board!
Date: Thursday, July 10, 2025 3:37:29 PM

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Dear SMCTA Board Members:

My name's Drew, and I'm a more-or-less lifelong resident of Redwood City. I only recently heard about what's going on with Mike Swire's CAC position, and I'm dismayed with the SMCTA Board's conduct.

Swire is at risk of being ejected from the board for taking popular and well-reasoned stances on transit issues. This is unacceptable--why would a community advisory board exist when its members are only allowed to take stances that are convenient to the powers that be?

I ask you all to reconsider.

Best regards,
Drew Lobo
Redwood City