

**San Mateo County Transportation Authority
Board of Directors
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California 94070
Minutes of June 5, 2025**

Members Present: N. Corzo (arrived at 5:02 pm), A. Fung, R. Medina, M. Nagales, J. Speier, J. Mates (Vice Chair), C. Romero (Chair)

Members Absent: None

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

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

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

Director Medina led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Corzo arrived at 5:02 pm.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Guiliano Carlini thanked Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members Jeff Londer and Peter Ohtaki for serving on the CAC.

Malcolm Robinson commented on daylight curbs at intersections for pedestrians and San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) public outreach efforts.

4. Report of the Community Advisory Committee - Chair Romero stated the report is available online and thanked Vice Chair Mike Swire for writing the report and staff reviewing and providing the report to the Directors.

5. Consent Calendar

5.a. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of May 1, 2025

5.b. Accept Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending April 30, 2025

5.c. Accept Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 3rd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2025

5.d. Accept US 101 Express Lanes Quarterly Update on Variable Rate Bonds and Express Lanes Performance

- 5.e. Establishing the Appropriations Limit Applicable to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority During Fiscal Year 2026 – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-09***
- 5.f. Authorizing Funding for Matching Contributions for the El Camino Real: Fast Tracking Corridor-Wide Implementation of a Safe, Connected and Transit-Oriented Boulevard Project – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-10***
- 5.g. Programming and Allocating \$5,393,205 in Measure A Funds to the San Mateo County Transit District for its Paratransit Program and to the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance for Commute.org's Operations and Transportation Demand Management Monitoring Program – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-11***
- 5.h. Approving an Updated Candidate Project List for the New Measure A Highway Program Supplemental Roadways Category – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-12***

For Item 5.d., the Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions, which included clarifying the reduction in credit rating does not affect the rating of the bonds but is a reflection of the federal government, and the remaining bonds are high quality and AAA rated.

Motion/Second: Medina/Nagales

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. Report of the Chair

Chair Romero stated Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Interviews ad hoc committee interviewed one new and one incumbent applicants, with one new and three incumbent applicants to be interviewed in late June. There are five vacancies on the CAC and Directors will reach out to constituents who may be interested in serving on the CAC.

Chair Romero stated the Grade Separation ad hoc committee met on May 12 and received presentations on Caltrain's present corridor and grade crossing strategies and priorities, selling TA-owned property to Caltrain where it can help with grade crossings. The ad hoc committee will continue to meet with Caltrain staff to continue discussions on short term projects to get immediate safety work completed sooner, corridor crossing strategies, and transfer of TA-owned property around Broadway Grade Separation project location from TA to Caltrain to help the project move forward more quickly.

7. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Reports - May 7, 2025 and June 4, 2025

Director Medina stated the reports are posted online, and noted the following for the June 4, 2025 meeting:

- Governance discussions between San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) continue
- Preventable accident goals, monthly tracking metrics, annual workers compensation costs, collisions definition, contracted services for drive cam

- Board session to review, track, and discuss workers compensation costs and insurance
- Ridership increasing; rider compliments on service and bus cleanliness
- Review North Base Sea Level Rise Protection Project alternatives; administrative building operational and protected

8. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

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

- Services for special events and weekends led to increased ridership
- Apprenticeship program for overhead line workers and expanded program throughout entire corridor
- Two awards received for the electrification program
- Budget adopted
- Approved costs related to move to Millbrae headquarters

9. Report of Executive Director

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

- Call for projects with \$5 million available for Alternative Congestive Relief and Transportation Demand Management categories
- Measure W Citizens' Oversight Committee report was approved and concluded funds are spent in accordance with Measure W
- TA rebranding survey sent to Directors as a step for improving public outreach
- Special TA Board of Directors Meeting scheduled for July 30; at July 10 meeting, Board will receive polling results; at July 30 Special Meeting, Board will decide whether to support the opt-in option
- 101/92 Direct Connector project; acknowledged cities and citizens concerns of potential property impacts; findings reflect no houses or parks will be needed for current project alternatives; looking at no build project and three different alternatives; meet and greet event in the neighborhood scheduled May 18; staff walked door-to-door with project flyers and answered questions; updating public participation plan including monthly community emails, additional neighborhood pop-up events, and focused discussions during upcoming year; environmental review will take up to 3 years and is scheduled to complete in summer 2027

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

- Residents comments and feedback; impacts on property, houses, parks, and utilities
- City of San Mateo opposed project; City of Foster City wants to see environmental review results
- Community engagement efforts; project prioritizations of government agencies over time
- Structured process consistent across all projects
- Clarification of homes or whole parcel being protected; environmental impact report (EIR) data, cost for second part of project

- Definitive information if any property is needed in six to eight weeks; potentially 320 square feet of two backyards or properties in existing utilities easements; one alternative for consideration is no build that has no property impacts and is completely in California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) existing right-of-way

Public Comment

Guiliano Carlini commented on the Foster City council meeting and changing opinions of local government agencies over time.

Rich Hedges commented on the 101/92 project funding and spoke in support of not removing homes for the project.

10. Program

10.a. Programming and Allocating \$13,652,753 in New Measure A Local Shuttle Program Funds for the San Mateo County Shuttle Program Call for Projects for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 and Programming and Allocating \$400,000 in New Measure A Oversight Funds for San Mateo County Shuttle Study – Approved by Resolution No. 2025-13

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

- 23 shuttle routes applied to shuttle program
- Recommendations reviewed at May Board meeting
- Slight increases to project costs since May Board meeting but within available funding

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

- Allow time for shuttle programs to flourish and watch data over time
- Promote shuttle projects and opportunities for residents to ride

Motion/Second: Nagales/Fung

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Director Nagales reclused from the meeting at 5:51 pm.

10.b. Programming and Allocating \$69,718,678 in Measure W Regional Transit Connections Cycle 1 Program Funds for Eleven Projects – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-14*

Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, provided the presentation the presentation that included the following:

- Regional Transit Connections (RTC) Plan developed with other agencies which funds regional transit improvements that departs San Mateo County; call for projects on four-year cycle
- Three sub-categories for fund: capital, operating, first/last-mile with \$71 million release in 2025
- Cities can apply with transit agencies partnerships
- 11 projects were submitted with a total \$69.7 million funding requests
- Li Zhang, Chief of Commercial Business Development for Caltrain, spoke on application process, support, and guidance received from TA staff and stated Caltrain has made firm commitment to improve project delivery and funding management processes

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

- Acknowledged staff's quick work to bring the item for Board consideration in short time after project closed
- Scope of projects, quality, and distribution of projects; project operations and clarification of funding duration
- Dumbarton Bus, EPA projects

Public Comment

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area and Transbay Coalition, spoke in support of project funding, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) fare gates, Redwood City station and grade separations, station access, and first and last mile projects.

Pamela Herhold, Assistant General Manager, Bay Area Rapid Transit, commented on project funding for BART fare gates, improved experience, enhanced access for wheelchairs and bikes and strollers, 36 stations completed and on track to complete remaining stations by end of 2025. Benefits at stations with new gates include increased ridership, decrease in fare evasion, overall decrease in crime rates throughout entire system, and participation in Clipper START is increasing. Upon project funding, BART will mobilize in San Mateo County to complete fare gates project.

Gina Papan commented on project funding, BART fare gates, and improved ridership experience in San Mateo County.

Motion/Second: Mates/Fung
Ayes: Corzo, Fung, Medina, Speier, Mates, Romero
Noes: None
Absent: Nagales

Director Nagales rejoined the meeting at 6:17 pm.

11. Finance

11.a. Public Hearing: Adopting a Budget in the Amount of \$187,105,622 for Fiscal Year 2026 – Approved by Resolution No. 2025-15

Time Certain: 5:00 pm

I. Open Public Hearing

II. Present Staff Report

III. Hear Public Comment

IV. Close Public Hearing

V. Board Discussion and Action

I. The public hearing opened at 6:17 pm.

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

- Updates to proposed budget since preliminary budget went to Board in May 2025
- New and Original Measure A sources and expenditure changes
- Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) proposed sources budget \$206.4 million
- FY26 proposed uses budget \$187.1 million
- FY26 projected surplus \$19.3 million
- Authorize annual investment delegation per California Government Code section 53607

III. There were no public comments.

IV. The public hearing closed at 6:21 pm.

V. The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions, which included the conservative approach to sales tax source.

Motion/Second: Medina/Corzo
Ayes: Corzo, Fung, Medina, Nagales, Speier, Mates, Romero
Noes: None
Absent: None

12. Legislative Matters

12.a. Receive Legislative Update and Approve Legislative Proposal: Senate Bill 239 (Arreguín), Assembly Bill 259 (Rubio), and Assembly Bill 810 (Irwin)

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

Federal

- May 22 Budget Bill reconciliation package passed House of Representatives and moves to Senate; cut taxes, increase military spending; cuts to Medicaid, Department of Health, Center for Disease Control, Department of Education
- Individual appropriation spending bills marking up and goal to get through all 12 by end of July

State:

- Governors May revisions released; deficit of \$12 billion in 2025-2026
- Spending reductions in the State Budget, delays in funding shifts, withdrawal of state rainy day fund
- \$1.5 billion funding for California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE); up to \$700 million in cuts to public transit funding in 2025-2026 and additional cuts in future years
- Programs historically relied upon are under consideration to be cut
- Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) cuts lead to District losing \$2.5 million and Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) losing \$13 million
- \$2 billion funding request for transportation has been pushed aside, not in Governor's May revise
- Increase in funding for California High Speed Rail and more discussion to advocate for potential additional funds
- Assembly Bill (AB) 810, conversion to .gov, no longer an active bill; withdraw recommendation on a position
- Senate Bill (SB) 239, teleconference for advisory bodies to utilize remote participation without posting home address or making space available to the public, does not require a quorum
- AB 259 extension of sunset for AB 2449 to January 1, 2030

The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions, which included SB 239 application to electeds who are on advisory bodies.

Motion to approve support of SB 239 and AB 259 with no action taken for AB 810/Second: Speier/Medina

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Public Comment

Adina Levin commented Seamless Bay Area and regional advocacy groups outreach to electeds for SB 125 funds, LCTOP, and sustainable housing, and spoke in favor of SB 239.

Director Nagales left the meeting at 6:32 pm.

Ms. Epstein continued the presentation with regional transit updates which included the following:

- SB 63 timeline with August 11 deadline to opt in
- Key decisions for San Mateo County (SMC) to opt-in or not, to fund one or more transit agencies or programs, and the funding level
- San Mateo County Transit District (District) is partner in Caltrain and has an obligation to fund Caltrain
- Ballot measure options for new regional measure and Measure A; funding levels for Caltrain obligation, San Mateo County's BART contribution, Transit Transformation, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA), and SamTrans; cited some cities' tax rates will be over 10 percent with SB 63
- Current polling on transportation support, sales tax sensitivity, local versus regional decision making
- Third-party review of BART, Caltrain, SFMTA, Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District (AC Transit), and Golden Gate Bridge, Highway, and Transportation District (GGBHTD) study results
 - Labor drives expenses for all agencies
 - Annual shortfalls and cumulative deficits for AC Transit, BART, GGBHTD, Caltrain, and SFMTA
 - Wage and labor levels are steady; increases in expenses; decrease of ridership levels; and decrease in state and federal funding
- Governance under discussion defining taxing "district", tax implementation, funding allocation, oversight
- Municipal Transportation Commission (MTC) Transit Transformation and Administration proposal to lead program and how to spend funds
- Accountability measure for independent third-party review, operators develop and report on improvement implementation plan, select committee establishment who review and approve the third-party review, and funds withholding for failure to comply with Regional Network Management (RNM) requirements
- Accountability does not include clear consequences for failure to comply or guarantee representatives from counties providing funding on select committee

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

- Santa Clara County not represented on BART Board
- 1/4 and 1/2 cent sales tax and contribution levels to BART
- Regional measure funds to take care of all operator needs; reduce cutting operational

projects

- Polling data will provide insight to voter tax threshold elasticity
- SB 63 amendments discussions including return to source to SMC agencies
- Senators are aware capital projects are location specific
- Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) having similar conversations and alignment
- Sales tax and gross receipt tax discussions; burden of tax on low-income constituents versus businesses
- TA deficit is one of the lowest because of independence; if opt-in, BART's request for funds will continue to grow
- All of the five counties discussing Muni contributions
- Governance structure will be discussed at a future Board meeting; different ways to approach governance; different governing bodies
- Measure A renewal and sensitivity to voters
- SamTrans bus system deficit, up to \$30 million per year in 2035; system with 10 million rides that carries the highest percentage of low-income residents
- Public transit systems serving north SMC residents and residents' BART usage
- Transit agencies operational costs overall versus SMC and SMC service
- SMC centric or consolidation approach and economy-of-scale
- Accountability and movement to consolidation of transit; look at previous experiences of JPB
- Discussion on which level of tax would be in best interest of constituents, riders, and transit operators
- Transit transformation benefits and proposed programs; if SMC participates, benefits receive more than what SMC puts in, such as free or discounted rides
- Do not increase administrative costs with new entity as it may effect transit quality and service levels
- SMC not represented on BART Board; need accountability and governance on how resources are used

Director Mates left the meeting at 7:04 pm.

Chair Romero announced public comment reduced to one minute.

Public Comment

Adina Levin commented on various agencies ridership levels, Transit Transformation programs, and wayfinding increase effects on ridership.

Gina Papan commented on local control for accountability and withholding funds, and wayfinding pilot program in Millbrae.

13. Requests from the Authority – There were none.

14. Written Communications to Authority – Available online.

15. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting - Thursday, July 10, 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 7:37 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.