

**San Mateo County Transportation Authority
Board of Directors**

**1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California 94070
Minutes of July 10, 2025**

Members Present: N. Corzo, A. Fung, R. Medina, M. Nagales, J. Mates (Vice Chair),
C. Romero (Chair)

**Members Present
via Teleconference:** J. Speier

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: J. Cassman, A. Chan, J. Epstein, P. Gilster, L. Lumina-Hsu, P. Skinner,
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 Medina led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Malcolm Robinson commented on TA's Plan 2050 and the Board and Community Advisory Committee's relationship.

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 June 5, 2025

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

5.c. Approving and Ratifying the Transportation Authority Insurance Program for Fiscal Year 2026 – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-16*

Motion/Second: Medina/Fung

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. Nominating Committee Report for the Community Advisory Committee

6.a. Appointment of Community Advisory Committee Members

Chair Romero reported the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Nominating Committee interviewed three incumbents and two new applicants. Recommendation from Committee to appoint Christopher Kao and Richard Garbarino, and reappoint John Fox and Karen Kuklin.

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

- Nominating Committee members appointed by the Board
- Decision to not reappoint Mike Swire was not based on his advocacy
- Consideration about the CAC body and not on the individuals
- Role of CAC members and engagement with the community and other agencies
- CAC Rules of Procedure

Public Comment

Mike Swire commented on serving on the CAC.

Allison Chang spoke in support of appointing Mike Swire to the CAC.

Sandra Lang spoke in support of appointing Mike Swire to the CAC.

Guiliano Carlini spoke in support of appointing Mike Swire to the CAC.

Geoff Smith spoke in support of appointing Mike Swire to the CAC.

Karen Cutler spoke in support of appointing Mike Swire to the CAC.

Charles Stone spoke in support of the Nominating Committee's recommendation.

Malcolm Robinson spoke in support of appointing Mike Swire to the CAC.

Michael spoke in support of appointing Mike Swire to the CAC.

Mollie Carter spoke in support of appointing Mike Swire to the CAC.

Seema Patel spoke in support of appointing Mike Swire to the CAC.

Kayla Ling spoke in support of appointing Mike Swire to the CAC.

Judith Borcz spoke in support of appointing Mike Swire to the CAC.

Yiming Luo spoke in support of appointing Mike Swire to the CAC.

Adina Levin spoke in support of appointing Mike Swire to the CAC.

Peter Stevenson, Mayor of Burlingame, commented on advisory committees as they are not advocacy bodies, members are appointed by the Board for a specific role and the members maintain advisory role.

Motion to appoint Christopher Kao and Richard Garbarino, and reappoint John Fox and Karen Kuklin/Second: Fung/Mates

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

The Board Members continued discussion which included the following:

- Rights of individuals to participate in advocacy, and responsibility to other members and TA staff
- Community confusion of Mike Swire's advocacy as TA and TA CAC representative
- CAC members are advisory; distinction between advisory and advocacy
- CAC Rules of Procedures available on the website and provided to CAC members during onboarding
- Reexamination of how the Board appoints persons to the CAC

Motion to reappoint Mike Swire for 1-year term/Second: Romero/Speier

Ayes: Speier, Romero

Noes: Corzo, Fung, Medina, Nagales

Absent: None

Abstain: Mates

Motion to reappoint Mike Swire to full-term/Second: Fung/Medina

Ayes: Corzo, Fung, Speier, Romero

Noes: Medina, Nagales

Absent: None

Abstain: Mates

Director Corzo left the meeting at 6:00 pm.

7. Report of the Chair

Chair Romero stated the Grade Separation Ad Hoc Committee met on July 6 to sell property to Caltrain, and discussed grade separation guidelines principals and rational to limit fundings to pipeline projects and projects with political will. Discussed challenges to long-term funding projects given limited funding available. The 101 Corridor Connect Ad Hoc Committee met on July 6 and received a report on multimodal strategies and community engagements, roll out phase approaches, and South County multimodal strategy with Redwood City, East Palo Alto, Atherton, and Menlo Park is beginning.

7.a. Approve Cancellation of the August 7, 2025 Regular Board of Directors Meeting and Call a Special Board of Directors Meeting on July 30, 2025

Motion/Second: Medina/Nagales

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

Noes: None

Absent: Corzo

Public Comment

Adina Levin commented on timing of the July 30 Special Meeting which is the same day of the City and County Association of Governments of San Mateo County Special Meeting.

8. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

Director Medina stated the report was posted online.

9. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

Director Medina stated Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board recessed in July.

10. Report of Executive Director

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

- 101-Holly Interchange Improvements
- Call for projects up to \$200 million Measure A and W funding available

The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions about qualified roadways expanded including key congested area and supplemental areas now eligible for funding.

11. Program

11.a. 84-101 Reimagined Project Update

Vamsi Tabjulu, Project Manager, introduced Karen Pachmayer, Transportation Planner, City of Redwood City, and Tanisha Werner, Director of Engineering and Transportation, City of Redwood City, who provided the presentation that included the following:

- Lack of bike and pedestrian facilities and history of rear-end collisions
- Project benefits include travel time savings, air quality improvements, bike and pedestrian improvements, multi-modal connectivity, accidents reduction
- 100 percent funded; currently in right-of-way acquisition; constructed to begin 2027

The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions on corridor improvements; grants funding securements; and current bicycle experience in project area.

11.b. Programming and Allocating Measure A Caltrain Category Funds to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board for Purchase of Property Along the Caltrain Right of Way in Burlingame; Making Required Findings Under the Surplus Land Act; and Authorizing the Executive Director to Convey Grant Deeds to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board for Such Properties – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-17*

Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Fund Management, provided the presentation that included Caltrain's flexibility for property uses that benefit the railroad.

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

- Property leased to tenants and income going from TA to Caltrain; \$130,000 per year for both properties
- Transaction falls under Surplus Land Act exemption

Public Comment

Peter Stevenson, Mayor of Burlingame, spoke in support of the item and working with TA and Caltrain.

Motion/Second: Mates/Medina

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

Noes: None

Absent: Corzo

11.c. Programming and Allocating Measure A Grade Separation Category Funds to the City of Burlingame and Measure A Caltrain Category Funds to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board for the Redesign of the Broadway Grade Separation Project – *Approved by Resolution No. 2025-18*

Mr. Gilster provided the presentation that included the following:

- City of Burlingame and Caltrain agreed to remove the Burlingame Station; \$615 million project cost
- Project redesign cost share between City of Burlingame, Caltrain, and TA

The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions regarding partnership with City of Burlingame and Caltrain to address safety needs of Broadway Grade Separation Project.

Public Comment

Peter Stevenson, Mayor of Burlingame, spoke in support of funding the Broadway Grade Separation Project redesign and working with Caltrain to reduce final project costs.

Adina Levin, Seamless Bay Area, spoke in support of the item, cost effectiveness of capital projects, and Measure A funds usage.

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

12. Legislative Matters

12.a. Legislative Matters

12.a.i. Receive Federal and State Legislative Update

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

Federal

- One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB) passed and signed July 4, 2025; extends 2017 tax cuts; raises debt ceiling by \$5 trillion
- Fiscal Year starts October 1; both chambers not close to final budget

State

- Budget Act signed on June 30; restoration of \$1.1 billion in transit operations funding which was previously cut; \$750 million loan option which morphed from \$2 billion
- Highway to Boulevard cut; \$50 million in 2026 budget but shrinking and pushed out
- Senate Bill (SB) 512 (Perez) – allow for citizens initiatives for agencies that can place a sales tax such as the TA; staff reaching what and how to apply to TA

The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions on SB 512 could become law this year.

12.a.ii. Approve Legislative Proposal: Assembly Bill 476 (González), Assembly Bill 1014 (Rogers), and Assembly Bill 1085 (Stefani)

Ms. Epstein provided the presentation that included the following:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 476 – copper wire theft; requires junk dealers and recyclers to maintain more detailed transaction records and provide records to law enforcement
- AB1014 and AB 1085 – highway limits; Caltrans to reduce highway speed limits in non-freeway roads; speed limit set by 85 percent or below of drivers drive

The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions on Caltrans jurisdiction areas.

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

Director Nagales recused from the meeting at 6:54 pm.

12.a.iii. Receive Senate Bill 63 and San Mateo County Polling Updates

Ms. Epstein introduced Sarah LaBatt, Senior Principal, EMC Research, who provided the presentation that included the following:

- 2,400 countywide interviews conducted; 80 percent of participants reported using public transit with 27 percent using public transportation at least once a month
- 60 percent of voters support a regional tax increase for local or regional transportation investments; Two-thirds of voters supported the extension of Measure A without increasing the rate
- Over half of voters value high-quality roads and transit services at the expense of increasing taxes. Significant interest in enhanced transit connectivity across the region, road maintenance and pothole repairs, congestion relief; Voters displayed indifference to the increases presented even if increased tax rates totaled at or above 10 percent
- Coastsiders expressed slight concern around cost and tax burden; sentiment remained directionally supportive

The Board Members had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions on voter sentiment analysis when using supportive and negative polling questions.

Ms. Epstein continued the presentation with Senate Bill (SB) 63 updates that included the following:

- SB 63 reviewed by Assembly Transportation Committee on July 7; reviewed by Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee on July 14
- Opt-in at 1/4 or 1/2 cent amount; which agencies to fund and at what level
- If SamTrans opts-out, will need to develop new plan for how SamTrans will fund obligation to Caltrain's \$32 million annual operating deficit for FY27-FY34 and beyond
 - Pros: Fastest emergency funds, protects Measure A, likely voter approval, preserve neighboring agencies
 - Cons: Raises tax rates in 2026, nine or eleven San Mateo County (SMC) cities will have sales tax over 10 percent
- 1/4 cent tax generates \$60 million
 - Pros: additional revenue, limit tax burden, covers portion of Caltrain deficit
 - Cons: nine cities tax rates over 10 percent, no transit transformation fund, no return to source for SamTrans, limited Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency (SFMTA) support
- 1/2 cent tax generates \$120 million
 - Pros: independently fund Caltrain deficit, flexible return to source funds to District, contributions to BART and SFMTA protecting service reduction into SMC, best protects Measure A
 - Cons: limits local tax measure appetite, eleven cities tax rate over 10 percent, overreliance potential on 10 to 15 year measure
- SMC funding ranges: Caltrain \$32 million, BART \$25-32 million, SFMTA \$5-10 million, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) \$9 million

- SMC rider transit system usage: SamTrans 10 million+, BART 3 million+, Caltrain 2.3 million, SFMTA 2.2 million
- SFMTA provides nine routes into SMC to/from Daly City
- Consideration of SMC opt-in agreements include reasonable service levels in SMC; SMC BART stations standards; new surcharges that disproportionately impact SMC riders; SMC focused expenditure updates; and local monitoring and oversight of side-letter agreements
- Decisions to be made: July 30 - TA Board of Directors (BOD) Special Meeting and City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) BOD Special Meeting and August 6 SamTrans BOD Meeting

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

- Clarification if not opting-in; no counties want to pay benefits for other counties
- Opt-in at 1/2 sales tax rate; Measure A Caltrain portion usage; Caltrain obligation fulfilled; goal for Caltrain to be financial stable at end of measure
- Reasonable service levels in SMC; closure of stops; sustained service levels
- How opt-in or opt-out affects riders
- Accountability over regional measure duration
- Sales tax versus gross receipts tax approach
- BART funding from regional measure; disparity between deficits of SMC agencies versus BART
- Enforcement of what SMC wants in the regional measure
- Northern SMC residents usage of SFMTA and BART services
- Control of funds and oversight committee role

Vice Chair Mates left the meeting at 7:57 pm.

Public Comment

Mike Swire spoke in support of a regional funding measure.

Ryan Williams, Bay Area Forward, spoke in support of progressive gross receipts tax.

Dylan Finch spoke in support of regional funding measure.

Jenny Michel spoke in support of funding public transit and SB 63.

Max Mautner commented on interagency ridership and spoke in support of gross receipts tax.

Adina Levin commented on polling results, spoke in support of Transit Transformation and street safety improvements.

Krysta Waldrop spoke in support of SB 63 and a progressive gross receipts tax.

Michael Crocker spoke in support of a regional funding measure and a progressive gross receipts tax.

13. Requests from the Authority – Deferred.

14. Written Communications to Authority – Deferred.

15. Date/Time of Upcoming Meetings

Special Meeting: Wednesday, July 30, 2025 at 3:00 pm

Regular Meeting: Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 5:00 pm

16. Report of Legal Counsel – Deferred.

17. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.