



TA Board of Directors

Meeting of January 8, 2026

Correspondence as of December 5, 2025

Subject

1. 12/4 meeting - Highway projects
2. Pls Make It Safe

From: [Mike Swire](#)
To: [Board \(@smcta.com\)](#)
Cc: [Mario Rendon](#); [Adam Loraine](#); [Sara McDowell](#)
Subject: 12/4 meeting - Highway projects
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 2:43:45 PM

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Dear SMCTA Board Members,

Happy holidays and thank you for your service to the transportation needs of SM County. I wanted to reach out with some quick input on the slate of highway projects that you will be reviewing on 12/4, Item 11.b.

First, I want to commend staff and others who put together this list of projects. I believe that this is an enormous improvement over previous highway project proposals from the TA. This proposal includes a variety of projects that will improve safety, especially for those who walk and bike. In addition, it appears that there are no projects which will expand car-focused infrastructure and increase VMT.

Second, I want to give a big thumbs up to two of the projects on the list. The **Holly Street/101 interchange & safety bridge in San Carlos** proposal addresses a long history of fatal crashes and serious injuries. [A year ago](#), we mourned the tragic loss of Andrea Vallebuena, a 31-year-old who was killed while biking on Holly across 101. Andrea's death was especially senseless as we have been discussing a ped/bike safety bridge at this junction for several decades.

I also highly recommend support for the **19th Avenue Fashion Island project in San Mateo**. I live close to this corridor and rely on it to get across 101 on bike or foot. This crossing is currently unsafe and uncomfortable for those who don't drive; there is no safe crossing of 101 between 3rd Avenue in San Mateo and Ralston in Belmont, a distance of 4+ miles. Earlier this year, a driver killed much loved local resident [Mark Kremer](#) who was walking on Fashion Island. Congressman Kevin Mullin and staff have gotten federal money for this project.

Thanks for listening and I hope that you approve these great projects.

Mike Swire
San Mateo, CA
writing on my own behalf

From: [Malcolm Robinson](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Pls Make It Safe
Date: Thursday, December 4, 2025 3:51:40 PM
Attachments: [2025 SMC TA Dec.docx](#)

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Pls make it safe for pedestrians and bicyclists in SMC

Rgds,

Malcolm Robinson

To: San Mateo County

Transportation Authority

Date: 12/3/25

From: Malcolm Robinson

Subject: Transport Philosophy

Road Design Philosophy:

I have lived over 4 years in Europe, managing international trade and transportation. It was not until this last September on a European motorcycle ride that I understood the different philosophies for road design: Europeans prefer to keep traffic safely flowing, while the USA says: STOP!

On the news from Austria, I saw a police officer I recognized talking to a driverless car breaking the law. How does it feel, TA, to be a global laughingstock as you have no process to manage our streets or to keep people and pets safe? The page 1 WSJ article today sums up your approach, and that of the billionaires taking over our streets.

The SMC TA wants to keep freeways moving faster, while those on city streets must stop and wait. I was about 2 weeks into my tour and had just entered Slovenia when I came upon a Stop sign, the first I had seen since Bastogne 2 weeks before.

Europe invented and used traffic circles extensively and a priority road concept. The vehicles on the secondary road must wait until it is safe to move on, similar to how traffic is supposed to merge at a freeway on ramp. I wish SMC would use more traffic circles rather than have vehicles stop to spew toxins and create traffic jams.

Europe has paved trails so people can walk or bicycle between towns. In San Mateo County we couldn't link the southern extension of Sawyer Camp Trail with Canada Road in a manner to make it safe for risk averse pedestrians and bicyclists to enjoy a Sunday ride. Why Not??

There appears to be no effort or process to create a safe way to bicycle between towns on the Peninsula. We have no Class 1, 2, 3, or 4 trail or bikeways to move between Peninsula towns, unless you use the Bay Trail or Sawyer Camp Trail. Wouldn't a trail along the Caltrain ROW facilitate safe transport down the heart of Peninsula population?

TWO Minute Warning:

It is my belief, after watching the SMC TA for two years, that you don't want to hear from the public. You allow just 2 minutes for public comment, or start Zoom after the meeting has started and after Public Comments on the agenda, or the Chair simply does not recognize those who call in. Last year a member of your CAC asked to work closer with the TA, and a member of the TA said, "Git, Go Back to Your committee." Really?!?