

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

1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California 94070

DRAFT Minutes of May 7, 2026

Members Present: Anders Fung (arrived at 5:03 pm), Rico E. Medina, Ray Mueller, Carlos Romero, Mark Nagales (Vice Chair), Julia Mates (Chair)

Members Absent: Noelia Corzo

Staff Present: J. Cassman, A. Chan, J. Epstein, P. Gilster, C. Liao, L. Lumina-Hsu, P. Skinner, M. Tseng

1. Call to Order

Chair Mates called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

2. Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

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

Chair Mates led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Rich Hedges commented on Federal funding opportunity for Broadway Grade Separation.

4. Report of the Community Advisory Committee

Chair Mates stated the report is available online.

Director Fung joined the meeting at 5:03 pm.

5. Consent Calendar

5.a. Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of April 2, 2026

5.b. Accept Quarterly Investment Report

5.c. Accept Quarterly Reports for On-Call Contracts for Fiscal Year 2026 Quarter 3

5.d. Increasing the Allocation of New Measure A Local Shuttle Program Funds for the Skyline College Daly City Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) Express Shuttle from \$304,136 to \$608,272 in the Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Shuttle Program –
Approved by Resolution No. 2026-12

Motion/Second: Medina/Nagales

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

Noes: None

Absent: Corzo

6. Report of the Chair

Chair Mates stated there was no report.

7. San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

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

- Staff transition to new headquarters
- Board of Directors Ad Hoc Committees including Child Care Ad Hoc Committee
- Citizens Advisory Committee appointments
- Draft Local Investment Plan presentation

8. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

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

- Sheriff's contract amendment agreements
- New headquarters lease signed
- Preliminary operating budget reviewed
- Caltrain's No External Funding scenarios discussion

9. Report of Executive Director

9.a. Report of the Executive Director

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

- New headquarters move timeline and ongoing facilities and audio/visual testing; public notification of upcoming budget item, June SMCTA meeting to be held in San Carlos
- Chief Financial Officer (CFO) departure moved up; nationwide CFO search ongoing
- SMCTA working with City of Burlingame and Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) on railroad crossing federal grant program
- Meetings with legislature in Sacramento along with Chair Mates and SamTrans Board Chair Marie Chuang; discussed Broadway Grade Separation Project needs to restore funding and issues related to SamTrans

9.b. Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) Operations and Capital Improvements Update

Ms. Chan introduced Michael Jones, BART Deputy General Manager, who provided the presentation which included the following:

- New fare gates installations; decrease in crime; double rate of cleaning at stations; tap and ride payment system, new trains have onboard digital screens, BART mobile application (app) updated including easy parking payment option
- San Mateo County short-term and long-term improvement projects; short-term include infrastructure improvements completion targeted for end of 2026
- "Big Sync" collaboration with public transit agencies to support rider transfer
- Increased ridership satisfaction and on-train experience
- New fare gates increasing fare revenue generating \$10 million annually
- BART was self-sustained and budget supported by farebox during first 50 years of operation

- BART operating deficit: fare revenue gap of \$300-\$400 million; fare revenue down more than \$400 million compared to pre-pandemic
- Reducing expenses efforts; revenue development plans and executions
- Reviewed alternative service plan if Connect Bay Area measure fails

Mr. Jones provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions, which included the following:

- Level of service provided maintained if measure passes
- BART's plans to be self-sustaining; efforts to find new revenue stream
- Fiscal controls and accountability measures for each public transit agency receiving funds from measure
- Adjusting train car lengths based on ridership levels for different lines and peak/off-peak times
- Increased BART security and visibility of officers
- Measure sustains three transit agencies in San Mateo County: BART, SamTrans bus system, and Caltrain
- Transit agency sync coordination; addressing station improvements; collaborations with cities and SMCTA

Public Comment

Rich Hedges commented on the old Key System which carrying freight at night to be considered for revenue source.

10. Program

10.a. Programming and Allocating \$2,804,490 in Measure A Grade Separation Category and \$860,625 in Measure A Caltrain Category Funds for the South Linden Avenue/Scott Street Grade Separation Project's Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Clearance Phase – Approved by Resolution No. 2026-13

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

- Project purpose, mobility improvements, and safety benefits
- Value engineering process and optimized project alternative
- Reduced construction impacts, right-of-way (ROW) needs, and project costs
- Additional funding needs for preliminary engineering and environmental clearance
- Updated project schedule, cost estimates, and funding split recommendation

Staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions, which included the following:

- Design refinement; ongoing review of opportunities to save on project costs
- Project meets guidelines established in February 2026

Motion/Second: Medina/Nagales

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

Noes: None

Absent: Corzo

11. Finance

11.a. Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget

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

- Measure A and W sales tax as primary funding source with stable growth
- Program allocations driving majority of expenditures for transportation programs
- Interest income supporting technical assistance, corridor programs, and Measure A reauthorization work
- San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority (SMEL JPA) debt service and external project costs fully offset by dedicated revenues
- Measure A reauthorization planning and long-term funding strategy

Staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions, which included the following:

- Proposed marketing budget first time for Board consideration; plans to elevate new logo, brand, website refresh, and celebrate work of SMCTA; \$100,000 budget is what can be done in-house
- Directed staff to provide spending plan if marketing budget is increased to \$500,000 with accompanying language that prohibits spending on regional measure efforts

Public Comment

Drew commented on public knowledge of SMCTA.

12. Legislative Matters

12.a. Legislative Update

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

Federal

- Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) appropriation process underway, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) markup on May 21 and full committee markup on June 4
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA) legislative conference visit to Washington D.C. by SamTrans Chair Marie Chuang and General Manager/CEO April Chan, meetings with congressional delegation
- US 101 and State Route (SR) 84 interchange project, funding release advocacy ongoing
- Advocacy for increased funding for grade separation and highway safety projects

State

- April 24 fiscal bill deadline and May 15 non-fiscal bill deadline; May budget revision
- April 14 California Air Resources Board (CARB) amendments to reduce greenhouse gas fund revenues by \$2 billion (cap-and-invest program)

- SB 1087 - sustainable communities modernization of framework, known as Plan Bay Area

Staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions, which included the following:

- US 101/SR 84 grant stuck in review process; working with legislators so money is released by end of calendar year so there would be no project delays
- Bill by Senator Cabaldon to streamline California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); would make big difference for large, multi-year projects/plans

13. Requests from the Authority – There were none.

14. Written Communications to the Authority – Available online.

15. Date/Time/Location of Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 5:00 pm

The meeting will be accessible via Zoom teleconference and/or in person at the San Mateo County Transit District, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070.

16. Report of Legal Counsel

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, stated there was no report.

17. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.