

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

166 North Rollins Road, Millbrae, California 94030

Minutes of September 3, 2026

Members Present: Noelia Corzo, Rico E. Medina, Ray Mueller, Carlos Romero, Julia Mates (Chair)

Members Absent: Anders Fung, Mark Nagales

Staff Present: S. Atkinson, J. Cassman, A. Chan, J. Epstein, A. Feng, R. Galindo, P. Gilster, P. Skinner, M. Tseng

1. Call to Order

Chair Mates 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.

Chair Mates led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Chad Houston commented on transportation goals and creating family-supporting jobs.

4. Report of the Community Advisory Committee

Chair Mates stated the report was available online.

Director Romero requested that staff provide the Board with the Community Advisory Committee's special presentation on mode shift.

5. Consent Calendar

5.a. Approval of Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of August 6, 2026

5.b. Accept Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for Fiscal Year 2026 Quarter 4

5.c. Accept Preliminary Year-End Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026

5.d. Approving and Ratifying the Fiscal Year 2027 Insurance Program – *Approved by Resolution No. 2026-21*

5.e. Programming and Allocating \$4,100,000 in New Measure A Interest Income Funds and Awarding \$8,100,000 Under the 101 Corridor Connect Kickstart Mini-Grant Program for 11 Projects – *Approved by Resolution No. 2026-22*

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

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 San Mateo County Transit Districts' (SamTrans') 50th Anniversary video and celebration.

8. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Liaison Report

Director Medina stated the report was posted online and noted Caltrain's upcoming American Public Transportation Association (APTA) safety award and collaboration between SamTrans and Caltrain.

9. Report of Executive Director

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

- Broadway Burlingame Grade Separation Project; 65 percent design completed and \$662 million cost estimate
- Project funding plan and federal grant
- SMCTA website and logo refresh
- Marketing campaign; digital advertising, video commercial, paste-up posters, and brand awareness survey
- SamTrans 50th Anniversary video and September 26 event

10. Program

10.a. Peninsula Shuttle Program Optimization and Funding Strategy Update

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

- Shuttle route nominations and scoring; 23 nominations received
- Funding scenarios and proposed 10 percent local match
- Proposed three-year local sponsor funding agreements and SMCTA backstop funding
- Proposed separate vehicle procurement using Measure A interest income to support additional shuttle routes

Director Corzo arrived at 5:18pm

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

- Estimated operating cost increases and potential savings from separate vehicle procurement
- Quantitative and qualitative route evaluation criteria
- Transit propensity analysis and quarterly performance monitoring
- Annual and mid-program shuttle performance reviews
- Potential for higher local matches to maintain shuttle service and support additional routes
- Three-year local sponsor funding agreements and seven-year SMCTA backstop
- Separate vehicle procurement using Measure A interest income
- Potential transportation impacts from approximately 40,000 fewer quarterly rides
- Request for staff to evaluate the transportation impacts of reduced shuttle service
- Local sponsor budget constraints and the importance of maintaining first- and last-mile connections

Public Comment

John Ford, Executive Director of Commute.org, commented on the complexity of the shuttle program, the potential loss of routes and ridership, and the importance of first- and last-mile connections

10.b. Programming and Allocating \$3,000,000 in Highway Program Funds for the Design Phase of the State Route (SR) 84/United States (U.S.) 101 Interchange Reimagined Project – Approved by Resolution No. 2026-23

Patrick Gilster, Director, Planning and Funding Management and Leo Scott, President, Gray-Bowen-Scott, provided the presentation that included the following:

- Final design and right-of-way (ROW) activities; 20 properties required and nine condemnation lawsuits filed
- \$105 million Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant and \$385 million project cost
- Redesign of seven bridge structures and 15 non-standard retaining walls due to updated Caltrans seismic criteria
- Stormwater mitigation, rail crossing improvements, and utility relocations
- Cost and risk mitigation strategies
- \$3 million Measure A Highway Program funding request under the Board's Special Circumstance Authority

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

- Highway Program funding requests and local match requirements
- 50 percent local match requirement for project cost increases within the sponsor's control
- Consistent treatment of the Redwood City and Half Moon Bay projects
- Project contingency within the overall project budget

Director Mueller left at 6:08 pm

Motion/Second: Romero/Medina

Ayes: Corzo, Medina, Romero, Mates

Noes: None

Absent: Fung, Mueller, Nagales

11. Finance

11.a. Update on United States (U.S.) 101 Express Lanes Variable Rate Bonds and Express Lanes Performance

Ray Galindo, Manager of Debt, Investment and Cash Management and Kim Comstock, Program Director, San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority (SMCEL-JPA), provided the presentation that included the following:

- \$16.7 million in principal payments made in the new fiscal year
- 15.6 million Express Lanes trips and more than 61,000 average daily trips
- Toll-free, paid, and violation trip trends
- Toll revenue, operating expenses, and debt management costs
- Express Lanes travel speeds and congestion monitoring
- Go Card Program expansion and mobility benefits
- 5,100 Go Cards distributed, totaling approximately \$1 million in direct benefits
- Community partnerships, multilingual outreach, and 32 outreach events reaching more than 4,000 residents

Staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions, which included Go Card funding, distribution, and potential disaster recovery transit benefits for individuals affected by disasters.

12. Legislative Matters

12.a. Legislative Update

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

- Federal continuing resolution extending funding through December 11
- Burlingame Grade Separation Project rail crossing elimination grant advocacy
- State transportation funding outcomes and reductions to transit programs

- Assembly Bill (AB) 1198 prevailing wage requirements and potential impacts on project funding plans

13. Requests from the Authority – Director Corzo requested whether the Go Card program can be expanded for victims of local disasters.

14. Written Communications to the Authority – Available online.

15. Date/Time of Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, October 1, 2026, at 5:00 pm

16. Report of Legal Counsel

16.a. Closed Session: Conference with Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Former Property: 2777 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94403

Negotiators: April Chan and Joan Cassman

Negotiating Party: City of San Mateo

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Transfer

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, announced the closed session item and stated it would be continued to October 1, 2026 meeting.

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.