

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070
MINUTES OF APRIL 1, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT: E. Beach (Chair), C. Groom, D. Horsley (left at 7:10 pm), J. Mates,
Via R. Medina (Vice Chair), M. Nagales, C. Romero
Teleconference

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: J. Hartnett, C. Mau, A. Chan, J. Hurley, J. Cassman, S. van Hoffen,
D. Hansel, P. Gilster, P. Skinner, J. Brook, D. Seamans

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Seamans confirmed that a quorum was present.

Chair Beach requested that Director Don Horsley lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments.

4. REPORT OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair Beach noted that the report was in the packet.

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- a) **Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of March 4, 2021**
- b) **Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Period Ending February 28, 2021**
- c) **Acceptance of Measure A and Measure W Semiannual Program Status Report**
- d) **Execute Master Agreements with the California Department of Transportation –
*Approved by Resolution No. 2021-7***

Director Carlos Romero requested to pull #5b.

The Board moved to approve Items #5a, c, and d in one motion:

Motion/Second: Groom/Romero

Ayes: Beach, Groom, Horsley, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: None

Director Romero asked why there was more money than expected in the checking account. Derek Hansel said it was related to bond issuance and large inflows compared to outflows.

The Board moved to approve Item #5b:

Motion/Second: Medina/Romero

Ayes: Beach, Groom, Horsley, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: None

6. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

a) Resolution of Appreciation for Jim Hartnett

Chair Beach shared highlights of the leadership role that Jim Hartnett, who is leaving the San Mateo County Transit District on April 9, 2021, played for the TA.

The directors provided words commemorating Mr. Hartnett.

Approved by Resolution No. 2021-8:

Motion/Second: Mates/Romero

Ayes: Beach, Groom, Horsley, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: None

Mr. Hartnett expressed his appreciation for the comments and the resolution.

b) Resolution on San Mateo County Transportation Authority's Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Approved by Resolution No. 2021-9:

Motion/Second: Groom/Medina

Ayes: Beach, Groom, Horsley, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: None

Under the Chair's report, Chair Beach also reported that there was a lot of action related to federal infrastructure funding. She announced that she had recently been appointed to Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee at the federal level through the National League of Cities.

She then announced that Director Mates volunteered to represent the TA on the C/CAG (City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County) board, with herself as the alternate.

7. JOINT POWERS BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Jim Hartnett, Executive Director, said that the report had been posted to the website.

He noted that a significant topic from that morning's Joint Powers Board (JPB) Board meeting had been the presentation of the special legal counsel report to the Board that outlined the history of the agency's creation, the funding provided by SamTrans to purchase the right of way and the obligations of the various parties under the agreements. He said the presentation accompanying the report made clear that SamTrans is entitled to remain as the managing agency for Caltrain for so long as it desires and the agency exists. He added that the report was presented in the context

of the continuing discussion on the potential change in Caltrain's governance model. He said that there had been a past Board workshop to discuss Caltrain governance and that there would be a second workshop on May 14.

Director Horsley said he was pleased that SamTrans was remaining as the managing agency for Caltrain.

8. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Hartnett said that his report was in the packet.

He wished April Chan, Chief Officer, Planning, Grants/Transportation Authority, a happy birthday.

He gave a brief update on the South San Francisco Caltrain Station project, noted that contractor delays have impacted the project schedule.

9. PROGRAM

a) Program Report: Transit – Ferry Program Update

Ms. Chan provided a brief background of the project.

Jessica Manzi, Transportation Manager, City of Redwood City provided the presentation on the feasibility study for ferry service between Redwood City and San Francisco and the East Bay.

Director Mark Nagales asked about plans for first- and last-mile transit to and from the ferries. Ms. Manzi said that shuttles would continue to operate to help residents get to the port during peak commute hours. She said additional shuttles may need to be planned if the ferry service will also serve non-peak hours and to serve special events.

Director Mates asked if there was forecasting related to environmental impacts for recreational water users. Ms. Manzi said it was too soon to determine potential solutions. She said that WETA (San Francisco Bay Water Emergency Transportation Authority) operates in areas that are also used by recreational water users, so they could look into those areas for future assessment for the Redwood City service. Kristine Zortman, Executive Director, Port of Redwood City, said that WETA is focused on safety as a priority.

Director Horsley asked if dredging of the port was taken into consideration in the study, and Ms. Manzi said that it was. Ms. Zortman said that one of locations was near the federally managed channel, which receives federal funding. Director Horsley asked about possible sources of revenue to subsidize the project. Ms. Manzi noted that Regional Measure 3 (RM3) had been identified as the major funding source. Director Horsley asked if they had conducted an equity study, and Ms. Manzi said they had planned to do so.

Director Romero asked if the cost of dredging had been included in the operating expenses. Bill Hurrell, Consultant, CDM Smith, said yes. Director Romero asked how the per-passenger subsidy compares to other transit options. He asked how the capital costs on a per-mile basis compare to non water-based projects. Ms. Manzi said that first- and last-mile costs would be included in the business plan. She said they are looking at transit options between the RWC Caltrain station and the ferry. Kevin Connolly, Manager, Planning and Development, WETA, said the closest comparison

would be Dumbarton Rail. Mr. Hurrell said that magnitude of subsidy is comparable to other modes with similar-length trips.

Director Groom asked about contributions from the business community to encourage their employees to get out of their cars. Ms. Manzi said they would include this outreach to employers in the business plan.

Chair Beach asked about how the emissions from the ferries compares with other modes of travel. Seamus Murphy, Executive Director, WETA, said new regulations are being proposed, saying that diesel particulate filters (DPFs) to reduce emissions will likely be required by the mid-2020s. He said they are looking to convert their fleet to electric vessels as the technology continues to evolve.

Chair Beach asked if most of the ridership was anticipated to come from Caltrain. Ms. Manzi said that the ridership models take into account all the other transit modes. Mr. Hurrell said they studied the geographic areas of residents and employees and population numbers. He said they also reached out to riders and found that people like being able to relax and work while riding on the ferries.

10. FINANCE

a) Program and Allocate \$160,000 in Measure A Ferry Program Funds to the Port of Redwood City for Preparation of a Business Plan Related to a Proposed Ferry Terminal in Redwood City

Peter Skinner, Director, Grants and Fund Management, presented the staff report.

Mr. Murphy said that WETA was excited about learning about all aspects of building the business plan. He said that future funding is depending on RM3 and federal subsidies for vehicles and operating costs.

Vice Chair Medina noted that he supported development of the business plan and inclusion of an equity program.

Director Horsley said he thought that the location of the proposed Redwood City ferry terminal was remote.

Approved by Resolution No. 2021-10:

Motion/Second: Horsley/Medina

Ayes: Beach, Groom, Horsley, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: None

b) Program and Allocate \$840,000 in Local Partnership Formula Funds to the City of Redwood City Hopkins Avenue Traffic Safety Project and Re-program and Re-allocate \$840,000 of Measure W Pedestrian and Bicycle Funds to the City of Belmont Ralston Avenue Segment 3 Project

Patrick Gilster, Manager, Programming and Monitoring, presented the staff report.

Director Mates commended the cities and other agencies for working together to fund the project.

Approved by Resolution No. 2021-11:

Motion/Second: Mates/Horsley

Ayes: Beach, Groom, Horsley, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: None

c) Update on San Mateo County Transportation Authority's Use of Proceeds Related to the 2020 Subordinate Sales Tax Revenue Variable Rate Demand Bonds

Mr. Hansel provided the background related to the TA's use of bond proceeds for the US 101 Express Lanes Project and then Jayden Sangha, Treasury Manager, provided the presentation.

Director Romero asked how the TA created the capitalized interest fund. Mr. Hansel said the TA had capitalized interest costs from the issuance of bonds, assuming a 2 percent interest rate. He said that bond proceeds are being used to pay interests initially. He said that they anticipated the short-term rates on which the bonds are pegged will remain relatively low over the next two- to three-year borrowing period.

Chair Beach reminded the TA Board why the TA issued bonds to assist with the US 101 Express Lanes Project. She also asked about money in hand for highway projects: the TA has currently collected over \$100 million in the highway category. Ms. Chan said they have \$96 million in the Measure A highway category and \$28 million in the Measure W category and that these monies are held for the next highway call for projects. Chair Beach said she is pleased that the TA has a good credit rating to help with the express lanes project funding. Mr. Hartnett commended Mr. Hansel's extensive financial markets experience.

Chair Beach also noted that at the last C/CAG meeting, there was a discussion of seeking additional funding for the 101 Express Lanes Project equity programs.

11. STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND APPROVAL OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS: SUPPORT SB 339 (WIENER)

Amy Linehan, Public Affairs Specialist, briefly summarized the highlights of recent federal legislation including President Biden's American Rescue Plan, which contains significant funding for transportation. She also noted the President's infrastructure plan, which also proposes \$620 billion for transportation infrastructure and resiliency programs.

Director Horsley left the meeting at 7:10 pm.

On the state side, Ms. Linehan said the legislature is currently on spring recess.

She said that Senate Bill (SB) 339I would extend the pilot program to study alternatives to the gas tax to 2027.

Motion/Second: Medina/Nagales

Ayes: Beach, Groom, Mates, Medina, Nagales, Romero

Noes: None

Absent: Horsley

12. REQUESTS FROM THE AUTHORITY

There were no requests.

13. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO THE AUTHORITY

Chair Beach noted that the correspondence was available on the website.

14. DATE/TIME OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Chair Beach announced that the next meeting would be on Thursday, May 6, 2021 5:00 pm, via Zoom teleconference.

15. REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Ms. Cassman said that there was nothing to report.

16. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm commemorating Mr. Hartnett's service to the TA.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at www.smcta.com. Questions may be referred to the Authority Secretary's office by phone at 650.508.6242 or by email to board@smcta.com.