

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CA 94070**

**MINUTES
JANUARY 8, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT: R. Foust (Chair), R. Gordon, C. Groom, J. Lee, K. Matsumoto,
R. O'Mahony (Vice Chair)

MEMBERS ABSENT: J. Vreeland

STAFF PRESENT: G. Cameron, J. Cassman, V. Harrington, R. Haskin, J. Hurley,
R. Lake, M. Martinez, I. McAvoy, N. McKenna, D. Miller, S. Murphy,
M. Scanlon, M. Simon

Chair Rosanne Foust called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. Director Rich Gordon led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Oath of Office was administered to Carole Groom (Board of Supervisors), Rosalie O'Mahony (Central County) and Rosanne Foust (South County).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The motion (O'Mahony/Lee) to re-elect Chair Foust as the Chair for 2009 passed.

The motion (Lee/Groom) to re-elect Director O'Mahony as Vice Chair for 2009 passed.

Chair Foust said she appreciates serving with Vice Chair O'Mahony. She thanked the Directors and staff and looks forward to another year as Chair.

Director O'Mahony said that in her interview for reappointment, she said the TA is the best Board she has ever served on because of her wonderful colleagues and great staff, and in particular, because of Executive Director Michael Scanlon. She is looking forward to another year as Vice Chair.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Director O'Mahony said that on page 8 of 11 of the minutes, she would like to add the following to her comment. "She would like to see in the tri-party document that the *dollar amount* commitments from Regional Measure 2 (RM2) and Prop 1B and federal earmarks are assured.
- b. Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for November 2008.

A motion (O'Mahony/Gordon) to approve the Consent Calendar was passed.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC) REPORT

Chair Pat Dixon reported on the January 6, 2009 meeting:

- Director Karyl Matsumoto thanked the CAC for its hard work.
- The CAC received a presentation by Kelvin Yu, manager, Project Controls, on the new 'traffic light' format for the Capital Projects Status Report – 1st Quarter Fiscal Year 2009.
- Staff presented an update on the South San Francisco Ferry Allocation.

- High Speed Rail (HSR) will hold a scoping meeting at 3 p.m. on January 22, 2009 at the District administrative offices.
- The CAC asked for an update on Caltrain electrification at a future meeting.
- Committee members raised questions about the Smart Corridor Project and it was requested that Rich Napier and John Hoang with the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) present an update on the project.

Director John Lee asked if the CAC understood the need, purpose and methods for the project to deal with emergency accidents on Highway 101 and why there is a need to divert traffic. Chair Dixon said an update on the Smart Corridor Project would clarify some issues for the CAC. Chief Development Officer Ian McAvoy will follow up with C/CAG staff.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – ROSANNE FOUST

No report.

SAMTRANS LIAISON REPORT – KARYL MATSUMOTO

The December 10, 2008 report is in the agenda packet.

JOINT POWERS BOARD REPORT (JPB)

The January 8, 2009 meeting was canceled.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michael Scanlon:

1. Congratulated Chair Foust and Director O'Mahony on re-election to Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.
2. Welcomed Director Groom, who was a member of the SamTrans Board.
3. Former TA Director Mark Church will be recognized for his service at a future board meeting.
4. The 2004 Measure A, which took effect on Jan. 1, 2009, contains a provision in the Expenditure Plan to fund local transportation among the 20 cities and towns in San Mateo County. An updated agreement has been distributed to the 20 cities and towns in the county for the distribution of these funds. The new agreement requires that each city and/or town submit a brief summary of the projects and programs funded with the 2004 Measure A monies to the Authority within 90 days from the end of the city or town's fiscal year. Funding allocations to cities and towns increased from 20 percent in the 1988 Measure A to 22.5 percent in the 2004 Measure A.

FINANCE

South San Francisco Ferry Allocation Update

TA Program Director Joe Hurley said the Board authorized Mr. Scanlon to negotiate and enter into an agreement with the City of South San Francisco and the Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) to allow for an advance of \$15 million of Measure A funds for the South San Francisco Ferry Terminal Project. At the request of the Board, the following conditions have been added to the draft funding agreement:

- Three parties will sign onto the agreement - WETA, South San Francisco and the TA.
- First responders will be given priority to use the ferry system in emergencies and these terms will be done in writing in the agreement and as part of WETA's system management plan.
- A service business plan will be submitted to the TA for approval prior to the distribution of any funds.
- Project officials must demonstrate a commitment of other funds from other sources that, when combined with Measure A funds, will confirm that the project is fully funded.

Mr. Hurley said these additional conditions to the funding agreement were submitted to both South San Francisco and WETA shortly after the December 4, 2008 Board meeting and no objections were voiced by either party. The South San Francisco City Council is expected to take up the matter of the agreement at a meeting later this month.

Mr. Hurley confirmed that the Board will see the final agreement between the three parties to confirm that the issues members have raised are addressed.

PROGRAM – Capital Projects Status Report – 1st Quarter Fiscal Year 2009

Mr. McAvoy said the report is a new, enhanced “traffic light” report, identical to the reports presented to the JPB and SamTrans on capital delivery activity.

- Active project status will be identified either as a green, yellow or red light, indicating the status of each component of the project – scope, schedule and budget – are moving forward, face some issues or have been delayed.
- The report will include enhanced information on the status of individual capital projects in planning, engineering, design, construction, commission and testing and provide the Board a mechanism for closely tracking the progress and interrelationship of scope, schedule and budget for each project in a clear, concise and easily understood graphic display.
- Information will be provided on leveraging of external funds as a key element of the Strategic Plan.
- Variants of completion and historical data will be an effective database of information for future project planning.
- The report will be brought to the Board on a quarterly basis.

Director O’Mahony said she liked the crispness of the report. She asked about the yellow light on the Grade Separation Footprint Study for 25th, 28th and 31st Avenues Phase-Footprint Study, which shows the schedule for performing the project status report (PSR) has yet to be determined. She said this information did not indicate anything about where the roadblocks were that were stopping the PSR from moving along. Mr. McAvoy said staff had been preparing to gather data related to the horizontal and vertical footprint of these grade separations. As the process moved forward it became clear that all information along the Caltrain corridor in the county should be included in the study before staff came to the Board for a recommendation to pursue the next state of development, which would be the project study report. As a result the footprint study now involves seven or eight study areas.

Director O’Mahony asked if Mr. McAvoy and Government Affairs Manager Seamus Murphy had visited Washington D.C. to gain insights on project funding for the TA and how San Mateo County is positioning itself to maximize any federal dollars that may be received. Mr. McAvoy said he and Mr. Murphy were on a recent scouting mission in Washington and did see more funding opportunities at the federal level, which may be available through an economic stimulus package. He said staff’s objective is to be on every possible project list that might be developed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) or Department of Transportation (DOT). Project lists are being organized by congressional representatives, advocacy groups, and local and county groups.

Mr. Scanlon said he believes Congress will try to eliminate earmarks. He said there was a day when money was made available primarily on a discretionary basis. There is a good chance that some cash flow could be based on formula but an equal chance that a significant portion could be on a discretionary basis. The buzzword in Washington is that projects be “shovel ready” for funding but this does not literally mean ready to dig. Mr. Scanlon said the District has an excellent relationship with the FTA and he is eager to see who will be the Secretary of Transportation. He isn’t sure what will happen with a stimulus package

although it seems apparent a significant investment will be made in infrastructure, and many District programs will qualify under infrastructure. If some portions of the package are earmarked, the District has a lobbyist firm in Washington D.C. and a great congressional delegation including Representatives Jackie Speier and Anna Eshoo.

Mr. Scanlon said the other real potential opportunity for the District is HSR, which may bring funding for additional grade separations. He thinks the governor's latest budget has \$123 million next year for HSR. The state isn't in a position to sell bonds anytime soon but there is a real opportunity in the medium- to long-term with HSR for grade separations.

Director O'Mahony said it would be good for the TA to have lobbyists in Washington in order to be on top of things as they are formulated. Mr. McAvoy said Mr. Murphy is a quick study and is very familiar with details of this industry.

Director O'Mahony said the TA is a beneficiary of the lobbying firm that C/CAG has hired in Sacramento with AB 434 and the renewal of State Senator Joe Simitian's bills, which is going to be a big chunk of money for congestion management over the next few years. She said it was interesting to hear that earmarks may be a thing of the past.

Mr. Scanlon said he based this on the President-elect's speech this morning because he does not want to take that kind of a risk with the damaged reputation of earmarks.

Mr. McAvoy said staff focuses a lot on transit-related projects in this potential infrastructure program but the highway program is one that is flying around the radar screen. There is a lot of money available for highways and it is incumbent on senior staff to be reaching out to colleagues at Caltrans because staff foresees a lot of money coming through and the opportunity is to make sure that the TA is ready in this county to take advantage of those projects. It is important that the TA focuses on highways as well as transit.

Director O'Mahony asked if any problems were detected with the environmental reports for HSR because nothing can be done within a year or two if there are environmental impact reports to take care of.

Mr. Scanlon said time is the critical element. It's a feeding frenzy with people wanting to know all the details of HSR, which are not available. There is an approximate route but no preliminary engineering or environmental work completed.

Chair Foust said the City of Redwood City's Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report and Strategic Plan are sent out to as many organizations as possible. She said council members who serve on regional agencies update them on transit information. She said it would be important for the TA to get these reports out to housing and transportation committees of various Chambers of Commerce because it connects the business community to what local government is doing. Mr. McAvoy said a staff member will be sending out the report beginning next Monday.

Chair Foust said the Redwood City Council is taking a very active approach regarding any cash flow coming to cities for infrastructure projects. She said the Council is approaching the congressional delegation and various groups in Washington for lobbying efforts. Redwood City has plans to expand a water recycling project, which is an infrastructure project. She said all cities, communities, supervisors,

etc., in the county should be sending letters to advocate on behalf of infrastructure, whether transit or otherwise, in order to be seen on multiple lists.

Director O'Mahony said the TA should be attending to local roadways for which the TA has not been dedicating money because the money has been going to arterials since those are the roadways with the most traffic. Roadway projects don't have a lot of time for preparation and she thinks if the president really wants to make an impact on the most people, money needs to reach all of these little towns. That, of course, is a horrendous management nightmare but it's another thing for the TA to keep in mind.

REQUESTS FROM THE AUTHORITY

None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO AUTHORITY

None

REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

No report

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 5 p.m. at the San Mateo County Transit District Administrative Building, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos CA 94070.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.