

**San Mateo County Transit District (District)
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California**

**Minutes of Legislative Committee /
Committee of the Whole**

September 4, 2024

Committee Members Present: P. Ratto (Chair), J. Gee, R. Medina

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present Constituting Committee of the Whole: D. Canepa, M. Chaung, B. Esser, M. Fraser, R. Mueller, J. Powell

Other Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: A. Chan, D. Olmeda, J. Epstein, S. van Hoften, J. Brook, M. Tseng

11.c.1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Peter Ratto called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

11.c.2. Approval of Minutes of the Legislative Committee Meeting of August 7, 2024

Motion/Second: Canepa/Chuang

Ayes: Canepa, Chuang, Esser, Fraser, Gee, Medina, Mueller, Powell, Ratto

Noes: None

Absent: None

11.c.3. State and Federal Legislative Update

Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, provided a summary of federal and state legislation, which included the following:

- On the federal side, the Senate and House are on recess and they are expecting a continuing resolution will be needed to keep the government open. The outcome of the election will have a significant impact on the budget.
- At the state level, the Governor is calling senators to a special session on gas prices.
- At the regional level, MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) had presented different scenarios for a possible regional transportation funding legislation. The directors expressed their concerns for scenarios that would favor one agency over others and leaned towards exploring a local funding source, specifically the reauthorization of Measure A sales tax.

Director David Canepa said he had issues with Scenario 1, “Core Transit Framework,” which appears to favor BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit). He said Scenario 2, “Go Big Framework,” would direct staff to explore a local funding source, specifically the reauthorization of Measure A sales tax.

Director Ray Mueller asked if Scenario 2 would require a two-thirds Countywide vote, which Ms. Epstein confirmed. He said one problem with having a regional measure is the ability to weigh in as a taxpayer is not there. April Chan, General Manager/CEO, explained the advantage of having a collective vote from the whole County.

Director Canepa asked when they would go for an authorization of Measure A. Ms. Epstein said it would likely be 2027. He said he was not interested in supporting a BART-funded measure.

Director Marie Chuang said that Caltrain and BART need to resolve their farebox recovery issues. She said if we only get back a certain percentage on the dollar, we are essentially supplementing San Francisco without receiving accountability about what they are doing.

Director Josh Powell said he is not seeing what benefits these regional measure discussions are offering San Mateo County that we cannot do ourselves.

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, noted that SamTrans does not need to get State authorization for Measure A; we already have authorization.

Committee Member Jeff Gee said that all three partners negotiating and coming to an agreement is the easiest path forward for the local measure.

Public Comment:

Adina Levin noted she was sitting on the Select Committee representing the MTC Policy Advisory Council as well as Seamless Bay Area and said she expected significant changes in the two options presented and supported local funding sources.

Roland commented on the equity of a parcel tax and said that sales tax is a choice. He noted that Measure RR did not pass in Santa Clara County, which withdrew its annual contributions to Caltrain.

11.c.4. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at <https://www.samtrans.com/about-samtrans/video-board-directors-cac-and-measure-w-coc>. Questions may be referred to the District Secretary's office by phone at 650-508-6242 or by email to board@samtrans.com.