

San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting No. 18
December 11, 2020

In compliance with Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20, and pursuant to the Shelter-in-Place Order issued by the San Mateo County Health Officer, this meeting was conducted via remote conferencing.

Board of Directors: Don Horsley (Chair), Diane Papan (Vice Chair), Alicia Aguirre, Emily Beach, Maryann Moise Derwin, and Rico Medina

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

Chair Horsley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Roll call was taken.

Members Present:

C/CAG Members:

Diane Papan, Maryann Moise Derwin, Alicia Aguirre

SMCTA Members:

Don Horsley, Rico Medina, Emily Beach

Members Absent:

None.

Staff Present:

Sandy Wong – Executive Council

Jim Hartnett – Executive Council

Mima Guilles – Secretary

Tim Fox – Legal Counsel

Matthew Click – Program/Policy Manager (PPM) for SMCEL JPA, HNTB

Sean Charpentier, Van Ocampo – C/CAG staff supporting SMCEL JPA

April Chan, Derek Hansel, Joe Hurley, Jessica Epstein – SMCTA staff supporting SMCEL JPA

Autumn Bernstein – ARUP

Khalilha Haynes – Estolano Advisors

Other members of staff and the public were in attendance.

2.0 BRIEF OVERVIEW OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING PROCEDURES

Mima Guilles, Clerk of the Board, provided an overview of the teleconference meeting procedures.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT

Note: Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker. Public comment permitted on both items on the agenda and items not on the agenda.

Mima Guilles reported there was no public comment submitted before the meeting. There was no public comment.

4.0 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

This item is to set the final consent and regular agenda, and to approve the items listed on the consent agenda. All items on the consent agenda are approved by one action. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless members of the Board, staff or public request specific items to be removed for separate action.

4.1 Approval of the minutes of Board of Directors regular business meeting No. 17 dated November 13, 2020. APPROVED

4.2 Accept the Sources and Uses of Funds for the FY21 Period Ending October 31, 2020. APPROVED

4.3 Accept the Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020.

APPROVED

Director Beach commented on item 4.1 to have minutes summarized and not extensive.

Director Medina MOVED approval of consent agenda. Director Beach SECONDED. Roll call was taken. **MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

5.0 REGULAR AGENDA

5.1 Review and approval of the 2021 Calendar of SMCEL-JPA Board of Directors Meetings. APPROVED

Director Medina MOVED approval of items 5.1. Director Derwin SECONDED. Roll call was taken. **MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

5.2 Receive a presentation on the Equity Study Technical Analysis and the Public Engagement process. INFORMATION

The Board received a presentation from Autumn Bernstein on the Equity Study technical analysis and a presentation from Khalilha Haynes on Phase I of the Equity Study Community Outreach.

Director Beach asked if equity programs would benefit all residents in County?

Autumn Bernstein replied that the Equity Study Guiding Document recommends that equity program benefits like discounted transit passes or tolls be eligible throughout the County, and infrastructure investments are focused in the targeted geographies along the Highway 101 corridor.

Director Medina asked why include female single head of households but not male single heads of households?

Autumn Bernstein replied that female single head of households have a strong correlation with poverty.

Chair Horsley asked who was on the Equity Study Advisory Committee?

Autumn Bernstein replied that the Equity Study Advisory Committee (ESAC) has 20-25 members, including most cities along the Highway 101 corridor, San Mateo County, community-based organizations, SAMCEDA, and representatives from the VTA, SFCTA, and MTC.

Chair Horsley asked how many people were surveyed for the Mobility Action Plan and how many were from San Mateo County? Were the responses representative for the populations we are trying reach?

Autumn Bernstein replied that the Mobility Action Plan study area includes three counties, about 2,700 responses were gathered, and that there was a high number of responses from San Mateo County. There was a robust response in San Mateo County, but there is no perfect data set for this type of analysis.

Director Aguirre noted that she participated in the ESAC and there has been good participation from North Fair Oaks and others at community meetings.

Vice Chair Papan asked if there had been outreach in or survey responses from North Central Neighborhood in San Mateo.

Khalilha Haynes replied that the surveys requested zip codes, but the geographic zip code data have not been summarized yet.

Vice Chair Papan asked if a shuttle connecting public transit to the airport that would solve the last mile problem could be a potential equity study program.

Khalilha Haynes noted that there have been few responses specifically that identified the airport thus far.

Autumn Bernstein replied that the jobs held by the low-income workers are often dispersed and may not be well served by existing transit, but a shuttle service for job centers for low income workers could be an option for the equity program.

Director Beach noted that Commute.org is preparing a strategic plan including equity and shuttles. Also, as shown by the data, many people cannot afford a car and are transit dependent, and that the low-income respondents want access to toll lanes, but are also saying that they want more frequent transit and better bicycle and pedestrian facilities. There is a real need to ensure that our transit is robust enough to serve these people.

Khalilha Haynes noted that one consistent message from Phase I was that there was a desire for continued engagement and involvement.

Chair Horsley asked if workers from outside San Mateo County were included in the equity program.

Autumn Bernstein noted that the Equity Study Guiding Document focuses on San Mateo County residents, for now, but that the MTC is preparing a regional Means Based Toll Pilot.

Director Aguirre, noted the importance for planning for feedback once the express lanes are operational; that the next steps might include options for people who were displaced from San Mateo County, but still work in this county; and that shuttle buses are an important element of the transportation system.

Director Beach noted that continued engagement with these communities will be important. The more we can use these toll revenues to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it will benefit everyone.

Vice Chair Papan noted that a potential portion of the equity program could focus on helping people who are transit dependent and may not own cars.

Matt Click noted that there has been strong support for the approach and methodology technical foundation from the ESAC; next year staff will bring forward equity alternatives, and this is going to be phase 1 of a multi-year approach; and there will be equity among potential beneficiaries (including female and male single headed households) because the main eligibility criteria will be household income.

Director Aguirre noted that some people in more rural coastside communities might still need a car to access critical services and employment.

Chair Horsley noted that there are farmworker populations coastside who struggle with transportation to access educational services.

April Chan noted that the Samtrans created the Express Bus study to support the Express Lanes, and the Samtrans has already secured State funding for an express bus route that starts in East Palo Alto and will utilize the express lanes.

6.0 REPORTS

a) Chairperson Report.

None.

b) Member Communication.

None.

c) Executive Council Report - Executive Council Verbal Report.

Jim Harnett thanked everyone for the dedicated service throughout the year. Sandy Wong thanked the Board and noted that next year will be busy because we will be opening the southern segment and staff are working to bring multiple agreements to the Board. Staff are also engaging with the MTC on the MTC Plan Bay Area strategy for all lane tolling, and will bring back the item at the appropriate time.

d) Policy/Program Manager Report.

Matt Click noted that staff are compiling a comment log with Director comments to ensure that all Director comments are addressed, and also reported that the agreement with BATA is scheduled for an informational update in February and in April for Board approval; and that staff will bring to the Board for approval on the BAIFA contract on June 2021.

7.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

8.0 NEXT REGULAR MEETING

January 15, 2021

9.0 ADJOURNMENT – 10:09 a.m.