

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

Meeting No. 56  
June 14, 2024

This meeting of the SMCEL-JPA Board of Directors was held in person and by teleconference pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e). Members of the public was able to participate in the meeting remotely via the Zoom platform or in person.

**Board of Directors:** Alicia Aguirre (Chair), Emily Beach (Vice Chair), Rico E. Medina, Gina Papan, Carlos Romero and Michael Salazar.

### 1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

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

| AGENCY: | IN-PERSON:      | ABSENT: | REMOTE<br>AB 2449: | REMOTE<br>Publicly Accessible<br>Teleconference Location: |
|---------|-----------------|---------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| C/CAG   |                 |         | Alicia Aguirre     |                                                           |
| C/CAG   | Michael Salazar |         |                    |                                                           |
| C/CAG   | Rich Hedges     |         |                    |                                                           |
| SMCTA   |                 |         |                    | Carlos Romero                                             |
| SMCTA   | Emily Beach     |         |                    |                                                           |
| SMCTA   | Rico E. Medina  |         |                    |                                                           |

| Staff Present (In-Person):                  | Staff Present (Remote):                   |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Sean Charpentier, Executive Council – C/CAG |                                           |
| April Chan, Executive Council – TA          |                                           |
| Peter Skinner – TA                          | <b>Members of the Public (In-Person):</b> |
| Tim Fox – Legal Counsel                     |                                           |
| Mima Crume – Clerk of the Board             |                                           |
| Kaki Cheung – C/CAG                         |                                           |
| Van Ocampo – C/CAG                          | <b>Members of the Public (Remote):</b>    |
| Ladi Millard-Olmeda – TA                    |                                           |

Other members of staff and members of the public were in attendance via in-person or remote using zoom.

### 2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

*Note: Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker. Members of the public who wish to address the Board should complete a speaker’s slip to make a public comment in person or raise their hand in Zoom to speak virtually.*

Clerk Crume reported that there were no public comments.

### 3.0 **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.

- 3.1 Approval of the minutes of Board of Directors regular business meeting No. 55 dated May 17, 2024. APPROVED
- 3.2 Accept the Sources and Uses of Funds for the FY2024 Period Ending April 30, 2024. APPROVED
- 3.3 Review and approval of Biennial update to Conflict of Interest Code for the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority (SMCEL-JPA). APPROVED

Director Hedges MOVED to approve the consent agenda items 3.1 to 3.3.  
Director Beach SECONDED. **MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

### 4.0 **REGULAR AGENDA**

- 4.1 Public Hearing: Approval of SMCEL Resolution 24-04 on the adoption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 SMCEL-JPA Operating Budget. APPROVED

The Board received a presentation on the preliminary fiscal year 25 budget at last month's meeting. There have been no changes since then, so staff is requesting board approval for two items:

Adopt the fiscal year 25 San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority budget of \$22,258,749.

Delegate investment authority to the Executive Council or designee to act as treasurer from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

Chair Aguirre opened the public hearing for item 4.1, but there were no public comments. The public hearing was then closed.

Director Hedges MOVED to approve item 4.1. Director Medina SECONDED.  
**MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

- 4.2 Receive a quarterly update on the operations of the US 101 Express Lanes. INFORMATION

The Board received a quarterly update presentation. The Policy and Program Manager highlighted that there are not any major changes since the last quarter. The corridor is experiencing slight increases in assessed tolls, and a drop in violations due to more FasTrak users. The cumulative total revenue collected was

about \$7 million per quarter, with a year-to-date total of \$22 million by the end of Q3.

The presentation covered areas of congestion, average tolls, and the breakdown of assessed tolls. CHP enforcement actions were discussed, along with an update on the Community Transportation Benefits Program, which has issued over 4,000 benefits.

Vice Chair Beach inquired about the rollout of the \$200 Clipper card benefit. Ms. Vong confirmed the next generation program would start next month, with board approval.

Director Salazar asked if free trips were included in the average toll calculation, to which Ms. Vong replied that only paid trips were included.

Director Romero asked when the Q4 data would be available and about the increase in toll-free trips. Ms. Vong mentioned it takes about a month to gather data and that they are working with CHP to address the issue.

A discussion followed about CHP's focus while on duty, with concerns raised about their ability to monitor the express lane while addressing other violations. The Policy and Program Manager acknowledged this challenge.

- 4.3 Election of a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson to serve a one-year term, effective July 1, 2024. APPROVED

Director Romero **MOVED** to nominate Director Medina as the SMCEL-JPA Chairperson. Vice Chair Beach **SECONDED**. Roll call was taken. **MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

Director Medina **MOVED** to nominate Director Salazar as the C/CAG Vice Chair. Vice Chair Beach **SECONDED**. Roll call was taken. **MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

## 5.0 **REPORTS**

- a) Chairperson Report.

Chair Aguirre expressed gratitude to her colleagues for their outstanding support during her year as chair of the organization.

- b) Member Communication.

None.

- c) Executive Council Report - Executive Council Verbal Report.

Mr. Charpentier expressed gratitude to Chair Aguirre and Vice Chair Beach for their

leadership over the past year, recognizing their contributions to the organization's success. He also noted that Caltrans has started a pavement rehabilitation and median barrier construction project on Highway 101 from Whipple Avenue to the Santa Clara County line. Initial closures occurred last week, all scheduled outside express lane operations, with no reported impact on the express lanes.

Ms. Chan expressed gratitude to Chair Aguirre and Vice Chair Beach and welcomed the new Chair, Medina, and Vice Chair, Salazar. She also reported that Ms. Soules from HNTB will present on the Community Transportation Benefit Program at the IBTTA Conference in Maryland. Additionally, the program was accepted into the Second Annual Transportation Research Board conference, focusing on equity, with Peter Skinner representing the JPA to present on the topic.

d) Policy/Program Manager Report.

None.

## 6.0 **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## 7.0 **NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

July 12, 2024

## 8.0 **ADJOURNMENT – 9:24 am**