

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

Meeting No. 65
September 5, 2025

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 were able to participate in the meeting remotely via the Zoom platform or in person.

Board of Directors: Michael Salazar (Chair), Carlos Romero (Vice Chair), Adam Rak, Julia Mates, Rico E. Medina and Stacy Jimenez

1.0 CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

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

AGENCY:	IN-PERSON:	ABSENT:	REMOTE AB 2449:	REMOTE Publicly Accessible Teleconference Location:
C/CAG	Stacy Jimenez			
C/CAG		Adam Rak		
C/CAG	Michael Salazar			
SMCTA	Carlos Romero			
SMCTA	Julia Mates			
SMCTA				Rico E. Medina

Staff Present (In-Person):	Staff Present (Remote):
Sean Charpentier, Executive Council – C/CAG	
April Chan, Executive Council – TA	Members of the Public (In-Person):
Mima Crume – Clerk of the Board	
Kaki Cheung – C/CAG	
Peter Skinner – TA	Members of the Public (Remote):
Emily Beach – TA	
Lacy Vong – HNTB	

2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Note: Public comments are 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.

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. 64 dated August 1, 2025. **APPROVED**

3.2 Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending July 31, 2025. **APPROVED**

Director Mates MOVED to approve the consent agenda items 3.1 and 3.2. Vice Chair Romero SECONDED. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0**

4.0 REGULAR AGENDA

4.1 Review and Approval of Resolution SMCEL 25-11 authorizing the negotiation and execution of up to twenty (20) memorandums of understanding with community-based organization partners to provide program administration services for the new Go Card equity program through June 30, 2028, for a total amount not to exceed \$540,000. **APPROVED**

- Staff (Lacy Vong, HNTB) presented. Recapped transition from the Community Transportation Benefits Card to the new Go Card Program, expanding mobility options from Clipper/FasTrak to a broader mobility debit card.
- Outlined robust outreach process and an expansion from 7 Core Service Agencies to 13+ CBO partners (e.g., SparkPoint Centers, JobTrain, Self-Help for the Elderly, Peninsula Chinese Business Association, El Concilio).
- MOUs will cover outreach, eligibility verification, and program administration, supported by the new data platform.
- The term is three years through FY 2028, not-to-exceed \$540,000 (\$180,000 per year, contingent on annual budget approval).
- Compensation includes 10% of cards distributed and \$350 per outreach event (up to four annually).

Board Discussion:

- Questions addressed card activation, fraud prevention, and accountability. Staff confirmed audit provisions and real-time data tracking.
- Discussion on outreach event funding, coordination among partners, and income self-attestation forms.
- Clarification that card distribution will be flexible, including physical and virtual cards.

Public Comment: None.

Vice Chairs Romero MOVED approve Resolution 25-11. Director Jimenez
SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0

- 4.2 Receive a quarterly update on the US 101 Express Lanes operations for the fourth quarter of FY2025, with a year over year comparison. INFORMATION

Staff presented the following highlights on FY data:

- Over 15 million trips, ~60,000 average daily trips (6.5% growth).
- Toll revenues up 22%; expenses up 10%.
- Speed differential of 11–12 mph between express lanes and general lanes maintained.
- Slight increase in trips over \$12; majority still under \$3.
- Uptick in toll violation revenue collected via DMV escalation process.

Board Discussion:

- Board questions on GHG benefits of travel time savings, potential academic partnerships for analysis, and request to incorporate safety/crash data into future studies.
- Staff noted ongoing performance study comparing 2018–2024 data, with results expected by year end.

- 4.3 Receive an update on the US 101 Express Lanes Variable Rate Bond. INFORMATION

- Staff (Treasury Manager Adela) provided semi-annual update on \$100M variable rate bonds (Series A & B).
- Average interest 1.4% since issuance, well below fixed-rate equivalent of 3.5%.
- \$6.3M early principal payment made in 2024, reducing future obligations.
- Federal Reserve projected to cut rates by 50 basis points by end of 2025; anticipated positive impact on debt service.

Board Discussion:

- Clarified methodology for daily vs. weekly rate indices; SIFMA index used for both.

5.0 **REPORTS**

- a) Chairperson Report – None.
- b) Member Communication – None.
- c) Executive Council Report – Executive Council Verbal Report.

ITEM 3.1

- Sean Charpentier reminded the Board that the 50% Clean Air Vehicle (CAV) discount for solo drivers will expire on September 30, 2025, per federal law.
- Sean Charpentier and April Chan thanked the outgoing consultant team HNTB (Lacy Vong) and introduced the new Policy/Program Management support from STV (Liz Justison and Carol Kuster).
- Directors and staff expressed appreciation to Lacy Vong for her service.
- April Chan reminded members that September is Transit Month and encouraged Directors to ride and promote public transit.

d) **Policy/Program Manager Report.**

- Lacy Vong reiterated progress on performance study and assured a smooth transition to the new team.

6.0 WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

7.0 NEXT REGULAR MEETING

November 7, 2025

8.0 ADJOURNMENT – 9:47 a.m.