

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

Meeting No. 67
March 6, 2026

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	Van Ocampo – C/CAG
April Chan, Executive Council – TA	
Mima Crume – Clerk of the Board	Members of the Public (In-Person):
Tim Fox – Legal Counsel	
Kaki Cheung – C/CAG	
Peter Skinner – TA	Members of the Public (Remote):
Kim Comstock – SMCEL-JPA	
Liz Justison – STV	

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.

Public comment: None.

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.

Director Medina MOVED to approve the consent agenda items 3.1 to 3.6. Director Rak SECONDED. **MOTION CARRIED 5-0-0**

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- 3.1 Approval of the minutes of Board of Directors special business meeting No. 66 dated December 5, 2025. APPROVED
- 3.2 Review and approve Resolution SMCEL 26-01, ratifying the purchase of Cyber Liability Insurance for a six-month period for a not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000. APPROVED
- 3.3 Accept Statement of Sources and Uses for the Period Ending December 31, 2025. APPROVED
- 3.4 Accept and enter into the record the Quarterly Investment Report for SMCEL-JPA for the quarter ending December 31, 2025. APPROVED
- 3.5 Receive a Semiannual Update on the US 101 Express Lanes Variable Rate Bond. INFORMATION
- 3.6 Receive a quarterly update on the US 101 Express Lanes operations for the second quarter of FY26. INFORMATION

4.0 REGULAR AGENDA

- 4.1 Receive a presentation on the San Mateo County 101 Express Lanes Initial Performance Evaluation Study. INFORMATION

Liz Justison, Project Manager for the Program Management Team, provided a presentation on the San Mateo County 101 Express Lanes Initial Performance Evaluation Study. The presentation included background on the phased opening of the express lanes, study goals and evaluation metrics, data sources and limitations, key findings related to congestion reduction, travel time reliability, carpooling and transit usage, person throughput, and use of dynamic pricing technology. Ms. Justison noted that the study is preliminary in nature and that additional data collection and analysis are needed, particularly with respect to safety, transit usage, and vehicle occupancy verification.

Board discussion followed. Director Jimenez asked about the safety metrics being evaluated, including crashes related to weaving and speed, and staff explained

that future analysis would examine incident types, including rear-end and sideswipe collisions, and whether collision patterns normalize over time. Director Romero commented on the limitations of comparing post-pandemic and pre-pandemic traffic conditions, asked when a more comparable follow-up study could be conducted, and raised questions regarding the validity of the data sources used, including PEMS and self-declared occupancy data. Staff responded that a follow-up study could likely be conducted in approximately one year using the established methodology and publicly available data. Staff also discussed ongoing monitoring of vehicle occupancy detection technologies and efforts to improve data validation.

The Board received the presentation; no action was taken.

- 4.2 Receive a presentation on the Go Card (Equity Program), implementation, and early results. INFORMATION

Kim Comstock, Program Director for the Express Lanes, provided a presentation on the Go Card Equity Program, including implementation updates and early results. Ms. Comstock reported that the newly branded next-generation program launched in November 2025 and provides a \$200 mobility debit card that may be used for eligible transportation-related purchases, including transit, express lane tolls, micromobility, and other mobility services. She also described the role of 12 community partners in conducting outreach, assisting applicants, and approving applications.

Ms. Comstock presented early program data covering the first three months of implementation, including the number of cards distributed, funding disbursed, card type selection, preliminary usage patterns, self-attestation rates, and demographic information. She noted that most users have selected physical cards and that the majority of observed spending to date has been on transit. She also highlighted improvements in data collection and reporting made possible through the new program platform.

During Board discussion, Director Romero asked about card utilization data and referenced the approximately 7,000 benefits distributed under the prior program model. Staff explained that the prior program distributed physical Clipper cards and Fastrak transponders in bulk, making detailed usage data unavailable, but noted that those benefits had already been distributed to recipients. Staff further explained that under the new program, unused funds may be recoverable after a specified period. Chair discussion also included positive feedback regarding the improved application experience under the new system.

The Board received the presentation; no action was taken.

- 4.3 Receive a presentation on Board Quorum and Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Voting Threshold Options. INFORMATION

Kim Comstock, Program Director for the Express Lanes, provided a presentation regarding Board quorum and Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement voting

threshold options. Staff explained that while the Brown Act requires a majority of the six-member Board, or four members, to establish a quorum for a meeting, the current Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement requires five members in valid attendance for the Board to take action. Staff presented options for Board consideration, including potential amendment of the agreement to remove the five-member attendance requirement for voting, while clarifying and strengthening the provisions regarding which actions would require four affirmative votes and which would require five affirmative votes.

During Board discussion, Director Jimenez asked whether the JPA agreement required a quorum from each member agency separately, and legal counsel clarified that it does not; rather, the agreement is based on the total membership of the Board. Directors discussed the original purpose of the five-member requirement, including maintaining balance between the two member agencies, and acknowledged that the current Board has developed a strong working relationship and that the five-member requirement can create operational challenges. Directors expressed general support for reducing the voting attendance threshold to four members while retaining or clarifying a five-vote requirement for certain significant actions, such as issuance of debt and other major matters. There was discussion regarding whether approval of the annual budget should remain a four-vote or five-vote action. Staff indicated that a red-lined version of the proposed amendments could be brought back for Board consideration, and that any approved amendment would subsequently require approval by both member agencies.

The Board provided directions to staff to return with proposed amendment language for further consideration; no formal action was taken.

5.0 **REPORTS**

a) Chairperson Report.

The Chair reported that there were no items to report.

b) Member Communication.

There were no Member Communications.

c) Executive Council Report.

Sean Charpentier provided an update and thanked the Board for a productive meeting and announced that the San Mateo County Express Lanes received the 2024 Excellence in Transportation Award from Caltrans, including the Envision Silver Award, recognizing the program's performance and regional significance.

April Chan also reported that the agency will be relocating to a new office at 166 North Rollins Road in Millbrae. The move will occur in phases beginning in early May, with Board meetings anticipated to be held at the new location by June.

d) Program Manager Report.

Kim Comstock reported that there were no formal updates. She noted that March 3, 2026, marks the anniversary of the express lanes being fully operational since March 3, 2023.

6.0 **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

7.0 **NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

April 3, 2026

8.0 **ADJOURNMENT**