

## **SamTrans Liaison Report**

### **Meeting of April 6, 2022**

#### **Board Actions**

- Adopted a Resolution Making Findings that the Proclaimed State of Emergency for COVID-19 Continues to Impact the Board's and Committees' Ability to Meet Safely in Person
- Approved Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting of March 2, 2022 and Special Meetings of March 2 and March 17, 2022
- Accepted Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending February 28, 2022
- Awarded a Contract to OK LTD LLC for On-site COVID Testing Services
- Awarded a Contract to eScreen, Inc. for Department of Transportation Testing Compliance and Program Management Services
- Approved Authorization to File Applications with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for Programming of Federal Transit Administration Formula Funds
- Approved Authorization of the Application for and Receipt of Annual Cap and Trade Funding for Battery Electric Buses
- Authorization to Submit Grant Applications and Execute Agreements with the California Department of Transportation for Federal Transit Administration Section 5311 Funds
- Adopted a Resolution Expressing Support for Ukraine and the Ukrainian People
- Adopted a Resolution Recognizing Arab-American Heritage Month
- Appointed Denise Seibert, Representing Community Riders, to the Citizens Advisory Committee
- Authorized an Amendment to the Contracted Urban Bus Services Agreement with MV Transportation for a Not-to-exceed Cost of \$46,154,250 Through January 31, 2024
- Accepted Fuel Hedge Update Since Inception
- Received Measure W Citizens' Oversight Committee Report for Fiscal Year 2020 and Annual Audit of Measure W Funds for Fiscal Year 2021
- Approved Legislative Proposals to Support Senate Bill (SB) 922 (Wiener), Assembly Bill (AB) 1944 (Lee), and AB 2622 (Mullin)
- Approved a Resolution Declaring Pursuant to the Surplus Land Act that Certain Real Property Located in Redwood City is Exempt Surplus Land that is Not Necessary for the District's Use; Authorizing District Staff to Proceed to Negotiate to Dispose of the Property; Finding that Such Declaration is Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act 2024

#### **Board Highlights**

- Carter Mau, Acting General Manager/CEO, said they had distributed over 7,600 Youth Unlimited passes, which allow low-income students to ride the bus for free. He noted that they recently had over 2,300 uses of the passes on one day.

He noted the International Women's Day celebration that was held at the District where women leaders shared their experiences and insights with employees. He also noted that the Transit Operator Appreciation Day held at both North and South Bases was a success. Mr. Mau said they will plan to hold hybrid in-person/Zoom Board meeting starting in May. He announced that he would be stepping down as Acting General Manager/CEO by the end of the year. Chair Ratto noted Mr. Mau would help with the leadership transition, a Board ad hoc committee has been formed on this, and that they are bringing on a firm for the nationwide search for a new general manager.

- Nate Kramer, Executive Officer, Community Relations, Employee Relations and Labor Relations/Human Resources, provided a presentation on the District's strategy for recruiting and retaining bus operators.

## **Committee Discussion Highlights**

### **Community Relations Committee**

#### *New SamTrans Website Launch*

Jeremy Lipps, Digital Communications Manager, provided a presentation on the new district and agency websites coming out later this month. The directors said they were eager to interact with the new site and Mr. Mau commended the web services team for their hard work.

### **Finance Committee**

#### *Amendment of Contract with MV Transportation for Contracted Urban Bus Services*

Kevin Yin, Director, Contracts and Procurement, presented the staff report. Committee Member Jeff Gee asked how long the procurement process normally takes. Mr. Yin said about 12 months to get to the contract and another three to four months for the transition. Director Charles Stone asked why they were going this route. David Olmeda, Chief Operating Officer, Bus, said the contract provides the opportunity for the District to provide an additional 30 percent of bus service and includes maintenance and provision of Owl service. Director Stone said he would appreciate frequent updates on the procurement process.

### **Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee**

#### *SamTrans 2021 Sustainability Report*

April Chan, Chief Officer, Acting Deputy General Manager/CEO, noted that SamTrans had received the Silver Award from APTA (American Public Transportation Association). She introduced Amelia Timbers, Principal Sustainability Planner, who provided the presentation. Director Marina Fraser asked if increased water consumption at the District was due to landscaping. Ms. Timbers said they would be performing a water audit. Mr. Olmeda said Facilities have made changes to irrigation practices and plantings. He said the bus washing schedule has been reduced and they have replaced their bus washer with a more efficient model.

## **Legislative Committee**

### *State and Federal Legislative Update and Approval of Legislative Proposals: Support Senate Bill (SB) 922 (Wiener), Assembly Bill (AB) 1944 (Lee), and AB 2622 (Mullin)*

Casey Fromson, Chief Communications Officer, briefly summarized the highlights of recent federal and state legislation. She said the Fiscal Year 2022 omnibus bill was passed on March 15. She said earmarks were passed for the first time in ten years. She said at the state level, that the Governor has an \$11 billion proposal, with \$750 million directed at transit agencies in order to provide three months of free transit fares. Jessica Epstein, Manager, Government and Community Affairs, discussed Senate Bill (SB) 917 on seamless transit. Committee Member Charles Stone said he supported the three months of free transit initiative.

## **Closed Sessions**

There were three closed sessions regarding Real Property Negotiations, Existing Litigation, and Anticipated Litigation. The Board reconvened into open session and took action on the first two closed sessions: (1) approved a resolution regarding disposal of surplus property and (2) approved settlement for all parties of an existing claim in the total amount of \$152,534.32. The third item on Anticipated Litigation had no reportable actions.