

**SAMTRANS LIAISON REPORT**

**Meeting of August 4, 2021**

**BOARD ACTIONS**

- Approved the minutes for the Board of Directors meeting of July 7, 2021
- Accepted the Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook for the Period Ending June 30, 2021
- Accepted the Quarterly Fuel Hedge Update
- Awarded a Contract to Provide On-call Ambassador Services
- The Board approved a settlement regarding a lawsuit in the total amount of \$700,000, with the understanding that this case is covered by the District's liability protection policy under which the District's total exposure is \$300,000.

**BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

- Carter Mau, Acting General Manager/CEO, said that the known vaccination rate for SamTrans employees is 76 percent and that masks are now required indoors at facilities for all employees whether vaccinated or not per CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines.
- Mr. Mau said he attended a memorial service at the SAP Center at San Jose for the VTA (Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority) shooting victims. He noted the formation of a mental health resource group for employees.

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS**

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

Approve Updated Fare Structure: Way2Go Pass Program and Clipper START Extension

April Chan, Chief Officer, Planning, Grants/Transportation Authority, said that staff has done additional research since the presentation at the July 7 meeting.

Gwen Buckley, Senior Planner, noted for the Way2Go pass program that they were adding a category for educational institutions at \$35 per semester or \$70 per year. She said they were reducing the residential category pricing from \$125 to \$40 per pass, reducing the employer pricing from \$125 to \$75, and the contract minimum from \$12,500 to \$2,500.

Committee Member Jeff Gee asked how to market the Way2Go program to nonprofit organizations, i.e., would they participate under the small business category. Ms. Buckley said the pricing structure will be reviewed annually to ensure they are serving the needs of the community. Ms. Chan said the nonprofits would be considered under the employer category.

ECR Corridor Initiatives: Updates on Transit Signal Priority (TSP) and Bus Speed and Reliability Study

Daniel Shockley, Senior Planner, and Ms. Buckley provided the presentation.

Committee Member Gee asked if there were some benefits of speeding up only selected areas of the El Camino Real corridor. Ms. Buckley said that bus service could be sped up by pinpointing the crucial locations. Committee Member Gee commented on the importance of community engagement and getting feedback from riders regarding speed versus reliability.

Vice Chair Peter Ratto asked if buses were moving faster due to reduced congestion due to the pandemic or the TSP. He said he felt that speed was important to riders.

Committee Member Dave Pine asked if the TSP was completely automated or needed to make a request of the green light. Mr. Shockley said the operator needs to make a request as the bus approaches a signal.

Director Josh Powell said that in addition to red lines, there were a lot of opportunities on El Camino Real for changes that would help not only buses but traffic in general, such as lengthening left-hand turn lanes.

### **Legislative Committee**

State and Federal Legislative Update - Casey Fromson, Acting Chief Communications Officer briefly summarized the highlights of recent federal and state legislation. She provided the latest details of the bipartisan infrastructure package.

Jessica Epstein, Government and Community Affairs Officer, noted that the federal report now contains a summary of earmarks.

### **CLOSED SESSIONS**

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, said for the first Closed Session, the Board approved a settlement in the total amount of \$700,000 with the understanding that this case is covered by the District's liability protection policy under which the District's total exposure is \$300,000.

For the second Closed Session on a matter of real property negotiations involving the Sequoia Station Shopping Center, Ms. Cassman reported that there was no reportable action.

### **Special Meeting (immediately following the regular meeting)**

The Board opened the Special Meeting and then met in Closed Session regarding Anticipated Litigation. Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4): One Potential Case. Vice Chair Peter Ratto noted upon the advice of Ms. Cassman that any action taken during the Closed Session would be reported at the next regular Board meeting on September 1.