

San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

Meeting of March 1, 2023

Board Actions

- Approved the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting February 1, 2023
- Accepted the Quarterly Fuel Hedge Update
- Approved Revisions to the District's Safety-sensitive Policy Concerning Substance Abuse
- Awarded a Contract for Cleaning Supplies
- Approved a Resolution Honoring Women's History Month
- Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending January 31, 2023 and Received Chief Financial Officer Report on Projections for Fiscal Year 2023
- Approved a Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to Contract Between the Board of Administration, California Public Employees' Retirement System, and the Board of Directors, San Mateo County Transit District for military service credit

Board Highlights

- Tasha Bartholomew, Manager, Communications, noted activities at the District to honor women throughout March to commemorate Women's History Month.
- April Chan, General Manager/CEO, noted that MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) is ending the Clipper START program at the end of June 2023, and the Board will decide whether to continue the program at a future meeting. Ms. Chan said that MTC had selected a new executive director, Andrew Fremier, whom she had worked with on the Express Lanes project.
- Nestor Tiongco was awarded as Bus Maintenance Employee of the Year and Michael Keating was awarded as Bus Operator Employee of the Year.

Committee Discussion Highlights

Community Relations Committee

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Ana Rivas, Director of Bus Transportation, noted increases in ridership and that there was only one DNO (did not operate) in January, and announced the January employees of the month.

Finance Committee

Resolution of Intention to Amend the Contract with the California Public Employees' Retirement System to Provide for Military Service Credit

Juliet Nogales-DeGuzman, Director of Human Resources, presented the staff report. Chair Josh Powell asked if the benefit was offered by other transit agencies. Ms. Nogales DeGuzman said the military service credit was not offered by SamTrans' sister agencies, but said that she would confirm if it was a benefit offered by any other agencies. Committee Chair Jeff Gee asked why four years was chosen for the years of military service credit. Ms. Nogales-DeGuzman said the number of years was established by CalPERS (California Public Employees Retirement System).

Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee

Bus Stop Improvement Plan (BSIP) Project Introduction

Daniel Shockley, Planning Administrator, provided the presentation. Director Marie Chuang asked if it would be possible to provide Clipper vending machines at stops. Ms. Chan responded that the issue of having sufficient Clipper vending machines would be to discuss with MTC about increasing the number of convenient outlets for customers to purchase or add value to Clipper cards. Director Chuang asked if there was a plan to display real-time electronic data at the stops. Mr. Shockley said the study would consider the feasibility of providing that data at stops. Director Jeff Gee said it would be helpful to include longevity and the number of riders associated with individual stops to help determine where to invest in added technology such as providing real-time data. Committee Member Rico Medina asked if there was a simplified process that is followed by all involved agencies, including who is responsible for specific bus stop maintenance (SamTrans-owned versus privately owned). Committee Member Peter Ratto said there are stops that have a lot of traffic without shelters or benches. He suggested a centralized method for municipalities for reporting or requesting improvements. Director Ray Mueller asked if ads would be digitized at bus stops. David Olmeda, Chief Operating Officer, Bus, said advertisements are maintained by a third-party ad provider. He said they have very few locations where they have digital ads for the riding public. Director Mueller said the digital technology at bus stops could handle community based information such as Amber Alerts. Ms. Chan said staff would bring back the bus stop study to the Board again before asking them to approve it, which would include information on how other efforts would intersect with the study such as accessibility and technology improvements. There was public comment that the study should consider factors such as cleanliness and climate challenges at the shelters.

Legislative Committee

State and Federal Legislative Update

Casey Fromson, Chief Communications Officer, provided an update on recent federal and state legislation. She said they are still awaiting on the federal budget. At the state level, Ms. Fromson said that the Governor released his budget, and added that Senator Scott Wiener and Assemblymember Laura Friedman are active supporters of transportation funding. She noted that more than 2,600 bills had been introduced, most of which are spot bills, and said they expect additional bills related to amending the Brown Act. There was public comment regarding electrification of buses that back-up systems were needed in the event of power outages.