

# San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

Meeting of June 7, 2023

## Board Actions

- Approved the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of May 3, 2023
- Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending April 30, 2023
- Accepted Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Fiscal Year 2023
- Accepted Quarterly Fuel Hedge Update
- Authorized Execution of Contracts and Amendments for Information Technology Licenses, Maintenance Services and Professional Services, and for Technology-related Products and Services Through Piggyback Contracts and Cooperative Purchasing Programs
- Authorized the Filing of an Application to Receive Transit Performance Initiative Program Funds for the El Camino Real Mid-County Transit and Multimodal Corridor Plan
- Approved a Resolution Recognizing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Pride Month and Reaffirming a Commitment to Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion
- Appointed Judith Lamarre, Representing Bus Riders, to the Citizens Advisory Committee
- Awarded Contracts to Stantec Architecture Inc. and STV Incorporated for On-call General Engineering Consultant (GEC) Design Services for an Aggregate Total Not-to-exceed Amount of \$15 Million for a Six-year Base Term and up to Two One-year Option Terms
- Adopted Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 Operating Budgets in the Amounts of \$264,461,894 and \$273,278,060, Respectively, and Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 Capital Budgets in the Amounts of \$187,925,555 and \$67,099,514, Respectively
- Adopted Revisions to the District Procurement Policy
- Amended the Fare Structure to Extend Participation in the Clipper START Regional Means-based Fare Program and Make Other Minor Revisions
- Approved Legislative Proposal: Support Assembly Bill (AB) 1377 (Friedman)

## Board Highlights

- April Chan, General Manager/CEO, made the following announcements: successful Rodeo event on June 3, Reimagine SamTrans rolling out the new on-demand microtransit service in Half Moon Bay and East Palo Alto on June 18, and introduced Joshua Mello, the new Executive Officer, Planning and Development.
- Jim Wagstaffe, Special Counsel, Wagstaffe, von Loewenfeldt, Busch & Radwick LLP, presented on the history of SamTrans' involvement with Caltrain's governance. The Board expressed continued District support for Caltrain operations.
- Millie Tolleson, Acting Director of Planning, and Jonathan Steketee, Manager, Operations Planning, presented on the continued rollout of the Reimagine SamTrans service changes. The Board discussion included outreach efforts and the new Ride Plus app.

## **Committee Discussion Highlights**

### **Community Relations Committee**

Monthly Performance Report | April 2023 - Ana Rivas, Director of Bus Transportation, said ridership across all three modes had increased by 21 percent compared to April 2022. She noted a dramatic reduction in DNOs (Did Not Operate) compared to last year.

### **Finance Committee**

Adoption of Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 and Fiscal Year 2025 Operating and Capital Budgets - Ladi Millard-Olmeda, Director, Budgets and Financial Analysis, presented on changes since the May Board meeting, use of funds, and proposed capital budget sources. She said that staff may come back to the Board to request additional funding.

Adoption of Revisions to the District Procurement Policy - Kevin Yin, Director, Contracts and Procurement, presented the staff report and noted the increased contracting costs and the delegated authority of the General Manager/Chief Executive Officer has fallen behind since the last policy was updated

- Director Rico Medina noted that a revision was made to the TA procurement policy.
- Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, said that that policy would be coming back before the TA Board for approval. She explained that there is an effort to align the procurement policies for SamTrans, TA, and JPB (Caltrain) with other agencies and the Federal Government.

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

Fare Programs Informational Update: Clipper Next Generation, Clipper BayPass Pilot Program, and Redwood City / Sequoia Union High School Districts Youth Unlimited Pass Program - Chelsea Schultz, Principal Planner, presented on the different phases of the fare program and how it modernizes retail and customer service through new technology. Representatives from the Redwood City School District and Safe Routes to School presented on the program's positive community impacts by removing financial barriers to transportation access for youth.

Clipper START Program Update and Proposed Fare Structure Changes - Justin Horng, Senior Planner, provided the presentation on the background of the Clipper START program and the proposed fare structure changes, which included alignment with SamTrans' policies, financial impacts, and MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) actions.

- Chair Powell asked if SamTrans had any control over the income requirement for families. Ms. Chan said it is a regional requirement made by MTC when they established the Clipper START program.
- Director Marina Fraser said she felt that the income of \$60, 000 for a family of four was unrealistic and spoke in support of changing income levels to reflect reality.

### **Legislative Committee**

State and Federal Legislative Update and Approval of Legislative Proposal: Support Assembly Bill (AB) 557 (Hart) - Jessica Epstein, Manager, Government and Community Affairs, said an agreement was reached to raise the debt ceiling until January 2025. She said there is a new mechanism to force Congress to come to an agreement about appropriations this year. At the

state level, the budget deficit had increased to \$31.5 billion from the \$22.5 billion that the Governor had cited in January. She said the Senate and Assembly have proposed to restore TIRCP (Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program) funding to levels consistent with the 2022 Budget Act. Ms. Epstein noted that there is opposition on some of the Brown Act bills that the District is tracking. She said Assembly Bill (AB) 1377 would allow jurisdictions to address homeless challenges in their communities, including transit facilities.

- Chair Josh Powell commented on the limits to accessibility for Board members who are required to attend meetings in person.