

# San Mateo County Transit District Liaison Report

Meeting of July 12, 2023

## Board Actions

- Approved the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of June 7, 2023
- Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending May 31, 2023
- Authorized Agreement for Affordable Housing and Sustainable Community Grant Funding for Zero Emission Expansion Buses and Route 281 Enhanced Service
- Authorized Reclassifications, Title Changes, Modification, and Addition of Positions to the Table of Position Classifications
- Authorized Expansion of Scope of the South Base Battery Electric Bus Infrastructure Project Procurement

## Board Highlights

- April Chan, General Manager/CEO, noted the launch of the Ride Plus on-demand service on June 18. In the state budget, she said a lifeline was provided for significant funding for local transit systems with most of the funding going to the most-needy transit operators.
- Casey Fromson, Chief Communications Officer, presented on recent events, including the Bus Roadeo and District participation Pride festivals in Half Moon Bay and San Francisco

## Committee Discussion Highlights

### Community Relations Committee

Quarterly Report | Quarter 3 Fiscal Year 2023 - Jonathan Steketee, Manager, Operations Planning, presented on the latest performance dashboard, which included the following:

- Board request to provide comparisons of the current quarterly dashboard to pre-pandemic dashboards in the future
- 44 percent of riders currently use Clipper and with Clipper 2.0, the availability of data is greater and the system more efficient

### Community Relations Committee

Monthly Performance Report | May 2023 - Ana Rivas, Director of Bus Transportation, summarized the report, which included the following:

- Announced employees of the month for North and South Base
- Bus operators are trained to expect the unexpected in regard to other drivers
- There were only 15 DNOs (Did Not Operate)

## **Finance Committee**

Headquarters (HQ) Facility Update – Ms. Chan introduced the item and Craig Whittom, MRG, LLC, provided the presentation, which included the following.

- Three potential options for the future of the District headquarters building: (1) “no building” and continuing to occupy the current building, (2) building a new building on the current site, and (3) acquire a new building
- Employee HQ survey key findings included close proximity to public transportation, restaurants and services, and onsite parking as top priorities for a future HQ site

The Board members largely expressed a preference for Option 3 and noted the preference to have staff relocate once rather than twice as would be necessary with the potential options for renovation or rebuild of the current building. They noted that the current location in San Carlos could potentially provide the San Carlos community with much needed housing or other uses. Though the Board recognized the San Carlos location has many benefits, they felt a new building was a better option for collaboration and creating a modern working environment.

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

SamTrans Adaptation and Resilience Plan Update - Amelia Timbers, Manager, Environmental Compliance, provided the presentation and clarified following with Board Members:

- Options to mitigate the effects of sea level rise and high heat on North and South Bases
- Include the District in the sea-level vulnerability study being done in Redwood City and working closely with OneShoreline (San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District)
- Confirmed that staff is collaborating with SFO (San Francisco International Airport) in the plans to build a wall around its perimeter called the Shoreline Protection Program and noted that the airport just completed its environmental impact report for this project

## **Legislative Committee**

State and Federal Legislative Update - Jessica Epstein, Manager, Government and Community Affairs, provided an update on recent federal and state legislation, which included the following:

- At the federal level, the House and Senate are in the annual appropriations process
- At the state level, on July 10, the Governor signed the final budget deal with the infrastructure streamlining packages, restoring \$4 billion in support for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025
- SamTrans is watching the Wiener bridge toll bill, which would generate revenue for transit agencies, with priority going to agencies attempting to avoid the fiscal cliff and only 10 percent going to the remaining agencies
- The Hart bill regarding power blackouts did not pass out of Committee
- Director Canepa noted that one of his concerns as Chair of the Legislative Committee of MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) was how transit operators such as SamTrans who are operating at high efficiency are rewarded