

SamTrans Board Liaison Report

Meeting of September 6, 2023

Board Actions

- Approved the Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of August 2, 2023
- Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending July 31, 2023
- Accepted the Quarterly Fuel Hedge Update
- Awarded a Contract for Bus Tire Leasing Services
- Approved a Resolution Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month

Board Highlights

- Director Jeff Gee reported out from the Board Ad Hoc Interview/Nominating Committee meetings and recommended Brooks Esser as the new Public Member for the seat and partial term vacated by Rose Guilbault earlier this year. The Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Esser as the new public member of the SamTrans Board
- April Chan, General Manager/CEO, noted that the first of 17 battery electric buses, Bus No. 1000, had arrived and was operating on El Camino Real. She reported that the full \$15.2 million payment has been received from VTA (Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority) and SFMTA (San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency) in accordance with the Caltrain governance MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). She said staff will be kicking off the District strategic planning process, with the first meeting tentatively scheduled for November 9 to engage the Board and receive input.

Community Relations Committee

Mobility Management Report: Annual Summary - David Olmeda, Chief Operating Officer, Bus, provided the presentation, which consisted of a summary of key performance statistics by fixed route, paratransit, microtransit, shuttle and Caltrain service over the past year. He noted that the operator attrition rate is decreasing. In addition to fixed route service, paratransit ridership is also increasing despite a steady decline in ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) service registrants. He said that shuttle service usage has declined due to the increased number of riders working remotely.

The Directors had a robust discussion with staff, which included the following:

- How reduced ridership affects farebox recovery
- Balancing service improvement with efforts to increase ridership
- Obtaining service efficiency metrics for rural areas in addition to urban settings and comparing rural areas with other rural areas

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

- Announcement of the employees of the month for North and South Base
- Average weekday ridership increased 17.6 percent compared to the same month in 2022, and total ridership increased 19 percent.
- There were no DNOs (Did Not Operate) for the month

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 Senate had reconvened and the House would reconvene in October. Congress had not yet passed any of the prior appropriation bills and a continuing resolution (CR) was likely.
- At the state level, the legislature reconvened on August 14. The California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) has recently put out guidelines on the Zero Emission Transit Capital Program. In the San Francisco Bay Area, MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) will be administering the funding that will be coming to the region. The funding will be flexible and can be used for operations, especially for transit agencies that have imminent fiscal cliffs.
- A review of recent bill activity and personnel changes at the legislative level.

Closed Sessions

There were two closed sessions involving existing litigation. The Board heard reports and gave authorization, and there were no reportable actions.