

## SamTrans Board Liaison Report

Meeting of March 6, 2024

### Board Received/Actions

- Approved Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of February 7, 2024
- Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending January 31, 2024
- Accepted the Quarterly Fuel Hedge Update
- Approved a Proclamation Honoring Women's History Month
- Appointed Dylan Finch, Representing Multimodal Riders, to the Citizens Advisory Committee
- Authorized an Amendment to a Contract with Wipro, LLC to Upgrade the District's PeopleSoft Application from Version 9.1 to Version 9.2 in the Amount of \$2,409,776, and Increasing the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget by \$3,259,776, from \$187,925,555 to \$191,185,331

### Board Highlights

April Chan, General Manager/CEO, said the District had kicked off the new runbook and the EPX express bus route in early February. She said that staff is currently monitoring the EPX route to see if they need to make any adjustments. She said that due to the runbook starting on Superbowl Sunday, there were a number a of DNOs (Did Not Operate). She said that staff will take note of major events when planning for future runbook start dates.. She said on February 24, the SamTrans team participated in a Lunar New Year celebration in Redwood City, where red envelopes containing SamTrans day passes were handed out to encourage people to try SamTrans service. Ms. Chan said that MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) Commissioners Papan and Canepa helped to organize a meeting with MTC to discuss Regional Measure 3 funding for improvements in the Dumbarton Corridor. She said she wanted to express her appreciation to the Commissioners for the meeting, and she reported that SamTrans is currently looking at reactivating the rail corridor for an exclusive transitway project. She also announced that Mike Levinson, a long-time community leader and paratransit/disability advocate, had recently passed away, and that the meeting would be adjourned in his memory.

### Community Relations Committee

Quarterly Report | Quarter 2 Fiscal Year 2024 - Jonathan Steketee, Manager, Operations Planning, provided the presentation on the performance statistics from October through December of 2023. He noted that ridership was up 16.2 percent compared to the same quarter last year. He said ridership recovery was at 91 percent in December, which puts the District at the top in the Bay Area, the top 7 percent in California, and in the top 8 percent nationwide for similar-sized populations.

Monthly Performance Report | January 2024 - Ana Rivas, Director of Bus Transportation, provided the latest performance statistics, noting that they were ahead of their goal for miles between preventable accidents for the month.

## **Finance Committee**

Quarterly Financial Report and Outlook for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 - Kate Jordan Steiner, Chief Financial Officer, provided the presentation on the financial report for the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2024 that included major initiatives and investments. She recommended not putting more into reserves for pension at the current time and said she would check with the actuary for funding recommendations for OPEB (other post-employment benefits) and CalPERS (California Public Employees Retirement System).

Authorize an Amendment to a Contract with Wipro, LLC to Upgrade the District's PeopleSoft ERP System, and Increase the Fiscal Year 2024 Capital Budget - Mehul Kumar, Chief Information and Technology Officer, IT, presented the staff report. Director Rico Medina asked if the three agencies were aware of the funding needed for the ERP (enterprise resource planning) upgrade, which Ms. Chan confirmed that such information was communicated to the respective agencies. He asked what the ROI (return on investment) was. Mr. Kumar provided background on the agreement that the District has with Wipro. Director Rico Medina said it was a lot of money and wondered why it was not addressed in previous years. Mr. Kumar explained it was an enterprise-wide product. Director Jeff Gee asked what the District's total investment in PeopleSoft has been. Ms. Jordan Steiner said that staff would get back to him. Director Gee said the District should be more proactive with Human Resources and find a platform that best serves the District's needs. Director Marie Chuang asked if it is a given that each agency would contribute their share of the costs. Ms. Chan said they had met with Michelle Bouchard, Executive Director of Caltrain, and said Ms. Bouchard is aware of the necessity of the shared cost. She said that the TA is picking up a small share and the finance arm of the JPA (San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority) is picking up a small share as well. She said that cost sharing is based on the number of transactions from each agency.

## **Legislative Committee**

State and Federal Legislative Update – Ms. Epstein provided a summary of federal and state legislation, which included the following:

- On the federal side, she said there are a number of bills that have CRs that expire March 22. She said the State of the Union address would happen on March 7.
- At the state level, she said February 16 is the deadline for new bills. She provided personnel updates. She said regarding the Senate Bill (SB) 925 spot bill that there was a first round of language regarding regional transit. She said the bill proposes a significant expansion of the role of MTC in regional transit. She summarized the March 4 election results.

Director David Canepa said the language should prioritize the work of the Regional Network Manager at MTC. He said he is glad Senator Wiener is taking the issue on. Director Gee asked if there was any update on SB 926, and Ms. Epstein said there was not and that the deadline was March 11. Director Brooks Esser asked what the majority was required to pass the ballot measure, and Ms. Epstein said a two-thirds majority throughout the whole Bay Area.

**Closed Sessions** - There were three closed sessions on matters of existing litigation, a conference with labor negotiators, and anticipated litigation with no expected reportable actions. Legal Counsel noted she would provide the report outs from the closed sessions at the beginning of the next regular Board meeting.