

SamTrans Board Liaison Report

Meeting of April 3, 2024

Board Received/Actions

- Report from Closed Session in the matter of Pamela Scannell v. San Mateo County Transit District that the Board unanimously approved a settlement of \$250,000.
- Approved Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of March 6, 2024
- Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending February 29, 2024
- Amended the Contract with the Center for Transportation and the Environment for Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Bus Feasibility Studies to Include Technical Support, Extend the Schedule by One Year, and Increase the Value by \$250,000
- Authorized the Application for and Receipt of Low Carbon Transportation Operations Program Funds for the Purchase of Fuel Cell Electric Buses
- Amending the Investment Policy for the San Mateo County Transit District and Paratransit Trust Funds and Delegating Investment Authority for Fiscal Year 2024-2025
- Approved a Proclamation Honoring Arab-American Heritage Month
- Appointed Max Mautner, Representing Multimodal Riders, to the Citizens Advisory Committee
- Adopted the Code of Conduct and Enforcement Policy for Use of District Services
- Approved an Update to the Public Comment Process
- Adopted a Revised Travel Policy and Procedures
- Awarded a Contract to Clark Construction Group - CA, LP of San Francisco, California, for Construction Manager General Contractor Services for the South Base Battery Electric Bus Charging Infrastructure Project for a Total Amount of \$975,681

Board Highlights

April Chan, General Manager/CEO, said the 2024 Strategic Plan project team has been working on finalizing the vision and mission goals. She said they are putting together a 10-year capital improvement program and financial model, and Measure W expenditure plan. She said they have a project manager for the new District headquarters in Millbrae and the District project team is working with the developer and the developer's architectural firm. She announced that the annual Roadeo is scheduled for Saturday, June 15. Ms. Chan noted that Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, would be reporting on the Regional Funding Measure. She noted that the earlier bills from Senators Wiener and Wahab [Senate Bills (SB) 925 and 926] have now been consolidated into SB 1031. She said one of the key drivers for the bill is to introduce a regional revenue measure to provide funding for those transit agencies facing financial cliffs; however, one of the major issues with the consolidation bill now is a proposed study to consolidate the transit agencies in the Bay Area. She noted that both she and Michelle Bouchard, Executive Director, Caltrain, are members of the RNM (Regional Network Management) Council that was established by MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission). She said the Council's goal is to take recommendations from the Transit Transformation action plan and implement and operationalize them. She said more will be discussed about this bill during the Legislative Committee. For the final report item, She noted that the State has, under the newly established

Reconnecting Communities program, awarded the Transportation Authority (TA) and the City of South San Francisco a grant for the new Connect4SSF program. She said that this is only one of three projects awarded in the State of California; the three agencies will share a total of \$149 million.

Qi Ni Chen was presented with the Bus Operator of the Year Award, Zhuolun (Alan) Liao was awarded Maintenance Employee of the Year, and Carl Cruz was presented with a 35-Year Safe Driver Award.

Community Relations Committee

Monthly Performance Report | February 2024 - Ana Rivas, Director of Bus Transportation, provided the latest performance statistics, noting that ridership increased 19.1 percent for all modes since February of 2023 and that they were ahead of their goal for miles between preventable accidents for the month.

Adopting the Code of Conduct and Enforcement Policy for Use of District Services – Michelle Louie, Title VI Social Equity Administrator, and Ms. Rivas provided the presentation on the SamTrans Code of Conduct. The Board had a robust discussion that included the following clarifications with staff:

- Process for reporting an instigator – the bus operator contacts radio control, who contacts the transit police or local law enforcement and the response is fairly quick to remove someone from the bus for the safety of all
- Chronic offenders handling - if it is a regular occurrence, transportation supervisors can be present at the scene and they can impose a ban on problem riders
- Staff has started tracking incidents, and will be preparing standard operating procedures (SOP) for reporting incidences going forward once the code of rider conduct is approved by the Board. David Olmeda, Chief Operating Officer, Bus, also reported that the District is working on adding barriers on the buses to protect operators
- Staff confirmed that law enforcement pursues enforcement based on the action itself, under the penal code. Also staff noted that the 10-week operator training does include enforcement Director Ray Mueller suggested a fine for offenders, and Legal Counsel clarified that we would need to collaborate with the District Attorney's office to look into how to levy any fines. Ms. Cassman proposed that the District could have an internal administration procedure where SamTrans itself could levy a fine and said that this would be brought back to the Board for consideration at a later date.

Finance Committee

Awarding a Contract to Clark Construction Group - CA, LP of San Francisco, California, for Construction Manager General Contractor Services for the South Base Battery Electric Bus Charging Infrastructure Project for a Total Amount of \$975,681 - Tanisha Werner, Deputy Director, Infrastructure, who provided the presentation. Director Marie Chuang asked about the District's relationship with PG&E (Pacific Gas and Electric) providing power to the project. Mr. Olmeda clarified that the role of PG&E is on delivery: how to deliver the electricity provided through Peninsula Clean Energy.

Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee

Bus Stop Improvement Plan (BSIP) Project Update – Millie Tolleson, Director of Planning, and Daniel Shockley, Planning Administrator, provided the presentation on plans to update existing stops and shelters and install new ones. Director Chuang said that the QR code might be subject to tampering with someone covering it with a sticker. Mr. Shockley said he would pass that along to the delivery team. Director Jeff Gee said they need to have a plan to maintain the shelters. Ms. Chan noted that, unlike previously some of the stops are maintained by a contractor with a said cleaning schedule, the new model is that the SamTrans workforce will be doing the maintenance. This allows for more flexibility. Director Josh Powell suggested having a QR code with the SamTrans logo embedded in it. He asked how the implementation would be phased, and Mr. Shockley explained the rollout schedule.

Legislative Committee

State and Federal Legislative Update – Ms. Epstein discussed SB 1031, a bill that, while it includes a revenue measure to put on the ballot likely in 2026, will also study the consolidation of all the transit agencies in the nine-county Bay Area. Director Mueller asked what in the bill is salvageable. Ms. Epstein said they are working with MTC regarding what of the bill is be acceptable. Director Mueller said he felt they would oppose the bill unless certain amendments are made. Director Powell said 90 percent of SamTrans riders are local riders and are unlikely to receive support from non-local legislators. Director David Canepa said since this is a nine-county bill, his greatest concern was return to source. He said he supported the bill with appropriate amendments. He said other agencies are not run very well and that all operators should be held accountable. Chair Marina Fraser said she was opposed to the bill since it was not fair to San Mateo County. Director Brooks Esser said proposing a different type of consolidation perhaps from an IT function as opposed to operational functions. Director Powell said he was in favor of exploring how to work better with the other agencies in the region. Ms. Chan said SB 125 is being led by the state’s transportation secretary. She said one of the outcomes of the bill is for the state to study how best to improve transit delivery, and the proposed study in SB1031 should wait for the outcome of the SB125 work. Director Mueller said the Board should oppose unless amended as the position on the bill. Director Gee said with regard to the amendment that it is important to work with the bill authors. He said SamTrans should provide a strongly worded statement to MTC. He said it was not fair to hold up funding for well-run agencies. The Board voted to have staff prepare a strongly worded letter going to MTC and/or legislators regarding opposing SB 1031 unless amended [regarding coordination, not consolidation; local funding (return to source); and no expansion of MTC power and oversight].

Michaela Wright Petrik, Government and Community Affairs Officer, provided a summary of federal and state legislation, which included the following:

- On the federal side, she said Congress had wrapped up the 2024 appropriation process. She said President Biden released his proposed budget on March 11.
- At the state level, she said the House is hearing bills under the April 26 deadline. She said the state released a “shrink the shortfall” budget in early March.