

SamTrans Board Liaison Report

Meeting of May 1, 2024

Board Received/Actions

- Approved Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of April 3, 2024
- Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending March 31, 2024
- Accepted the Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 3rd Quarter Fiscal Year 2024
- Accepted the Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook
- Awarded a Contract to Pacific Coast Petroleum, Inc. of Hayward, California for Supply of Petroleum Products for a Total Not-to-exceed Amount of \$1,509,899
- Approved a Proclamation Honoring Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- Approved Assigning Special Legal Counsel Services Agreement from Wagstaffe, von Loewenfeldt, Busch & Radwick LLP to Adamski Moroski Madden Cumberland & Green LLP and Increasing the Contract Authority in the Agreement by \$225,000
- Approved a Proclamation Declaring May as Older Americans Month
- Approved the SamTrans Bus Stop Improvement Plan

Board Highlights

April Chan, General Manager/CEO, provided the following highlights under the General Manager's report:

- The Student "Art Takes a Bus Ride" awards would be presented to the kindergarten through high school student winners.
- She had discussions with the Senate Transportation and Revenue & Taxation Committee chairs regarding Senate Bill (SB) 1031 and its impact on San Mateo County; noted there has been a lot of movements and changes with the legislation language.
- The new headquarters floor plans and building design are being worked on. A general contractor has been selected to "warm up" the building, and to construct the tenant improvements.
- She spoke to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) about the no-low grant application for the zero emission fleet project, and emphasized why SamTrans should be given fair consideration.
- SamTrans provides free passes for the use of buses for a school field trip.
- She recognized staff who had won awards recently, including Kate Christopherson and the SamTrans maintenance team at the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) International Roadeo.

Student "Art Takes a Bus Ride" Contest: Exploring Nature with SamTrans: Mahmoud Abunie, Public Affairs Specialist, announced each of the contest winners, which was co-coordinated by the San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE). The students took photos with the Board Chair and Vice Chair and family members. There was a break to allow the Board and meeting participants to view the buses wrapped with the students' artwork.

Community Relations Committee

Proclamation Declaring May as Older Americans Month – Director Brooks Esser summarized the proclamation, which was accepted by Irene Liana, Representative from Commission on Aging.

Monthly Performance Report | February 2024 - Ana Rivas, Director of Bus Transportation, provided the latest performance statistics and employees of the month. She noted an increase in both average weekly ridership and total monthly ridership compared to 2023, and noted that in March, they had reached 94.1 percent of pre-pandemic ridership.

Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee

Approving the Bus Stop Improvement Plan – Daniel Shockley, Planning Administrator, provided the presentation on the final plan to update the existing stops and shelters and install new ones. Director Jeff Gee asked what the plan was to maintain the bus stop improvements. Josh Mello, Executive Officer, Planning and Development, noted the staff recommendation for additional full-time SamTrans staff to maintain the facilities. Director Gee asked if they had any metrics planned. David Olmeda, Chief Operating Officer, Bus, said depending on need, the Facilities Department has adjusted their approach as to frequency of cleaning, as an example. He said they would be revising budgets going forward and would also fine-tune the metrics. Director Gee said he hoped that partner cities could be involved in the negotiation process so that District does not take on all the liability in the maintenance of the stops. Director Ray Mueller asked how much the current trash cans are used. Mr. Olmeda said they are typically filled and that emptying them is laborious. He said the District does not have control of the emptying schedule and it is a challenge to maintain that schedule. Director Mueller said he supported retaining the trash cans.

Reimagine SamTrans Implementation Update – Kate Christopherson, Planning Administrator, provided the presentation on the new proposed route changes. Director David Canepa asked if Route 121 covered both the east and west sides of Daly City. Jonathan Steketee, Manager, Operations Planning, said the proposal was to terminate 121 at Daly City BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) and have another route continue towards Mission Hills Park. Director Chuang asked where they had directed their outreach, and Mr. Steketee said the cities, on the buses, at the bus stops, and on the website. Director Canepa requested extending the public comment period beyond the current cutoff date of May 10. Director Gee suggested staff should work with Director Canepa and Daly City on allowing more time on input for Route 121, as that is the route that needs more input. It was agreed that, for the rest of the route changes, the District can keep the deadline for comments as is.

Legislative Committee

State and Federal Legislative Update – Ms. Epstein provided a presentation on SB 1031, primarily focused on what the legislative changes had been since the bill was first introduced. She also explained the return to source formula, and how much San Mateo County would receive. Director Mueller asked about the return to source at 95 percent. Ms. Epstein said she was told 99 percent, so she said she will research and clarify that number. Regarding the consolidation language that is contained in the bill, Chair Marina Fraser said she would not consider consolidation without a study. Ms. Epstein explained that the bill does not provide the study would only occur if there is a revenue measure passed. There were numerous public

commenters who supported the bill as written. Chair Fraser expressed appreciation for the public comments and noted that the Board received over 100 letters and over half of them came from residents of San Francisco.

Ms. Epstein provided a summary of federal and state legislation, which included the following:

- On the federal side, she noted that staff had submitted earmarks for the Bus Stop Improvement Plan and that Director Fraser, General Manager/CEO Chan, and staff had met with the Congressional delegation offices to advocate for that project.
- At the state level, she said they are currently projecting a \$38 billion state deficit. She noted that there was a new package signed by the Governor, but no impact is predicted for transit funding.

Closed Session and Special Closed Session Meeting

There was a closed session on a conference with labor negotiators and a special meeting for a closed session on a conference regarding real property negotiations. Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, noted there were no expected reportable actions and said she would provide the report-outs from the closed sessions at the beginning of the next regular Board meeting.