

SamTrans Board Liaison Report

Meeting of October 9, 2024

Board Received/Actions

- Approved a three-year Memoranda of Understanding with all five bargaining units represented by International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 856
- Approved Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of September 4, 2024
- Accepted Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
- Accepted Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending August 31, 2024
- Approved the 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Calendar
- Authorized the Filing of an Application with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for Transportation Development Act, State Transit Assistance and Regional Measure 2 Funds for Fiscal Year 2024-25
- Authorized an Increase in the Contract Contingency Amount for Contract Number 23-S-C-022 for the South Base Switchgear Replacement Project
- Approved a Proclamation Honoring Filipino American History Month
- Approved a Proclamation Declaring October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month
- Authorized an Amendment to a Caltrain Safety Personnel Agreement with the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board to Allow Additional Rail Safety Positions to Report Up to the Caltrain Executive Director
- Awarded Contracts to CBRE, Inc. and Century Urban, LLC for On-call General Commercial Real Estate Brokerage Services for an Aggregate Not-to-exceed Amount of \$1,237,500 for a Five-year Base Term, with One Additional Five-year Option Term
- Authorized Purchase of Mobile Refueler for Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Buses from Plug Project Holding Co., LLC

Board Highlights

Chair Marina Fraser reported on her attendance at the recent TRANSform APTA (American Public Transportation Association) conference and noted that SamTrans had won the prestigious 2024 Outstanding Public Transportation System Award. She said colleagues from other agencies were impressed by SamTrans' use of battery electric and hydrogen buses.

Randol White, Public Information Officer, provided a presentation and video on the September 16 Rider Appreciation Day.

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

- Congratulated Mehul Kumar, Chief Information and Technology Officer, who had recently completed the APTA leadership program
- Gave a shout-out to Jamie Vizmanos, Digital Communications Specialist, who was one of the selected presenters on innovation projects at the APTA conference
- Commended the 20 or so staff who volunteered on Rider Appreciation Day

- Noted the success of the various activities to celebrate the launch of the Caltrain’s electric service on September 21 and 22
- Noted the unveiling of Karyl Matsumoto Plaza in at the South San Francisco Caltrain Station on September 21
- The City of Redwood City, including SamTrans Board Vice Chair Jeff Gee, hosted a delegation of representatives from its sister cities in Mexico at SamTrans South Base where the SamTrans team showcased our zero-emission buses and infrastructure for the attendees.
- Briefly summarized the progress on the regional transit measure

Community Relations Committee

Quarterly State of the Service Report | Quarter 4 Fiscal Year 2024 – Kate Christopherson, Planning Administrator, Operations Planning, reviewed trends from the April through June quarter. She said on-time performance was under the 85 percent goal systemwide but it had increased 4.6 percent year over year. She noted that the team is trying to reduce the number of preventable accidents per 100,000 fleet miles and DNOs (Did Not Operate) had decreased by 54 percent year over year.

Monthly State of the Service Report | August 2024 – Ms. Christopherson provided the latest performance statistics and employees of the month. She said the average weekday ridership across all four modes increased by 10.5 percent over the past year, and total fixed-route bus ridership recovery reached 97.7 percent of pre-pandemic bus total ridership. She said they had 0.82 service calls, which meets their goal of having one or fewer service calls per 25,000 miles.

Finance Committee

Authorizing Purchase of Mobile Refueler for Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Buses from Plug Project Holding Co., LLC – Liria Larano, Deputy Chief, Bus Fleet and Facilities, provided the presentation, which she had presented to the Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee in September. She said they want to purchase the mobile unit for the flexibility of being able to move it between bases. The directors discussed topics including the lifespan of the refueler, any problems experienced, and fire protection. Ms. Larano said that they had determined it is best to perform refueling in the evening when the unit has cooled down.

Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee

Draft Strategic Plan and Update on Capital Improvement Plan and Measure W Ten-year Plan – Chelsea Schultz, Manager, Strategic Planning, provided the presentation on the Strategic Plan and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) going forward. The directors noted that alignment of resources is key and that an effective funding plan with a consistent funding source is critical in light of ever-rising construction costs for the CIP.

Legislative Committee

Legislative Update – Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, provided a summary of federal and state legislation, which included the following:

- On the federal side, the Senate and House approved stopgap funding and the upcoming November 5 election would have a major impact on legislation.
- At the state level, the Legislature is in recess and will reconvene on December 2. An update on legislation involving hydrogen production facilities and high-frequency rail was provided.
- At the regional level, the timeline of MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) meetings on the funding measure was reviewed. Ms. Epstein also reported that MTC will be doing polling on the potential funding mechanism options following the November elections. The directors expressed their concern about accountability from partner agencies, and BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) in particular, and said that there should be reservations about San Mateo County supporting a system that is not countywide. Chair Fraser proposed that San Mateo County to have a seat on the BART Board, and some of the directors concurred. General Manager Chan reported out that the staff will continue to work with the region and MTC on what appropriate support should be coming from San Mateo County, noting the concerns raised by the Board.

Closed Sessions

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, reported on the closed session from September 4 where the Board had no reportable action.

There were three closed sessions, including (1) discussion on labor negotiators where the Board then approved a three-year Memoranda of Understanding with all five bargaining units represented by International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 856 in open session, (2) a conference on existing litigation regarding a claim, and (3) a conference regarding real property negotiations.

Ms. Cassman said there were no expected reportable actions on the existing litigation and the real property negotiations and a report-out would instead be provided at the beginning of the next regular Board meeting.