

SamTrans Board Liaison Report

Meeting of November 6, 2024

Board Received/Actions

- Approved Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of October 9, 2024
- Accepted Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending September 30, 2024
- Accepted Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook
- Accepted Capital Projects Quarterly Status Report for 1st Quarter Fiscal Year 2025
- Adopted the Amended Conflict of Interest Code
- Approved a Proclamation Honoring National Native American Heritage Month
- Approved a Resolution Declaring the Uncertainty of Compensation for the General Manager/CEO as of November 1, 2024
- Authorized an Amendment to the Contract with Allied Universal for Security Services to Extend the Term by 18 Months and Increase the Contract Amount by \$4,570,985
- Authorized an Amendment to Redi-Wheels Paratransit Service Contract to Increase the Amount by \$2,190,021 for the Current Term, and Extend the Contract by One Year at an Additional Cost of \$14,524,291
- Approved an Amendment to Increase the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget by \$26,665,192 and the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget by \$82,847,997
- Adopted the San Mateo County Transit District Fiscal Years 2026-2035 Strategic Plan

Board Highlights

There were public comments from personnel and a few public members regarding the ongoing labor negotiations with Amalgamated Transit Union.

Chair Marina Fraser congratulated Rico Medina for winning his seat on the San Bruno City Council on Election Day.

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

- Reflecting on the election results, she said the District will continue to work at all levels to advocate for project funding
- Announced the new Day of the Dead bus wrap that debuted at the recent celebration in Redwood City
- Announced the recent relaunch of the Grand Boulevard Initiative to transform El Camino Real to improve multimodal access for all users including transit in the corridor. Stakeholders that SamTrans is engaging with for the program include the 13 San Mateo County cities along El Camino Real, as well as other stakeholders such as advocacy groups, Caltrans, and MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission). MTC recently announced that SamTrans will receive a \$2 million grant to support such efforts on El Camino Real.

- Provided a brief update on the regional transportation measure; she reported that MTC is considering other revenue frameworks. Ms. Chan reported that a letter has been sent to MTC Select Committee Chair Jim Spering regarding concerns raised by SamTrans and SMCTA regarding the revenue options currently on the table. More discussion by the Board of these proposals will be done at the Legislative Committee later in the meeting.

Community Relations Committee

Annual State of the Service Report | Fiscal Year 2024 – Millie Tolleson, Director, Planning, provided the presentation covering the performance statistics for the past fiscal year. She said the District met its goal for the number of miles between service calls. She noted the delivery of zero-emission buses and the APTA (American Public Transportation Association) award received as some of the major highlights. The Directors inquired about bus camera systems and operator safety shields. David Olmeda, Chief Operating Officer, Bus, explained that the barriers installed during the pandemic were temporary shields and permanent shields would be installed. He explained that buses must be modified at the structural level and they would be coming back to the Board to ask for contract authorization to retrofit the articulated and electric bus fleet, and that all newly ordered vehicles will have the operator barriers. Mr. Olmeda said that camera systems and silent alarm improvement efforts are ongoing and that all operators received de-escalation training during onboarding and can look into refresher training.

Finance Committee

Authorizing an Amendment to Redi-Wheels Paratransit Service Contract to Increase the Amount by \$2,190,021 for the Current Term, and Extend the Contract by One Year at an Additional Cost of \$14,524,291 – Kevin Yin, Director, Contracts and Procurement, presented the staff report. Vice Chair Jeff Gee suggested to review contract language so contractors can keep up with economic conditions. Mr. Yin said the contract has an adjustment clause.

Amending to Increase the Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget by \$26,665,192 and the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget by \$82,847,997 – Jeannie Chen, Manager, Budgets, provided the presentation on the revised budget, which was based on Fiscal Year 2024 actuals and the first few months of Fiscal Year 2025. Directors Josh Powell and Marie Chuang asked about the new line item consisting of expenditures for buses. Ms. Chen said the expenditure was to replace buses that are at the end of their useful life. Mr. Olmeda said there is an increase in cost per unit due to the improved technology. He said that diesel buses will be replaced with zero-emission (hydrogen fuel cell and/or battery electric) buses in accordance with the ICT (Innovative Clean Transit) plan.

Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee

Adopting the San Mateo County Transit District Fiscal Years 2026-2035 Strategic Plan – Chelsea Schultz, Manager, Strategic Planning, provided the presentation on the final FY 2026-2035 Strategic Plan. Director Chuang asked if staff could create a dashboard to provide a better understanding of the progress. Ms. Schultz said that one of their initiatives is to provide clear and understandable reporting on plan progress.

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, Republicans took control of the White House and Senate, and likely the House as well.
- At the state level:
 - 20 of 40 seats were up for re-election, with 11 senators and assemblymembers not returning
 - A review of the outcome of the propositions that were on the ballot

Ms. Epstein provided a presentation on regional transit measure and solicited feedback from the Directors for the different proposals and scenarios from MTC. Director Powell asked what makes something a citizens' measure. Ms. Epstein said it is citizens getting people to physically sign petitions. Director Brooks Esser asked about San Francisco's Proposition L. Ms. Epstein said it is likely to pass and may be a precedent for similar legislation. Vice Chair Jeff Gee said due to the long term of the proposed measure, it would not be possible to come back every few years asking for additional money. The Directors agreed that they wanted to support other transit agencies but did not want SamTrans to be in the position of being a donor agency.

Closed Sessions

Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, reported on the closed sessions from October 9 where the Board had no reportable action.

There were four closed sessions, including (1) discussion on labor negotiations where the Board took no action, (2) a conference on existing litigation where the Board gave authority to staff and general counsel to settle the case, (3) a conference on anticipated litigation where the Board gave authority to staff and general counsel to settle the case, and (4) a conference on real property negotiations where the Board gave the General Manager/CEO the authority to enter into a lease with Caltrain contingent upon the Caltrain Board's approval of the lease term sheet at their Board meeting on November 7.