

## **SamTrans Board Liaison Report**

**Meeting of December 4, 2024**

### **Board Received/Actions**

- Approved Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting of November 6, 2024 and Special Meeting of November 21, 2024
- Accepted Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending October 31, 2024
- Accepted Quarterly Fuel Hedge Update
- Appointed Members to the Measure W Citizens Oversight Committee
- Authorized Filing of Applications for Federal Transit Administration Formula and Surface Transportation Programs Funding, Committing Necessary Local Matching Funds, and Assuring Completion of Projects
- Awarded a Sole-source Contract to Giro, Inc. to Provide Hastus Scheduling Software Maintenance and Support Services for a Total Not-to-exceed Amount of \$1,643,706 for a Three-year Base Term Plus Two One-year Option Terms, and 80 Days of As-needed Professional Services
- Amended the Employer's CalPERS Contribution to the Employees', Retirees', and Board Members' Monthly Medical Premiums
- Approved a Resolution of Appreciation for San Mateo County Supervisor Dave Pine
- Approved a Resolution of Appreciation for San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum
- Approved Making Same-Day Paratransit Service Permanent, Making Findings Under the California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act, and Amending the Fare Structures to Make Minor Administrative Updates and Include Same-Day Paratransit Fares
- Accepted the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
- Appointed Member Representing the Community to the Citizens Advisory Committee
- Awarded a Single-source Contract to New Flyer of America to Retrofit 72 Buses with Driver Barrier Doors for a Total Not-to-exceed Amount of \$644,291
- Authorized Reclassifications, Title Changes, Modifications, and Addition of Positions to the Table of Position Classifications
- Approved an Amendment to Increase the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget by \$37,586,093 from \$149,947,511 to \$187,533,604
- Adopted a Negative Declaration for the Building 200 Replacement Project
- Approved Modifying the Footprint of the Zero Emissions Bus Implementation Project at North Base and Adopted an Addendum to the Negative Declaration for the Project

## **Board Highlights**

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

- Noted there will be a public hearing following her report on including the Same-Day Paratransit program as part of the SamTrans' suite of services and approving a fare structure update for the program
- Shout-out to Mehul Kumar, Kate Jordan Steiner, and their team members for meeting the deadline and completing the PeopleSoft 9.2 upgrade on schedule and on budget.

## **Community Relations Committee**

Monthly State of the Service Report – Jonathan Steketee, Manager, Operations Planning, presented the staff report. He stated SamTrans was now at 99 percent of pre-pandemic ridership, and staff is now focusing on improving the preventable accidents numbers, and that DNOs (Did Not Operate) were relatively low at 24 for the month.

Director Brooks Esser noted that paratransit service is only at 70 percent of pre-pandemic ridership. Tina Dubost, Manager, Accessible Services, said riders tend to be more cautious about taking trips since the pandemic. David Olmeda, Chief Operating Officer, Bus, noted that many senior centers in the County had closed, which has affected ridership.

## **Finance Committee**

Quarterly Financial Report: Fiscal Year 2024 Year End Result – Kate Jordan Steiner, Chief Financial Officer, provided the presentation. Vice Chair Jeff Gee said he was pleased with the contributions to capital reserve in absence of a reserve policy. Ms. Chan said funds were being set aside in expectation of anticipated expenses. Ms. Jordan Steiner said they would revisit the capital reserve program in a few months and would set aside funds for unexpected expenditures in the interim.

Awarding a Single-source Contract to New Flyer of America to Retrofit 72 Buses with Driver Barrier Doors for a Total Not-to-exceed Amount of \$644,291 – Kevin Yin, Director, Contracts and Procurement, presented the staff report on driver barrier doors to mitigate the risk of operator assaults. The Directors had questions about the lead time for the retrofit and whether the barrier design had been used by other agencies. Mr. Olmeda said they are using a door design that has been installed by a number of Bay Area agencies; he said the buses would be pulled from revenue service, retrofitted, and then returned to service. The goal is to complete project while minimizing impact to services for the public.

Amending to Increase the Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Budget by \$37,586,093 from \$149,947,511 to \$187,533,604 – Josh Mello, Executive Officer, Planning and Development, provided the presentation. The Directors expressed concerns with move-in schedule delay, the increased construction costs, and what would happen if funds were exhausted during construction. Mr. Mello said there are contingencies built into the project budget to handle unexpected expenses. Regarding real estate comparable, Mr. Mello explained that the District's situation was not typical for a public agency. He said that most agencies build their headquarters from

the ground up and the District will be outfitting an existing building shell. Ms. Chan reported that the proposed additional costs on the tenant improvements side can be lumped into the purchase price that was previously negotiated and be financed and paid over a longer horizon. The Directors requested to have another closed session in January to discuss costs with the landlord, negotiations, and potential litigation, while approving the budget amendment that was requested.

### **Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee**

#### *North Base Building 200 Replacement and North Base Sea Level Rise Protection Project Updates*

– Liria Larano, Deputy Chief, Bus Fleet and Facilities, and Lisha Mai, Program Manager Infrastructure, Bus Fleet and Facilities, provided the presentation. The Directors discussed cost sharing on the sea level rise improvements with other neighboring jurisdictions. Ms. Chan said the District has been talking to One Shoreline and other stakeholders, and will continue. Ms. Mai said the total cost ranges reflect different design options and the environmental clearance timeline. Ms. Larano said initial feedback about the project from partners has been positive.

### **Legislative Committee**

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

- Lame duck Congress likely to pass funding legislation to keep government running past the December 20 deadline.
- President-Elect announced he plans to appoint Sean Duffy as Secretary of Transportation

Jessica also discussed the regional transportation measure and reported that the MTC is holding a special MTC Commission meeting on 12/9/24 to approve a revenue framework that will be advanced to the State Legislature. April Chan, General Manager/CEO, then added that staff will be sending a letter to the MTC asking MTC to ensure all transit agencies report operating costs on an apples-to-apples basis, so that SamTrans is not disadvantaged unfairly. Currently SamTrans does not show any non-operating costs in the prior information submitted to MTC, while staff had learned that some transit agencies may have included costs such as debt service and even some capital costs.

Ms. Epstein introduced state lobbyists Matt Robinson and Michael Pimentel, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange, who provided a summary of recent state legislation, which included the following:

- Reviewed the statewide ballot results
- Watched bills on operator safety, Brown Act revisit teleconferencing options, cap and trade reauthorization, and the regional transit measure
- New revenue sources for transit operations and asset management; zero-emission issues and challenges to comply with transit regulations

**Closed Sessions**

There were three closed sessions, including (1) a report from Information Technology regarding threats to public services or facilities, (2) a conference on real property negotiations regarding two parcels comprising the Junipero Serra Blvd & Colma Park N Ride, and (3) a conference regarding a performance evaluation for the General Manager/CEO.