

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT  
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CALIFORNIA**

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING – JANUARY 7, 2009**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** J. Baker (Vice-Chair), A. Chow, K. Chu, T. Collette, K. Feldstein, M. Hall, P. Hitchcock, W. Kingsford-Smith (Chair), D. Milton, K. Nobles, P. Ratto, D. Wilcox

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:** P. Loranger

**SAMTRANS STAFF PRESENT:** J. Johnson, R. Kingon, M. Knuckles, N. McKenna, C. Patton, E. Proctor

Chair Wayne Kingsford-Smith called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Committee (Collette/Baker) approved the minutes of December 3, 2008 (Hitchcock abstained).

**PRESENTATION ON ADAPTIVE SIGNAL PRIORITY**

Director of Bus Transportation Chester Patton introduced Wei-Bin Zhang from the University of California at Berkeley. Mr. Zhang has been working with the California PATH Program, which is the first and largest program dedicated to intelligent transportation systems research. He has worked with SamTrans collaborating on the development of transit collision warning systems and transit signal priority technologies funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Caltrans, the Bay Area Air Quality Board and SamTrans.

Mr. Zhang made the following key points:

- He has been working with SamTrans since 1999.

Andy Chow arrived at 6:38 p.m.

- Caltrans was very instrumental in getting signals changed allowing for signal priority.
- Program is designed to work with existing SamTrans Global Positioning System (GPS) capability.
- Provides signal priority to bus if warranted.
- The optical system requires a line-of-sight clearance between emitter and detector.
- Requires separate positioning and communication devices on buses, resulting in higher costs and additional maintenance.

Ken Feldstein arrived at 6:46 p.m.

- There is a tradeoff between improved/consistent bus flow and impacts on traffic.
- Test buses are running along El Camino real at 35 intersections from Burlingame to 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in San Mateo.
- Trip time is about 33 minutes northbound and 31 minutes southbound in the test area.
- The system saves time and money.
- Proper evaluation can help to troubleshoot and to quantitatively identify benefits and impacts.

Ken Feldstein asked what the total estimated savings from Palo Alto Caltrain to Daly City BART would be on Routes 390 and 391. Mr. Patton said he has no idea.

Mr. Feldstein asked if this system would work with emergency vehicles. Mr. Zhang said the systems are configured for compatibility.

John Baker asked if this system would be able to clear an intersection before a bus arrives. Mr. Zhang said the system allows 20-40 seconds before the light changes.

Andy Chow said that in San Francisco it is a timing system. One use for this system is to reduce delays caused by wheelchair passengers and this system could help the bus recover and get back on schedule.

Pam Hitchcock said if this can be used at very complex intersections, i.e. Ralston Avenue and El Camino Real. Mr. Zhang said this was tested at a complicated intersection and it did work, but some work has to be done at specific intersections.

David Wilcox said it took two hours to get to the meeting tonight along El Camino Real. The problem he observed was that the bus stopped for a red light and then had to stop 150 feet past the light and let passengers off. Mr. Zhang said if a bus is traveling local streets, you may not save much time, but on a corridor this would be much quicker.

Mr. Baker asked how much longer the project/study will last. Mr. Zhang said it ends June 2009 then SamTrans has to make a decision if they want to move forward with deployment.

Mr. Feldstein asked if there is cooperation from the cities and state. Mr. Patton said he doesn't know and there are other complexities involved with decision making having to do with the scheduling of the service.

Peter Ratto asked if AC Transit's system is only implemented on International Boulevard. Mr. Zhang said the first deployment is on the San Pablo corridor.

Chair Kingsford-Smith thanked Mr. Zhang for the presentation.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Kingsford-Smith had no report.

### **SAMTRANS STAFF UPDATE**

Public Information Specialist Mary Knuckles reported the fare increase will be effective February 1. There will be a new system map, information brochure and take ones in English and Spanish on the buses two weeks before the increase. Average weekday ridership for November is up 3 percent.

Mr. Patton said SamTrans is still seeing ridership gains, but there is a decrease in the increase. In October there were zero missed schedules.

Mr. Feldstein asked some type of protection on the front of the shelters. Mr. Patton said Chief Operating Officer Chuck Harvey was a strong advocate of the windscreen, but was told by staff in Communications that this type of shelter does not normally have windscreens, which was confirmed during Mr. Harvey's APTA tour of European cities and transit facilities.

Kristina Chu left a 7:31 p.m.

Kim Nobles said there was graffiti on the bench outside the shelter on El Camino Real and San Carlos Avenue in San Carlos. She will send the picture to Mr. Patton.

### **CAC MEMBER COMMENTS/REQUESTS**

Mr. Baker said there is a notice for a meeting on the Dumbarton extension still posted at the Palo Alto Caltrain station.

Chair Kingsford-Smith asked when the new shelters will be installed at Sequoia Transit Center. Mr. Patton said he doesn't know, but will find out and let the CAC know.

Mr. Wilcox said there seems to be some confusion with drivers and passengers at the Millbrae Intermodal Station for Routes 390 and 391. When the drivers pull into the plaza they are stopping to let passengers off and then drive around and pick-up passengers. Mr. Patton said he will have this monitored.

Ms. Nobles has noticed at the Millbrae station the northbound Routes 390 and 391 buses are suppose to stop on one side to board and deboard passengers and on the other side of the "U" is the other direction, but there is no signage informing passengers which side is northbound and southbound.

Mr. Chow agreed with Ms. Nobles on the Millbrae boarding locations. There are monitors at the bottom of the escalators and concourse which show the boarding locations.

Mr. Patton said staff will make sure the drivers are stopping where they should.

David Milton asked if passengers from all the buses can exit closes to the escalators and then the buses can move to the dedicated positions to pick up passengers.

Mr. Patton said the issue is the buses will have to circle the loop to exit and then circle again to pick up passengers. There are a number of routes served at the Millbrae Intermodal Station and operational issues when the drivers deviate from the rules.

Mr. Ratto said the first two bays, which are the closes to the escalators at the Millbrae Intermodal Station, are designed for Genentech shuttles. Is there any possibility of relocating Genentech's shuttles so SamTrans buses can stop closer to the escalator?

Mr. Patton said he will look to see if the bays are prioritized correctly based on the passenger load and the proximity to the station.

## **LIAISON REPORTS**

### **a. SamTrans Board – Wayne Kingsford-Smith**

Chair Kingsford-Smith reported on the December SamTrans Board meeting:

- A presentation was given on Caltrain shuttles.
- Monthly ridership on SamTrans was up 10 percent for October and 16 percent for Caltrain.
- The Board approved increasing the FY09 budget by \$2.9 million.
- The SamTrans Strategic Plan was approved.
- A nominating committee was appointed for 2009 Chair and Vice Chair.
- Directors Shirley Harris and Rose Guilbault were reappointed to the Board.

### **b. SamTrans Accessibility Advisory Committee – Tom Collette – unable to attend.**

### **c. Caltrain Accessibility Advisory Committee – Peter Loranger – absent.**

### **d. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board – David Wilcox – didn't have his notes.**

### **e. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Citizens Advisory Committee – Andy Chow**

- Received a presentation on electrification.

### **f. Senior Mobility Action Plan – Ken Feldstein – no report.**

Chair Kingsford-Smith informed the CAC that Peter Loranger's mother-in-law passed away and made a motion (Baker/Milton) to adjourn the meeting in her memory.

## **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be held February 4, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., 1250 San Carlos Avenue, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, San Carlos, California 94070.

**ADJOURNED:** 7:52 p.m.