

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

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING – APRIL 7, 2010**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Baker (Chair), A. Chow, T. Collette, K. Feldstein, W. Kingsford-Smith, K. Kott, P. Loranger, M. Hall, M. Matev, D. Milton, K. Nobles, S. Price, P. Ratto, D. Wilcox

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: P. Hitchcock

SAMTRANS STAFF PRESENT: P. Boland, K. Green, E. Harris, N. McKenna, C. Patton, E. Proctor, A. Rice

Chair John Baker called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee (Kingsford-Smith/Wilcox) approved the minutes of March 3, 2010 (Milton abstained).

PRESENTATION: SUSTAINABILITY

Deputy Director Operations/Sustainability Program Manager Anne Louise Rice provided the following report:

- Sustainability is generally understood to mean balancing financial, environmental and social needs in a way that ensures the resources we use today are still available in the future.
- A sustainability program can help reduce the transportation sector's emissions.
- A sustainability program is needed to address legislation and regulation, optimize resource use, reduce operational expense, recognize changing stakeholder expectations and expand the leadership profile.
- A sustainability program can reduce Bay Area emissions by increasing the use of transit and measuring and reducing the environmental impact of agency operations in influencing suppliers and other transit agencies through innovative policies.
- Outreach was done to employees and volunteers were identified for the Sustainable Action Team.
- Staff is working on a Sustainability Policy for Board adoption; an annual sustainability report; and applying for a Green Business Certification with the county.

Chair Baker asked about the financial state of SamTrans and putting some type of capita or per miles traveled basis as the baseline. Ms. Rice said staff is using the American Public Transportation Association's business template to help prepare the Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory.

Kari Binley, Executive Director of Sustainable San Mateo County, explained by changing behaviors, using energy star appliances and how a house is built all helps with sustainability. The County is having a “Biggest User” (how bad your home is) contest and the winner will receive a free home audit and a \$1,000 prize towards fixing the problems.

Peter Loranger asked about a program to upgrade your home. Ms. Binley said there is a program called California First, which is a financing district that allows homeowners to put the energy efficiency upgrades on their property taxes as a small percentage loan. Sustainable San Mateo County is also working with the San Mateo Credit Union to put together a financing program specifically for home energy upgrades.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Baker said:

- He did a Twitter search and there were a number of compliments for driver 737.
- The subcommittee had their first meeting tonight and will be formulating a two-prong strategy to raise visibility of the CAC to the Board. The subcommittee will meet prior to the May meeting.

SAMTRANS STAFF UPDATE

Director of Bus Transportation Chester Patton reported that the preliminary Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2011 has been completed and there is a significant deficit. The annual deficit is close to \$28 million. There have been larger drops in sales tax revenue, fare collection and State Transit Assistance revenues have not been restored. It is quite likely that there will be additional service cuts and everything is on the table including the options presented to the Board last year. As far as Caltrain goes, since 1992 the three Joint Powers Board partners have paid their portions out of pocket and now those pockets are empty. SamTrans is our core business and we can't drain SamTrans lifeblood to fully sustain Caltrain at its current service levels.

Wayne Kingsford-Smith asked when SamTrans service cuts would occur. Mr. Patton said as early as December.

Andy Chow said reducing SamTrans service to bare bones is unacceptable. Mr. Patton said the problem is the SamTrans Enabling Legislation never anticipated Caltrain and the sales tax that is allotted for the operation is conceived for bus operations. SamTrans has been paying for Caltrain out of this fund for many years and it can't be sustained anymore.

Ken Feldstein arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Chair Baker said SamTrans doesn't want to lose the core business by funding Caltrain.

Kim Nobles said three counties benefit from Caltrain and SamTrans serves only San Mateo County is there funding help from the other counties?

Ken Feldstein said years ago there was discussion of BART running Caltrain.

Shelter Update

Marketing Manager Pat Boland gave the following update on the bus shelters:

- There are 65 shelters installed and the goal is 100 installed within the year.
- The advertising campaign is soft with smaller local sales.
- New shelters are open with no windshield.
- Since September only two complaints have been received on the new shelters.
- Vandalism is minimal in the new shelters unlike the old shelters.
- Will come back in June to show the CAC some windshield design options.
- Third Avenue and Highway 101 bus stop shelters have a windshield panel.

Ms. Nobles said the new seating design discourages sleeping in the shelters and contributes to the attraction of the shelters.

Mr. Feldstein asked about the market being soft. Mr. Boland said CBS Outdoor has lost BART and San Francisco Municipal Railway contracts making it more difficult to sell packaged advertisements. Staff is very happy with CBS Outdoor.

Mr. Chow asked if people scratching the windows is an issue. Mr. Boland said it hasn't been a problem possibly due to lack of tinting on the windows and the shelters are pretty open.

Mr. Boland said there was a request from the Committee to do a GO Pass type-ticket on SamTrans for Stanford. He said anytime a similar program has been proposed for SamTrans people are not interested. Mr. Boland said he will go back to his supervisor and discuss the idea.

Mr. Boland discussed the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) 511 project which provides real-time information. He will demonstrate how it works when he comes back in June.

Manager, Operations Planning Eric Harris reported on the CAC service recommendations that may be adopted:

- The proposal to eliminate five counterclockwise trips between 9:30 a.m.-1:55 p.m. on Route 14 will be presented at the April 13 Coastside Transportation Committee for possible implementation in August 2010. The estimated cost savings on this recommendation is \$57,000.
- Eliminating four of the 10 trips on Route 53 would require a public hearing since it would cut over 25 percent of the weekly miles. This project will be delayed until there are other changes that also require a public hearing. The estimated cost savings on this recommendation is \$5,000.
- Eliminating one of seven trips on Route 72 will be considered for possible implementation in August 2010. The estimated saving on this recommendation is \$1,000.
- Adding three trips to end of the service day on Route 250 will be considered for possible implementation in August 2010. The cost to add these additional trips is minimal due to conversion of deadhead to revenue service.
- Requests have been received to extend Route 359, but cost is prohibitive and does not effectively serve commuters. This route replaced the eliminated express Route FX.

Mr. Feldstein said the Route 359 recommendation was to fill in when there is no Route 251 service. Mr. Harris said this route is operated under contract by MV Transportation and would cost more because they charge by revenue mile.

Mr. Chow said Routes 251 and 359 go through Foster City and people who need to travel to Hillsdale take Route 251. If there needs to be service cuts is there a need to have two routes serving the same areas and staff would only need to extend one route to cover both.

Mr. Feldstein said Route 260 through Redwood Shores is an underused service and asked if there is ridership data for the Redwood Shores part of the route. Mr. Harris staff has boardings for every bus stop, but not where people get off.

CAC MEMBER COMMENTS/REQUESTS

David Milton said this is his final meeting and it was a great experience.

Mr. Chow said he hopes the CAC will have more of a discussion on the financial situation and potential solutions.

Matey Matev said Caltrain is always full and if Caltrain stops running it will be catastrophic. The frequency of buses will have to be adjusted and expanded.

David Wilcox left at 7:56 p.m.

Mr. Feldstein thanked Mr. Milton for his great insights. The financial difficulties are an issue for all transit agencies throughout the Bay Area and unless MTC does something there are going to be many more problems.

Ms. Nobles said the discussion on the financial issue is like a Rubik's cube.

LIAISON REPORTS

a. SamTrans Board – John Baker

Chair Baker reported on the March meeting:

- A presentation was given on fixed-route services.
- The fuel hedging program is saving some money.
- The maintenance and operator employees of the year were awarded.

b. SamTrans Accessibility Advisory Committee – Tom Collette

- Committee discussed the bylaws and membership.
- Discussed the new TransLink program.
- There was a discussion of passengers sitting in the seats for the disabled and not available for those who need them.

c. Caltrain Accessibility Advisory Committee – Peter Loranger - no meeting.

d. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board - David Wilcox - no report.

e. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board Citizens Advisory Committee - Andy Chow

- A presentation and discussion on the formation of the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

f. Senior Mobility Action Plan – Ken Feldstein - nothing.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held May 5, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., 1250 San Carlos Avenue, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, San Carlos, California 94070.

ADJOURNED: 8:06 p.m.