

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

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 3, 2013**

Board Members Present: J. Deal, J. Gee, C. Groom (Chair), R. Guillbault, S. Harris, Z. Kersteen-Tucker, A. Lloyd, K. Matsumoto, A. Tissier

Staff Present: J. Averill, J. Cassman, A. Chan, G. Harrington, C. Harvey, R. Haskin, M. Martinez, N. McKenna, D. Miller, M. Scanlon, M. Simon

Chair Carole Groom called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE DRAFT FINAL SAMTRANS SERVICE PLAN (SSP) AND ACCOMPANYING CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT AND DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/ND)

Chair Groom said the Board will conduct a public hearing to receive public input on the SSP and accompanying CEQA and draft IS/ND.

District Secretary Martha Martinez said the efforts to inform the public of today's public hearing began with the Board's decision on March 13 to call today's hearing. Advertisements about today's hearing appeared in the *Examiner*, *Palo Alto Daily News*, *Half Moon Bay Review*, *Pacifica Tribune*, *El Reportero*, *El Observador*, *the Asian Journal* and *Sing Tao*. A news release was issued on March 15 announcing the Draft Final SSP.

Ms. Martinez said public outreach meetings were held in El Granada on March 16 with three attendees; East Palo Alto on March 18 with two attendees; two meetings in San Carlos, one in the evening of March 19 with five attendees and one on the morning of March 20 with 19 attendees; and in Brisbane on March 20 with 45 attendees.

Ms. Martinez said since the release of the Draft SSP in August 2012, SamTrans has received 1,365 comments. Comments will be received until April 15, 2013.

Executive Officer, Planning and Development, April Chan reported:

- The purpose of the SSP is to do more of what works, less of what doesn't and try new things.
- The SSP Guiding Principles are:
 - Customers
 - Service
 - Service Markets
 - Financial Stability
 - Coordinated Planning

- In developing the SSP, staff wanted to balance various elements of the Guiding Principles, improve efficiency, effectiveness and ridership for the system as a whole, and understand the trade-offs needed to move SamTrans into the future.
- All levels of the community were engaged in the process including customers, public, operators, stakeholders and city councils.
- More than 1,300 comments have been received and every comment was evaluated.
- Every major effort was made to meet customers' needs for underperforming routes.
- The service recommendations are:
 - Improve El Camino service by consolidating Routes 390 and 391 into a weekday Route ECR. This will increase frequency to 15 minute intervals between Daly City and Palo Alto.
 - Modify San Francisco service by reallocating resources to stronger performing services within San Mateo County. Discontinue Route 391 into San Francisco, discontinue Route KX into SF during non-peak and weekend hours, and withdraw the proposed changes to Route 292.
 - Improve weekday service in the core market areas of Daly City, South San Francisco, Redwood City and East Palo Alto by increasing frequency of service to every 15 minutes on Routes 120, 130, 131, 296 and 281.
 - Discontinue Routes 123, 280 and 359 due to low ridership and low productivity.
 - Mitigate reduced fixed-route service with two pilot demand response programs in San Carlos and Pacifica. If the program works it will be expanded to other cities.
- Staff estimates these new recommendations will bring in approximately 400,000 new riders.
- By State and Federal law the SSP must undergo a CEQA review. The initial study finds no significant impacts.
- Next steps include:
 - Comment period closes April 15.
 - Between April 15 and 30 staff will revise the Draft Final SSP and CEQA documents as needed.
 - At the May 1 Board meeting, staff will seek Board consideration and adoption of the SSP, CEQA document and Title VI analysis.
 - Implement the proposed service changes between fall 2013 and spring 2014.

Public Comment

Laura Lorenger, Redwood City, said she works at Community Gatepath and rides Route 260. She said Route 260 will no longer be running on Saturdays and is concerned about accessibility and not having this bus.

William Ames Farrell, Menlo Park, said he is concerned about Route 295 being taken away. He rides this route every day to get to work and if it is removed he won't be able to get to work. It is unsafe for anyone to walk on this route and there are many people who have special needs and challenges that use Route 295.

Marci Denike, Family Housing and Adult Resources, said she works with four men who live in a house on Alameda de la Pulgas in Menlo Park and rely on Route 295. Without this route these men would be forced to walk two miles each way to El Camino Real to catch a bus.

Kevin Wise, Family Housing and Adult Resources, said he takes Route 295 and is scared he will get hit by a car if he has to walk to El Camino Real because there are no sidewalks. He said it is not a safe place to walk so please keep Route 295.

Karen Forigiani, Peoples First, said she is irritated with the situation with Route 295. A lot of people need this route. She said she will do what she has to do to save this route for all the people that use it.

Regan Farfan, Belmont, said there is a gentleman who is autistic who uses Route 295. If this route is eliminated it will take him an additional two hours to get to work. The path people have to walk to get to El Camino Real is not safe. Eliminating the route is not an option. Maybe a few runs in the morning and night could be added instead of complete elimination.

Jay Rojas, ASCC Student Government, Cañada College, read two letters from students who need Route 260 to get to Cañada College on Saturdays.

Eric Scott, San Francisco, said there has been no effective public outreach in San Francisco for Route KX. Route KX is the quickest transit option between San Francisco International Airport (SFO) and downtown San Francisco. Route 292 is proposed as an alternate, but there is nothing that competes with Route KX.

Joan O'Keefe, San Mateo, said she rides Route 250 and 251 daily. She has to question how Route 250 is operated. Looking at the revised plans it seems people are being forced to use Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART). She said seniors need better service.

Patricia Niederhofer, Foster City, said on behalf of passengers on Route 251 she thanked staff for restoring the service on Beach Park. She said passengers are concerned with the reduction in service because it works well with commuters, but will be a hardship for those who ride during the day.

Graciela Zabalbeascoa, Foster City, said she uses Route 251 every day and needs the service.

Tona Sanchez, Foster City, said she uses Route 251 and lives close to Beach Park. She was told the route will not serve Beach Park and it will be quite a long walk if there is no service in this area.

Maria Huning, Cañada College, said she is a bit confused on Route 274 based on the report released in March and today's presentation. They tell two different things. One that Route 274 is going to be completely eliminated and then today staff says the route is going to be modified from a direction that most students don't take. She said ridership will be completely different between spring and fall due to the number of

classes and students. She works with low income and first generation families who use Cañada College services and one of their biggest complaints is they can't make their class because of the bus schedule. She hopes staff can work with the college to resolve some of these issues.

Kathleen McLaughlin, Redwood City, said she gets the bus at El Camino Real and Roosevelt and asked if the route can be extended farther south. Ms. McLaughlin said Route 274 is her main bus and a lot of the people on this bus didn't know of any changes to this route. She asked if staff could speak to the riders on this route.

Jim Engvall, Belmont, said he needs Routes 295 and KX to get to meetings.

Leah Sachs, Menlo Park said Route 295 is a lifeline in the area. She said she has walked from Alameda de las Pulgas to the Menlo Park Caltrain Station many times and there is no sidewalk and it is not safe to walk.

Legal Counsel David Miller said the Board has conducted a public hearing and all the outreach done exceeds the minimum legal requirements. The Board may proceed to close the public hearing.

A motion (Lloyd/Gee) to close the public hearing was approved by all.

Chair Groom said no action is being taken today and the Board will make their final decision at the May 1 Board meeting.

General Manager/CEO Michael Scanlon said staff will consider all comments received today.

Meeting recessed to committee meetings at 2:59 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 3:36 p.m.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- a. Approval of Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting of March 13, 2013
- b. Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenses for February 2013

The Board approved the consent calendar (Gee/Harris).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORT OF CHAIR

No report.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

General Manager/CEO Michael Scanlon reported:

- Manuel Juarez was recognized with a 30-year Safe Worker Award.

- February ridership on Route ECR increased 1.5 percent on Saturdays and 6 percent on Sundays. For the month, ridership was up 3.5 percent.
- On March 25 staff assisted in the event celebrating the opening of the Tom Lantos Tunnels at Devil's Slide. SamTrans buses were critical in safely moving people through the tunnels and to and from the event.
- Accessible Services staff is reviewing a suggestion to put Braille medallions at key transit stations in a possible pilot program at Sequoia Station next year.
- Bus Contracts staff is working on a combined Request for Proposals with the San Mateo County Transit District, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board and the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance. It will be advertised in May.
- Runbook 111 goes into effect June 16 with on-time adjustments to Routes 122 and 120 to accommodate school bell times for the summer.
- Director Karyl Matsumoto and the city of South San Francisco were commended for selling bus tokens at City Hall at 400 Grand Avenue.
- SamTrans is up and live as of April 2 on Google Maps.
- The reading file contains the new *Transit Fun Guide*.
- Thanked all the Board members who attended the SSP public meetings.

Director Rose Guilbault complimented staff on the Google Maps application.

Director Matsumoto thanked staff for their engagement with the public at the SSP public meetings. She was very impressed with the number of staff who attended the meetings.

Chair Groom said it is painful when she hears people say there was no outreach knowing how much was done by staff.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – R. Guilbault

MOTION

- a. Appointment of Citizens Advisory Committee Members

A motion (Lloyd/Gee) to appoint Kathryn Heatley, Bill Lock, Judy McKie and Heinz Plischke to the Citizens Advisory Committee was approved unanimously.

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

- b. Accessibility Update
- c. PCC Update
- d. Citizens Advisory Committee Liaison Report
- e. Multimodal Ridership Report – February 2013

FINANCE COMMITTEE – S. Harris

RESOLUTIONS

- a. Authorize Reaffirmation of the Investment Policies and Annual Reauthorization to Invest Monies with the Local Agency Investment Fund
- b. Authorize Revision of the Fuel Hedging Policy to Conform to Dodd-Frank, Award of Contract to Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, LLP to Serve as Special Counsel for

Not-to-Exceed Fee of \$125,000, Approve the Fiscal Year 2014 Fuel Hedging Program and Authorize Execution of Documents and Payment Premium for Commodity Price Cap for the Fiscal Year 2014 Fuel Hedging Program

A motion (Tissier/Gee) to approve the resolutions was approved unanimously by roll call.

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

- c. Assessment of the Fiscal Year 2013 Fuel Hedging Program

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – J. Deal

SUBJECT DISCUSSED

- a. State and Federal Legislative Update

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

No discussion

BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS/COMMENTS

Director Zoe Kersteen-Tucker thanked staff for all their work on the Devil's Slide Tunnel opening. She said for many attendees it was their first time riding public transportation.

Director Shirley Harris said the speakers at the Devil's Slide Tunnel event were amazing and Director Kersteen-Tucker did a great job.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING –May 1, 2013 at 2 p.m., San Mateo County Transit District, Administrative Building, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA 94070.

GENERAL COUNSEL PROPOSAL

- a. Closed Session: Conference with Labor Negotiator – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6, Teamsters Union, Local 856 (Bus Instructors)

Mr. Miller said as permitted by the Brown Act, the Board will meet in closed session to receive a report on pending labor negotiations with the Teamsters Union, Local 856 representing the employees in the bus instructors unit.

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 3:52 p.m.

Meeting reconvened to open session at 4:04 p.m.

Mr. Miller said the Board met in closed session to receive a report from the chief labor negotiator on pending negotiations with the Teamsters Union local representing the bus instructors. Reports will be rendered to the Board as negotiations transpire. There is no action to be taken at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.