

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

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING – APRIL 24, 2013**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: K. Adler, K. Heatley, S. Koya, B. Lock, P. Loranger, J. McKie, T. Miller, H. Plischke, M. Pye, P. Ratto (Chair)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: K. Gilbert, M. Hall

SAMTRANS STAFF PRESENT: A. Chan, K. Cheema, W. Draper, M. Eshleman, D. Kim, N. McKenna, C. Patton, E. Silvas

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

INTRODUCTION/WELCOME NEW CAC MEMBERS

Katie Heatley said she has been a resident of San Mateo County for 33 years. She works for a non-profit company that provides social services, and their offices are in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. She said many of her clients regularly use public transit and paratransit services.

Heinz Plischke said he is retired and a certified elections officer. He said he is willing to learn about SamTrans and provide his observations.

Bill Lock said he recently retired from Wells Fargo Bank and serves on three non-profit boards. He said he is a firm believer in public transportation and its value to the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee (Pye/Koya) approved the minutes of March 27, 2013.

SUPPORT OF FINAL SAMTRANS SERVICE PLAN (SSP) RECOMMENDATIONS

Director, Planning, Doug Kim said:

- Final recommendations reflect the culmination of a two-year process.
- The SSP redefines how SamTrans delivers service and addresses 35 routes and two pilot service programs.
- Staff conducted extensive public outreach and received 1,750 comments.
- A robust implementation phase of scheduling, marketing and monitoring will kick-off after adoption at the May 2 Board meeting.
- The final draft SSP was released on March 13 and over 550 comments were received via five public meetings, a public hearing on April 3, presentations to

the CAC in March and April and outreach to operators, customers and other stakeholders.

- Staff evaluated every comment and are recommending eight additional new changes:
 - Route 17: Service changes to be coordinated with Route 294 to address connections.
 - Route 251: Off-peak service will alternate routing direction to improve access.
 - Route 85: To address Route 295 concerns, four weekday trips are being added.
 - Route 140: Extend service to San Francisco International Airport (SFO) AirTrain, subject to coordination with SFO.
 - Route 260: Retain Saturday service and shorten route from Belmont to San Carlos Caltrain Station.
 - Route 275: Extend the route to Cañada College via Alameda de las Pulgas and Farm Hill Boulevard on Saturdays.
 - Route 296: Realign route and increase frequency on Sundays to 30 minutes.
 - Route KX: Terminate non-San Francisco trips at San Bruno Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Station during the off-peak and weekends.
- With these eight additional service changes total operating hours will be reduced by 3 percent and annual overall ridership will increase by over 370,000 riders.
- Under State environmental law it is required to look at whether the SSP will have any adverse impacts on the environment. Through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process staff evaluated the SSP and found no significant impacts would occur with implementation of the service recommendations.
- Title VI analysis was done to ensure there were no equity issues with implementing these changes. The analysis found there will be no disparate impact on minority communities and no disproportionate burden on low-income communities.
- Next steps:
 - Implement proposed service changes between fall 2013 and spring 2014.
 - Develop and implement marketing and informational campaign.
 - Establish metrics that define success.
 - Develop a robust monitoring system to track results, solicit feedback from customers, and refine service.
 - Provide regular updates to the Board on the changes.

Tryn Miller asked what CEQA is. Mr. Kim said it is a State law that states public agency projects must analyze potential adverse environmental impacts.

Peter Loranger said last month Mr. Kim had recent information that Foster City no longer had shuttles and that impacted staff's decision to add service. He asked if cities know that by adding a shuttle in their city it could impact the service they receive. Mr. Kim said staff is in close communication with Belmont on this particular shuttle.

Margaret Pye asked about the projection for the increase in ridership and if staff will be monitoring each route. Mr. Kim said the fareboxes are very advanced and staff will be able to track where boardings and alightings are and what the ridership is.

Ms. Pye asked if the proposed pilot programs for San Carlos and Pacifica are still in the works. Mr. Kim said once the SSP is adopted staff will focus on implementing all the fixed-route bus services and complete the scope of the two pilot programs. Staff will work with the two cities before rolling out any type of pilot service.

Ms. Heatley asked if Route 296 will have more frequent service on weekdays. Mr. Kim said frequency is being bumped up from 30 minutes to 15 minutes and on Sundays from 60 minutes to 30 minutes.

Ms. Heatley asked if these changes will change the overall service hours and what the impact is to the paratransit program. Mr. Kim said one of the larger policy issues that underlies the SSP is moving away from the San Francisco market with only a few selected routes going into San Francisco. With regards to impacts on paratransit this program is focused on the 40-foot coach services throughout the system. Ms. Heatley said that expanding the fixed-route system would extend the paratransit service area to within $\frac{3}{4}$ miles. Mr. Kim agreed.

Mr. Plischke said he has ridden Route KX and asked how much more time will be added by going to the San Bruno BART Station. Mr. Kim said during peak hours Route KX will not stop at the San Bruno BART station, only off-peak and weekend trips.

Chair Ratto thanked staff for listening to the public's concerns and comments, especially the termination of Route KX at San Bruno BART.

Kris Adler asked if there will be any luggage restrictions on Route KX going to San Bruno BART during off-peak hours. Mr. Kim said there is no proposed change in the luggage policy at this time.

Mr. Adler said the change to Route 140 terminating at the SFO AirTrain is a great idea. He thanked staff for their hard work on the SSP.

Mr. Lock asked if costs could actually increase. Mr. Kim said yes. Mr. Lock asked what happens if costs rise. Mr. Kim said there is a certain amount of uncertainty and staff will report to the Board if expectations are not met.

Mr. Lock asked if there is a profile of ridership by routes. Mr. Kim said yes. Mr. Lock asked how increased ridership was projected. Mr. Kim said one of the principles was increased service will increase ridership.

Sonny Koya said he is glad Title VI and CEQA requirements were met without any negative findings. He said he is glad Route KX is being extended to San Bruno BART. Mr. Koya hopes there is extensive outreach to passengers about these changes.

Judy McKie said Route 260 only has service Monday through Saturday and asked if there is any plan for a shuttle to go to the Carlmont Shopping Center on Sundays. Mr. Kim said staff did not receive any comments on Sunday service.

Public Comment

Kathleen McLaughlin, Redwood City, said at the April Board meeting a representative from Cañada College had a general concern about getting students to the college and back. She said none of their students come from the area served by the SSP on Route 275.

Chair Ratto said the current pattern is very low ridership with about five boardings per hour. He said their concern was no service and this additional issue was not made clear.

Mr. Kim said he has left a couple of messages with the Chancellor's office and has not received a call back. There has been no discussion about retaining service on Jefferson Avenue; they wanted service to the college on Saturdays.

Ms. Heatley asked if there is a student/college fare. Chair Ratto said no, that type of fare is not offered.

A motion (Ratto/McKie) to support the SSP recommendations was passed by all except Ms. Pye who voted no because of Route KX no longer going into San Francisco and Mr. Koya who supports everything except the Route KX.

Chair Ratto revised the motion. A motion (Ratto/Koya) to support all the SSP recommendations with the exception of Route KX terminating at San Bruno BART instead of San Francisco was approved by all.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Ratto reported:

- Senator Jerry Hill's Senate Bill (SB) 557 for funding for Caltrain electrification hit a snag in the Transportation Committee. An amendment was added to tie a sunset provision to the funding to align with SB1029.
- The "Mom Chung" drilling machine has been delivered for the boring of the tunnels for the Central Subway in San Francisco.

SAMTRANS STAFF UPDATE

Director, Bus Transportation, Chester Patton reported:

- Follow up on previously raised issues:
 - A bench request at Middlefield and Chestnut: a work order has been submitted and awaiting final approval.
 - A garbage can was requested at Delaware and 1st Avenue: work order has been submitted and awaiting final approval.
 - Bus exempt lanes requested at El Camino Real and Valparaiso Avenue and El Camino Real and 2nd Avenue: going through internal approvals.

Staff reached out to the California Department of Transportation and received a positive response and staff will proceed for an approval.

- o A railroad crossing exemption requested on Bayshore Boulevard for Route 292: the Public Utilities Commission and Daly City have been corresponding and the current update is Daly City is going to remove the tracks.
- o Ghost messages on Routes 390 and 391 "Service to Palo Alto Transit Center begins October 10": staff found the message deep in the system and it has been terminated.

CAC MEMBER COMMENTS/REQUESTS

Chair Ratto said this is an opportunity for each member to bring to staff any particular concern they have. He encouraged the members to use the 800 number to report routine issues.

Ms. McKie said at the corner at Delaware and First in San Mateo, going south, the turn is very tight and it would be easier if the corner parking spot was removed. She said this same issue is at Peninsula and Delaware.

Mr. Koya said passengers on Route 292 continue to thank SamTrans for not making any changes to the route. He hopes any changes to the timetable are not too drastic. He thanked Superintendent, Bus Transportation, Karambir Cheema for resolving the railroad track issue at Bayshore Boulevard.

Mr. Adler thanked staff for making such great progress on all the suggestions the CAC offers each month.

Ms. Pye said she was riding her bike this morning and around 6:10 a.m. on southbound El Camino Real and Atherton Avenue a paratransit bus operator was driving very close to the right side of the road and the mirror came very close to her. She thanked staff for their responsiveness to the bus exemption lane and ghost message.

Mr. Loranger said there is a silent majority on all routes and even though staff may not hear from them he is appreciative of staff's efforts.

Ms. Miller asked if there was an update on placing a bench for the Route 140 stop at Monterey and Sneath in San Bruno. Mr. Patton said staff looked at the stop and found the sidewalk is not wide enough for Americans with Disabilities requirements to put a bench at the stop. Ms. Miller said Routes 390 and 391 buses seem to be bunching. Mr. Patton said with the SSP, weekday Route ECR will help with the bunching.

Mr. Koya said there seems to be an increase in ridership on Route 292 and people are saying there is a need for a larger bus.

LIAISON REPORTS

a. SamTrans Board - Peter Ratto

- The Board held a public hearing for the final draft SSP.
- The Board made the CAC appointments.

SamTrans CAC Meeting
April 24, 2013

- A 30-year Safe Worker award was presented to Manuel Juarez.
- b. **SamTrans Accessibility Advisory Committee** - vacant
- c. **Caltrain Accessibility Advisory Committee** - **Peter Loranger** – no report
- d. **Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board** -vacant
- e. **Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board CAC** - vacant
- f. **Senior Mobility Action Plan** - vacant

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held May 29, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., 1250 San Carlos Avenue, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, San Carlos, California 94070.

Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.