

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

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING – JULY 30, 2014**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: N. Ballator, K. Gilbert, B. Gomez, S. Koya, C. Laughon, B. Lock, P. Loranger, J. McKie, H. Plischke, M. Pye, P. Ratto (Chair)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: K. Heatley, J. Manalo, T. Miller

SAMTRANS STAFF PRESENT: A. Chan, K. Cheema, W. Draper, M. Eshleman, K. Hollinger, J. Hurley, A. John, T. Lin, N. McKenna, C. Patton, P. Rasmussen, A. Sayong (MV Transportation), M. Senatore, J. Slavitt

Chair Peter Ratto called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jackie Gallo, South San Francisco, said passengers boarding in San Francisco don't understand they need to pay an additional \$2 with the Day Pass. There needs to be more information out for these passengers or a Day Pass specific for those travelling out of San Francisco.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion/Second: Gilbert/Pye

Ayes: Ballator, Gilbert, Gomez, Koya, Laughon, Lock, Loranger, McKie, Plischke, Pye, Ratto

Absent: Heatley, Manalo, Miller

PRESENTATION: SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (TA) STRATEGIC PLAN

Joel Slavitt, Manager, Programming and Monitoring, presented:

- The updated Strategic Plan (Plan) will cover the period of 2014-2019.
- Measure A is a half-cent sales tax approved by the voters of San Mateo County. The Original Measure A was approved in 1988 and covered the period of 1988-2008. The current Measure A covers the period of 2009-2033.
- The Transportation Expenditure Plan requires a strategic plan be updated very five years to set project selection and ranking processes.
- The current Plan was adopted in December 2008 for the timeframe of 2009-2013.
- Purpose of the Plan update is to review and modify, as needed, the policy framework for guiding programming and allocation decisions including funding prioritization and evaluation criteria for the selection of candidate projects and procedures for sponsors to initiate projects.
- The 2004 Plan program categories are:
 - Transit - 30 percent
 - Highways - 27.5 percent
 - Local Streets and Transportation - 22.5 percent

- Grade Separations -15 percent
 - Pedestrian and Bicycle - 3 percent
 - Administration - 1 percent
 - Alternative Congestion Relief - 1 percent
- Items included in the transit category are Caltrain, paratransit, shuttles, Bay Area Rapid Transit San Francisco International Airport (BART SFO) extension, Dumbarton Rail Corridor, and San Mateo County Ferry Service.
- In the last five years Measure A has programmed funds through a call for projects (CFP) process and includes:
 - One round of Grade Separation Projects: \$6.1 million
 - One round of Highway Projects: \$82.7 million
 - Two rounds of Pedestrian/Bicycle: \$10.3 million
 - Three rounds of Shuttle Projects: \$10.9 million
 - Allocation of \$34 million to Caltrain capital projects, \$27 million for Caltrain operating assistance, and \$12 million to paratransit
- 2014 Plan update schedule
 - June/July: analyze existing process; conduct financial review
 - July/August: stakeholder meetings; public surveys
 - August: review findings and draft plan with TA Board Subcommittee
 - October: review draft plan with Board
 - October: public outreach
 - December: adoption
- Expenditure Plan Goals:
 - Reduce commute corridor congestion
 - Make regional connections
 - Enhance safety
 - Meet local mobility needs
- San Mateo County population is projected to grow 25 percent and job growth is expected to increase 34 percent by 2040.
- SamTrans funding:
 - Paratransit: approximately \$2.4 million a year
 - SamTrans share of Caltrain for Fiscal Year 2015: \$5.8 million for operations and \$13.8 million for capital projects
 - BART SFO extension: approximately \$1.2 million a year
 - Bike Share/Last Mile Connection Pilot programs
- How TA funding benefits SamTrans:
 - Directly benefits SamTrans paratransit service
 - Assists in meeting SamTrans commitments outside of its core services: Caltrain and BART
 - Funds shuttles providing last mile connection and local mobility needs
 - Assists SamTrans in its role as a mobility manager with new pilot programs
- How can people participate:
 - Complete the stakeholder questionnaire
 - Attend a public meeting
 - Visit the project website: www.smcta.com/strategicplan
 - Email: tastrategicplan@SamTrans.com

Judy McKie asked how many people are working on this update. Mr. Slavitt said about five to eight people.

Sonny Koya said he is glad to see funding for shuttles and last mile. He asked if the new South San Francisco shuttle is a beneficiary of this money. Mr. Slavitt said a number of routes are funded in South San Francisco, including the new South San Francisco shuttle.

Bill Lock asked if SamTrans receives any funds relative to traffic congestion. Mr. Slavitt said there are pilot programs such as the Connect Redwood City.

Mr. Lock said there doesn't seem to be funding for regional connections between San Mateo and San Francisco counties. Mr. Slavitt said the Plan funds Caltrain, which goes to San Francisco, but the roadways category is regional and only benefits San Mateo County.

Charlotte Laughon asked if there can be better bike paths along Highway 1. Mr. Slavitt said there is a regional trail that is in the process of being implemented. A good portion of Half Moon Bay has a separate dedicated Class 1 bike facility adjacent to the roadway. Mr. Slavitt said with the last pedestrian bicycle CFP that trail is now being extended up the county through El Granada. The county has funding to complete the trail from El Granada to Miramar.

Ms. Laughon asked if there is any money dedicated to making it safe to cross Highway 1 for those going to the beach. Mr. Slavitt said one of the key congested corridor areas in the Highway Projects category is Highways 1 and 92 and some of the projects for this area were funded recently.

Nada Ballator asked if the current Plan is on the website. Mr. Slavitt said yes.

Ms. Ballator asked if shuttle schedules are on the website. Mr. Slavitt said they are on the Caltrain, SamTrans and the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance websites.

Kathy Gilbert asked what the revenue projection is for the next five years. Mr. Slavitt said staff is working on it now.

Ms. Gilbert asked what the current revenue projection is. April Chan, Executive Officer, Planning and Development, said it is \$60 million a year, but reaching \$70 million a year.

Ms. Gilbert said south of Lake Merced on Lake Merced Boulevard there are no walkways and is very dangerous and asked if there are any plans to fund a sidewalk. Mr. Slavitt said it is up to the city of Daly City.

Margaret Pye said 3 percent for pedestrian/bicycle is not enough. Mr. Slavitt said the buckets were set by the voters, but some projects can be funded out of other categories.

Ms. Pye asked how SamTrans benefits from the 30 percent that is allocated to transit. Mr. Slavitt said the funds flow from the TA to SamTrans. SamTrans' member agency contribution to Caltrain flows through this money, paratransit service is under SamTrans, and SamTrans has financial obligations to the BART SFO extension which is included in the 30 percent.

Ms. Pye asked if there is a plan for ferry service out of Redwood City. Mr. Slavitt said yes, in the future.

Heinz Plischke asked what Caltrain is doing with the funding it receives. Mr. Slavitt said it provides operational assistance and capital funds for state of good repair.

Peter Loranger asked if highway decongestion can be measured. Mr. Slavitt said it is easier with transit ridership and a more difficult correlation with infrastructure projects.

Mr. Loranger asked for an example of a project for highway congestion. Joe Hurley, Director, Transportation Authority Program, said Highway 101 Auxiliary Lanes Project helps with merging from SFO to Santa Clara County. Measured results include reduction in travel time, accidents and emissions.

Bob Gomez said the presentation was very informative. He said he rides the bus in Santa Clara County and twice the bike rack was broken. Maintenance staff should check buses to ensure good maintenance of the racks.

Mr. Gomez asked if there are any shuttles from Menlo Atherton High School to East Palo Alto. Mr. Slavitt said the Plan is for projects and the city is responsible for submitting the project request.

Mr. Gomez asked if SamTrans will be helping with service to Levi's® Stadium. Chester Patton, Director, Bus Transportation, said there will be Caltrain service for people to transfer to Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority at Mountain View.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Ratto said new buses are coming in about 30 days and will include 40-foot buses in the 900 series. These new buses will have more cameras with external views, better wheelchair ramps, and reconfiguration for safer passenger seating.

SAMTRANS STAFF UPDATE

Mr. Patton reported:

- June performance:
 - Average weekday ridership was 39,220, an increase of 4.5 percent.
 - On-time performance (OTP) was 85 percent and Route ECR was 88 percent.
 - Complaints were low at 150.
 - Miles between road calls was 24,110.
 - Tokens continue to be very popular.
 - There were 10 missed schedules.

Michael Eshleman, Planner, said the CAC had asked about the trends of youth ridership. Youth ridership accounts for approximately 15-25 percent of total ridership.

Mr. Patton said he wanted to report on follow-up items from the June meeting:

- Bike racks were installed on the FLX buses.
- Staff looked at the bus bench at the senior center in Half Moon Bay and found it was not Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliant. It will be removed and a new one will be installed. Benches will be looked at on a case-by-case basis and replaced as needed.
- Staff found the bus stop covered by a tree limb on El Camino Real in Belmont was less of a limb problem but more of a tree problem so the bus stop will be moved 20 feet south.
- Staff looked at installing a shelter at the southbound Devil's Slide Portal bus stop and found it is not suitable for a shelter under the guidelines. The contract states a shelter cannot be installed without advertising.

CAC MEMBER COMMENTS/REQUESTS

Mr. Gomez said he would like to recognize operators #1167 and #1214 who are courteous and outstanding drivers. They always have clean buses and wait for the older people to sit down before they move the bus.

Mr. Plischke said he was dining at a restaurant on El Camino Real and noticed the Route ECR buses were exactly 15 minutes apart.

Ms. Pye said she came up with seven reasons for bike riders to take SamTrans instead of Caltrain:

- Buses come more frequently, especially on weekends.
- Buses are cheaper to ride.
- You have to lift your bike on the train with your cargo bags; on the bus, you can set your bags down and load your bike.
- Train frequently bumps bike riders and buses don't have bumps.
- Train only has two conductors and bus riders have their own bus driver to assist them.
- If bumped from the bus the customer won't have to pay, but on Caltrain the customer already has paid.
- Bike racks need to be used on SamTrans.

Ms. Gilbert congratulated staff for good June ridership numbers.

Ms. Ballator said she likes the Route ECR and the 15-minute frequency is wonderful.

Mr. Lock said the Route 131 connection to Route 292 is working well and people are happy. He looks forward to the changes to Route 292 and having less dwell time. The signage southbound on Seventh and Mission streets is bent. There was a road blockage at Third and Mission streets and a general stoppage affected travel flow. He called the call center and the operator could not offer any information. Mr. Patton said it is very situational whether it is a planned situation or if an emergency occurred that may take a while for the information to be passed on to the Customer Service Center.

Mr. Koya said he received comments from operators working Route 397 who stated there are some major hygiene and safety issues. The homeless have every right to ride the service but the operators have noticed a higher incident of very dirty, smelly, and sickly passengers with visible wounds. Mr. Koya said some of them bring multiple bags on the bus and they occupy a lot of space. Some of these people are aggressive with drivers and passengers. He said cell phone use is very high in the evening. Mr. Patton said if an operator is sharing this information with him they should be sharing it with their supervisor or employer. It is a bus operator's duty to make sure the aisles are free. People have a right to be in a public space, but there is a high threshold people have to cross before they can be told they are not allowed on the bus. People are permitted to use cell phones on the bus, but there is an operator triggered announcement for people to be courteous.

Mr. Koya said he would like to recognize all the hard work of MV Transportation and the new operators that recently have been hired.

Mr. Koya said there is a bent stop sign at Ninth and Mission streets and it appears to be in the path of large trucks.

Mr. Koya said the farmers' markets at South San Francisco and Brisbane have booths available that would be good to promote SamTrans. He would be happy to assist in staffing the booth.

Ms. McKie said quite often when seniors are getting off the bus they use the front door at the same time passengers are trying to get on. She asked if the operators can ask the people not to board until the seniors are off the bus. Mr. Patton said that is a difficult problem but will discuss with the superintendents.

LIAISON REPORTS

a. SamTrans Board - Peter Ratto

- Ridership on all modes continues to increase.
- May revenue is up \$6.7 million and expenses are \$8 million under budget.
- Sustainability Program update was given.

b. SamTrans Accessibility Advisory Committee – Judy McKie

- Presentations were given on the TA Strategic Plan and the update to the Caltrain website.

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

d. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board – Bill Lock – no report

e. Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board CAC - vacant

f. Senior Mobility Action Plan - vacant

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held August 27, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., 1250 San Carlos Avenue, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, San Carlos, California 94070.

Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.