

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

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
MINUTES OF MEETING – OCTOBER 25, 2017**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: A. Barnes, M. Buzbee, J. Galisatus, S. Koya, F. Liu, G. Wilson, J. Manalo (Chair)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: J. Baker, B. Gomez, A. Juarez, A. Jones, D. Nelson

SAMTRANS STAFF PRESENT: M. Beveridge, J. Castellanos, J. Epstein, M. Ross

Chair Juslyn Manalo called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Michelle Lewis, Daly City, said the North and South bus enclosures at Old County Road and Bayshore Boulevard in Brisbane are not lit and not safe and asked if bus shelters can be equipped with motion activated lights. She said it would help if the Park and Ride lot in Brisbane had visible parking spaces.

Ms. Lewis said passengers realize that sometimes buses can be late due to maintenance issues or traffic. It would help if a bus is noticeably late; bus operator to inform the riders of the cause and put everyone at ease.

Committee Member Sonny Koya said staff members were going to look into solar lighting for some of these bus shelters. In regards to the parking lot issues, he has been in contact with Mr. Lance, Brisbane City Council Member. It seems they are currently making some updates to the parking lot.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

Ms. Michelle Buzbee said the minutes had a typographical error on page four, paragraph three stating, "Ms. Buzbee added it is a long and extensive process to make sure that committees are heard and it is important to know where we stand and what's going to be our commitment." The word committee is to be replaced with "**communities**".

Mr. Koya mentioned the names of two personnel had been misspelled and had already been corrected.

Motion/Second: Koya/Buzbee

Ayes: Barnes, Buzbee, Koya, Liu, Wilson, Manalo (Chair)

Abstain: Galisatus

Absent: Baker, Gomez, Juarez, Jones, Nelson

[MOTION DID NOT PASS]

PRESENTATION: GET US MOVING SAN MATEO COUNTY

Ms. Jessica Epstein, Government and Community Affairs Officer, presented the Get Us Moving San Mateo County, a large scale education effort organized around funding issues.

SamTrans is looking how they can best fund everything they need in order to move forward and meet the transit needs of the community.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1613 was carried by Assembly Member Kevin Mullen and will allow SamTrans to place a half-cent sales tax on the ballot and does not have a sunset. It is estimated to generate about \$80 million a year. It will also require two-thirds majority approval to pass.

Ms. Epstein said the SamTrans Board and the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors will vote on whether to place a ballot measure for the November 2018 election and will make the decision by next summer. She said SamTrans is going through a lengthy outreach process to develop a comprehensive understanding of the needs of the county.

The Technical Advisory Group and Stakeholder Advisory Group meet monthly and are identifying goals of transit and what they want to see.

SamTrans will conduct a Call for Projects which means the cities and SamTrans will be submitting projects, to then be ranked against those goals and the advisory groups will identify and list out the priorities.

There will be a large-scale public engagement such as TV, direct mail, social media, and website announcements. For those who do not have access to the web, feedback mailers will be distributed and SamTrans will be conducting public speaking events.

Ms. Epstein said SamTrans does not expect any tax measure to fund all of projects, but will be funded through a variety of sources. She said the goal is to gain investment from the community in thinking about transit funding and developing a good solid expenditure plan for when it is presented to the SamTrans Board and the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Andrew Barnes asked for clarification on the bullet point "New local funding can be created." Ms. Epstein said it is in regards to what SamTrans can do more locally, to fund the remainder of the projects. She wanted to emphasize the Board still needs to make the decision to put the measure on the ballot and currently they are identifying a potential source of local funding.

Mr. Barnes asked what will happen with the \$80 million. What is the overall expenditure; will it get augmented either by state or national, municipal? Ms. Epstein said one of the things to be developed is the expenditure plan and there have not been any decisions yet.

Mr. Barnes said the Call-for-Projects is an exciting way to get all types of engagement and asked who is going to score. Ms. Epstein said the scoring itself will be led by the Chief Officer of Planning and Development for SamTrans. The exact makeup has not been determined. The scoring will be taken back to the Stakeholder and Technical Advisory groups for their input and will go through the community process.

Chair Manolo asked if there was a timeline available and a meeting schedule.

Ms. Epstein said staff will return to the SamTrans CAC regularly to provide updates and are currently in the initial stages of creating a timeline. She expects to have something available online in November. At this point there is no plan on hosting public meetings, but will be presenting at City Councils and other organizations.

Mr. Galisatus asked why this measure needed to go to the State. Ms. Epstein said to give the SamTrans Board the authority to do it as they did not have this authority. She said she believes some cities in the county may have been in disagreement against the sales tax cap. This is why state legislation is needed.

Mr. Galisatus asked for an overview of other sales taxes or toll proposals and how they support transportation regionally. Ms. Epstein said Regional Measure 3 (RM3) will increase the tolls on all the state-run bridges by \$3 per vehicle. All Bay Area Counties will be voting on this and if successful, there will be funding to include the 101 Managed Lanes project and the Dumbarton Bridge Senate Bill (SB) 797 provides dedicated funding for Caltrain. Seven different boards would need to approve this ballot measure (Caltrain Board, SamTrans Board, Silicon Valley Transportation Authority, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, San Mateo Board of Supervisors, and Santa Clara Board of Supervisors).

Mr. Galisatus asked what is the next best alternative for SamTrans to raise revenue for the system. Ms. Epstein said this is out of the scope of what has been decided. She said the ballot measure is what will be presented to the Board and what is proceeding.

Mr. Barnes asked what was the thinking behind no required sunset. He said he is thinking on how problematic this may be. Ms. Epstein said he is referring to the Menlo Park education initiative and cannot say what the thought process was on this decision as she was not working here at that time.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO JUSLYN MANALO

Vice-Chair Sonny Koya presented Chair Juslyn Manalo with a Certificate of Appreciation as she steps down from the CAC. Ms. Manalo has been a member since 2014.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

No report.

SAMTRANS STAFF UPDATE

Ms. Margo Ross, Director, Bus Transportation reported on SamTrans Performance Statistics for the month of September 2017:

1. Average Weekday Ridership (AWR) = 41,623
2. On Time Performance (OTP) = 79.87 percent

3. Complaints = 170
4. Miles Between Service Calls (MBSC) = 29,528
5. Adult Tokens Usage for the Month
 - a. Adult = 26,141
 - b. Youth = 28,416
6. Did Not Operate (DNO) = 18

CAC MEMBER COMMENTS/REQUESTS

Mr. Koya said Route 292 was having some driver and dispatch issues. Mr. Koya said the issues have been resolved and has seen a significant improvement. Ms. Ross said we are having issues with our contracted service and we are experiencing shortages in manpower. The shortage is industry wide and the contractor is attempting to make adjustments to the service by hiring as many as possible, but the bottom line is the manpower shortage does not look to be resolved in the near future.

Mr. Koya said he understands and if staff decides to go elsewhere, there is nothing we can do. He said we have to bring new people in and train them and then other bigger agencies in the Bay Area then wait for SamTrans to train them and then take our drivers away.

Mr. Koya presented an issue he has mentioned last year: 1220 Potrero (South bound of Route 292) is a very busy Muni bus stop that if one of our drivers is a little too early, he is at a standstill, and we end up with a pile up at this location. He recommends staff look into this issue. Ms. Ross said she would have staff look into this.

Mr. Koya reported there has been a recurring problem with Southbound Route 262 out of San Francisco. He said he noticed young riders using mobile phone applications (Transit, Google Search...) board the bus, before they know it, they need to get off the bus and the bus operator will does not "drop off" in San Francisco. Mr. Koya recommends having SamTrans IT contact transit application companies to inform them the bus operator does not "drop off" in San Francisco. Ms. Ross said they are trying to change this format and does not know if SamTrans can control an application that another company owns. She said SamTrans is looking into dropping off in San Francisco and for the time being she is requesting they make a "courtesy stop".

Mr. Koya requested an updated contact list of all CAC members. Mary Beveridge, Assistant District Secretary, will email a copy and have printed copies at the next CAC meeting.

Committee Member Geraldine Wilson said she has reported this issue before. There is a driver who stops the bus and leaves the engine on and does not say a word. Ms. Ross asked if Ms. Wilson brought the information on the bus operator. Ms. Wilson forgot it and will email Ms. Ross the information.

Ms. Wilson said there are more bus riders talking on the phone using the speakerphone option and eating on the bus. She said this is very disruptive to passengers and she recommends bus operators make an announcement when riders are on speakerphone and/or eating on the bus.

Committee Member Frank Liu brought up a request he made several meetings ago in regards to Route 250. Currently, Route 250 to eastbound terminus is named 5th – El Camino and the westbound terminus is named College of San Mateo. He recommends that we change 5th - El Camino to San Mateo instead. Mr. Liu said 5th - El Camino is a nonspecific final destination and there is also a 5th - El Camino - Atherton as well. Route 250 does not terminate at El Camino; it serves several other destinations, including popular destinations. Josue Castellanos, Bus Scheduling Specialist said the route name would not follow the rest of the naming convention. He said Mr. Liu was correct, there are several 5th's in El Camino. Everything else is named after the final destination of the route.

Mr. Liu said Route 56 operates from Aragon High School to the San Mateo Highlands area; he was suggesting if the bus route can make a brief turn to College of San Mateo. It could be used to advertise to high school students who need to get from high school to take courses at community colleges. Mr. Castellanos said the subject had been discussed all week. He said the service will most likely begin in January 2018.

Mr. Liu said he recently observed and was very happy to see articulated buses being used for school routes. He said he realizes it is costly, but this is a tremendous help with alleviating bus Routes 58, 256 and 250.

Mr. Liu said there are Google employee bus shuttles using the SamTrans bus stops. There are two stops in San Mateo: 1) Saratoga and Park Place 2) Delaware and Bermuda. He said he once experienced having to walk passed the SamTrans bus stop because the Google bus was loading employees at the bus stop while the SamTrans bus had to park farther ahead to pick up SamTrans riders. At Delaware and Bermuda there is no space for two passengers. Ms. Ross said they are not supposed to be using the bus stop and what has been done in the past, legal matters were taken.

Mr. Galisatus said he did not necessarily agree so long as they obtain some sort of approval from SamTrans and he sees it as an opportunity. Ms. Ross said she disagrees and that SamTrans pays for these bus stops. In her experience, these have to go through legal and the Board has to look into. Ms. Ross sees these types of actions as aggressive. Mr. Koya said if SamTrans allows one company, we would have to allow all shuttle companies and they are in competition with SamTrans.

Ms. Buzbee had a couple of positive "shout-outs" on certain bus operators because they went over and beyond their call of duty and will email Ms. Ross the details.

Ms. Buzbee asked one of the bus operators, what he would like to see differently. She said the bus operator would like for SamTrans Executives/Board members take their place and/or ride a full route to get a better understanding of what they experience daily. Ms. Ross said she thought it was a great idea and said it was going to be part of SamTrans on-boarding.

Ms. Buzbee said she agrees in obtaining a SamTrans CAC Member contact list. She said it would be nice to have information/introduction on new members as they have had some turn-around.

SamTrans CAC Meeting
October 25, 2017

Mr. Koya said SamTrans did a great marketing job on the three brochures distributed.

Chair Manalo asked for SamTrans ridership data for the Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival. Ms. Ross she did not have the information, but will provide it.

LIAISON REPORTS

No report.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held November 29, 2017 at 6:30 p.m., 1250 San Carlos Avenue, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, San Carlos, California 94070.

Adjourned at 8:06p.m.