

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

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
MEETING MINUTES**

October 30, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: S. Appenrodt, J. Baker (left at 7:10 pm), A. Barnes (Vice Chair), I. Chan, B. Gomez, S. Johnston, A. Juarez, S. Koya (Chair), N. Lacsamana, M. Lewis, D. Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: M. Adler

STAFF PRESENT: M. Ross, J. Epstein, C. Wegener, A. Lam, J. Castellanos, M. Louie, J. Burley, J. Brook

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Sonny Koya called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm and requested that Bob Gomez lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CAC MEMBER DOUG SMITH

Chair Koya introduced newly appointed member Doug Smith.

ROLL CALL

CAC Secretary Jean Brook called the roll. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

Motion/Second: Baker/Gomez

Ayes: Appenrodt, Baker, Chan, Gomez, Johnston, Juarez, Koya, Lacsamana, Smith

Abstentions: Barnes, Lewis

Absent: Adler

APPROVAL OF 2020 CAC MEETING CALENDAR

Motion/Second: Lewis/Lacsamana

Ayes: Appenrodt, Baker, Barnes, Chan, Gomez, Johnston, Juarez, Koya, Lacsamana, Lewis, Smith

Absent: Adler

**PRESENTATION: REIMAGINE SAMTRANS – EXISTING CONDITIONS AND TRADE-OFFS
DISCUSSION**

Christy Wegener, Director of Planning, gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Operational Analysis, Reimagine SamTrans.

Andrew Barnes asked about the race and ethnic breakdown of ridership. Ms. Wegener said that the majority of riders are ethnic minorities.

Bob Gomez talked about how the current political situation is affecting gas prices.

Allie Juarez said that she feels like it will be a long wait until the 2021 kick-off of the new bus system. She added that public opinion seems to be that SamTrans is a dated agency and said that there is a need to positively change the perception of the agency.

Margo Ross, Director of Bus Transportation, said that most COAs (Comprehensive Operational Analyses) take three or four years. She said that a lot of work goes into analyzing an entire route network and that it is important to get it right. Ms. Juarez suggested reframing the COA to the community so that people know that the upgrade will not happen overnight.

Scott Johnston suggested having timed transfers to encourage people to take transit to the Chase Center in San Francisco.

Mr. Barnes discussed trade-offs such as frequency of service versus proximity of bus stops.

John Baker suggested offering perks to multimodal riders to encourage ridership on SamTrans. Ms. Wegener said that the FASTER Bay Area regional mega-measure is examining fare integration between modes.

John Baker left the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Iris Chan suggested polling bus operators be part of the COA.

Doug Smith suggested providing service to shopping centers during the holiday season.

Ms. Wegener said that people who normally do not ride transit like to take the bus to ball games where they can drink. Ms. Ross noted that LA (Los Angeles) Metro's service to the Hollywood Bowl and Dodger Stadium is very popular.

Nancy Lacsamana suggested adding service from South San Francisco BART to the Oyster Point industrial park.

Michelle Lewis asked if the Reimagine SamTrans materials would also be printed in Spanish. Jessica Epstein, Government and Community Affairs Officer, said materials are available in both Spanish and simplified Chinese. Ms. Wegener said they would bring printed materials to the November 20 CAC meeting.

Chair Koya asked what kind of material would be available for the CAC members to distribute on the bus. Ms. Wegener said it would be a colorful, glossy tri-fold pamphlet directing riders to take the Reimagine SamTrans survey.

SAMTRANS STAFF UPDATE

Ms. Ross talked about the most recent performance statistics from the September multimodal ridership report that was to be presented to the Board at their November 6 meeting. She noted that the FCX (Foster City Express) 6:30 am northbound trip would be eliminated in favor of adding a later morning trip. She added that the Palo Alto Express (PCX) originally planned to start in January 2020 was currently on hold.

Mr. Barnes said that 50 percent of bus trips involve transfers. Ms. Ross said that most transfers originate from the ECR.

CAC MEMBER COMMENTS/REQUESTS

Ms. Lewis said that service on Route 292 has somewhat improved. Ms. Ross said that there have been fewer DNOs (Did Not Operates) and that they have been hiring more operators.

Ms. Lacsamana noted some key points from the FASTER Bay Area town hall meeting she attended on October 29.

Mr. Smith asked why articulated buses are now being used on Route 274 since it has fairly low ridership. Ms. Ross said that the route accommodates school children. Josue Castellanos, Scheduling Specialist, Operations Planning, explained that the size of the bus is dictated by the busiest schedule.

Ms. Chan said that it is difficult to get to the FCX from Belmont where she lives. She said that she hopes there will be more express bus service to San Francisco originating in Belmont and San Mateo.

Mr. Johnston said that SamTrans should have an idea of what kind of funding they are asking for from the FASTER Bay Area initiative. He said that he took Route 398 to downtown San Francisco but felt that the bus was not comfortable for longer trips. Ms. Ross said that the route's buses would be replaced with new articulated buses by December 15.

Ms. Juarez praised the buses wrapped with the Art Takes a Bus Ride children's artwork.

Chair Koya had a question about feedback from Victoria O'Brien, Deputy Director, Safety and Security, about passenger mischief on buses.

Ms. Ross said that the Christmas-decorated bus would be at Sequoia Station in Redwood City at the Holiday Train event on December 7 and 8.

Chair Koya suggested updating the SamTrans CAC recruitment ad card with a new photo reflecting the current membership.

LIAISON REPORTS

SamTrans Board of Directors

Chair Koya noted the relevant actions from the Board's October 2 meeting:

- The Teamsters agreement for facilities maintenance technicians was approved
- October was designated as Disabilities Awareness Month
- Doug Smith was appointed to the CAC
- Heard an overview of the FASTER Bay Area proposed regional measure
- Heard a discussion of the feasibility of providing electric vehicles for paratransit services

Community Engagement Committee

Ms. Lacsamana said that the Committee did not meet.

NEXT MEETING

Chair Koya announced that the next meeting will be held November 20, 2019 at 6:30 pm, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, **Dining Conference Room, 4th Floor**, San Carlos, CA.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.