

**San Mateo County Transit District
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California**

**Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting Minutes**

February 26, 2025

Members Present (In Person): M. Adler, S. Appenrodt, J. Baker, H. Estalilla, D. Finch, B. Mangiafico, D. Rabinovich, M. Mautner (Vice Chair), A. Madrid (Chair) (arrived at 6:56 pm)

Members Absent: S. Johnston, D. Seibert

Staff Present: J. Brook, J. Epstein, A. Rivas

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Max Mautner called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

CAC Secretary Jean Brook called the roll and noted that a quorum was present.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Wen commented on Route FCX stop changes in San Francisco – support retaining stops on Mission Street.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 29, 2025

Motion/Second: Appenrodt/Rabinovich

Ayes: Adler, Appenrodt, Baker, Estalilla, Finch, Mangiafico, Rabinovich, Mautner

Absent: Johnston, Madrid, Seibert

5. Presentation: Regional Transit Measure

Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Reviewed the County's transportation ballot measures
- Breakdown of spending for Measure A and W
- County priorities for a regional measure
 - Voters must opt in
 - Supported by polling by MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission)
 - Be fair and viable
 - Fund projects that benefit County taxpayers
 - BART – limited to fair share percentage of pandemic fare loss, supported by community
 - Must be accountable financially

- Senate Bill (SB) 1031 – Former regional transit bill that failed in 2024. SamTrans Board opposed
 - Consolidation preferred over enhanced coordination
 - Unfair geographic distribution
 - Potentially threatened renewal of Measure A ½-cent sales tax for transportation
 - Expand MTC’s role, giving it too much power to withhold funding from transit agencies
 - MTC Select Committee agreed to poll voters with two scenarios:
 - ½ cent sales tax
 - Combine ½-cent sales tax with 0.18 percent payroll tax or \$0.09 cent per square foot parcel tax
- New spot bill introduced SB 63
- Currently focusing on ½ cent sales tax option
- San Mateo County polling showed 56 percent in support
 - Recommend citizens’ initiative – need to obtain 60,000 signatures
 - Looking to create a four-county measure; expect Senator Wiener to move forward with a bill

The Committee had a discussion and staff provided further clarification in response to the Committee comments and questions, which included the following:

- If one system goes down, it will affect other transit agencies
- MTC controls funding
 - Convenes with other agencies to work on coordination
 - Working on Plan Bay Area 2050
- 90 percent of BART riders generate in San Mateo County
 - Significant portion of County residents ride Muni
 - Bay Pass pilot program for riders using multiple agencies
- Express lanes cost \$500 million – worried it will cost money to replace lost transit capacity if lanes need to be added
- MTC focusing on regional connections; doing a pilot on implementing clear universal signage at major hubs (not in San Mateo County)
- Bay Area agencies need to be on the same team
- SamTrans has historically been less collaborative with other Bay Area transit agencies; had been losing money paying for BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) extension prior to passage of Measure W
- If ballot measure does not pass, possible to go back to voters with additional ballot measure to fund agencies
- Only viable path is to get a four-county citizens’ initiative or to have ballot measures from individual counties
- Working hard on regional coordination – runbooks released at same time, zero-emission initiatives
- Other states have a higher percentage of state funds to fund transit
- Using SamTrans funds to help fund BART – depends on what voters want

John Baker left the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Public Comment

Adina Levin commented on her transit advocacy in the Bay Area, network management, wayfinding for people with disabilities, and riders using multiple transit agencies

Noor Rizvi, Transbay Coalition, commented on riders not favoring one transit agency over another.

6. Report of the Chair – There was none.

7. SamTrans Staff Update

Ana Rivas, Director, Bus Transportation, reviewed her report, which included the following:

- Average weekday ridership increased by 10.9 percent across all modes
- Post-pandemic ridership recovery is 98.7 percent of pre-pandemic levels
- Ridership decreased 24 percent; 70 percent of Ride Plus service is in East Palo Alto; 30 percent is on the Coastsides
- Key performance indicators
- Safety campaign
- Employees of the month

8. CAC Member Comments/Requests

- Evening transit options
 - What are criteria for routes that run until 10:00 or 11:00 pm
 - Based on demand, assessment to look for opportunities to adjust schedules on other routes
 - Local routes typically end by 8:00 pm, while Route ECR ends later
- Route 251 is only route that stops near the Hillsdale Station's entrance
 - Additional bus stops needed at the station
- Positive experience riding Route 250
- Request for average ridership by bus stop
- Youth Transit Pass
 - How does SamTrans work with schools to distribute passes
 - Can program be extended to all high school students
- CAC members expressing thoughts about regional measure issue to SamTrans Board

9. SamTrans Board Liaison Report – There was none.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 6:30 pm via Zoom teleconference and in person at the San Mateo County Transit District, Bacciocco Auditorium, 2nd Floor, 1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, CA.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at <https://www.samtrans.com/about-samtrans/video-board-directors-cac-and-measure-w-coc>. Questions may be referred to the CAC Secretary's office by phone at 650-508-6223 or by email to cacsecretary@samtrans.com.