

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

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

**May 27, 2020**

**MEMBERS PRESENT (Via Teleconference):** M. Adler, S. Appenrodt, J. Baker (Vice Chair), A. Barnes (Chair), I. Chan, B. Gomez (arrived at 6:40 pm), S. Johnston, A. Juarez, N. Lacsamana, M. Lewis, D. Smith

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** M. Ross, J. Epstein, Christy Wegener, Josue Castellanos, Ana Rivas, J. Brook

**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Andrew Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONTINUING CAC MEMBERS**

Chair Barnes announced that Steve Appenrodt, John Baker, Scott Johnston, and himself would be continuing on the CAC with new three-year terms expiring in 2023.

**3. ROLL CALL**

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

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

*Bob Gomez arrived at 6:40 pm.*

**5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 29, 2020**

Motion/Second: Baker/Johnston

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

## **6. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

### **a. Certificate of Appreciation for Outgoing Member Sonny Koya**

SamTrans Board Director Peter Ratto presented the certificate of appreciation to Sonny Koya.

Mr. Koya thanked Director Ratto for his commendation of his work on the CAC. He noted that he likely had only missed one meeting in his entire tenure with the Committee. He thanked SamTrans Board Chair Karyl Matsumoto for all her support. He expressed his desire to continue supporting the CAC as an attendee. Director Ratto said he hoped that Mr. Koya would rejoin the CAC after the required one-year break from membership.

Vice Chair John Baker expressed that Mr. Koya was a great advocate for the transit-riding community.

Margo Ross, Director of Bus Transportation, said she appreciated Mr. Koya's input on current issues on the buses.

Nancy Lacsamana said that she regarded Mr. Koya as a great mentor and Bob Gomez said that he considered him a role model.

## **7. SAMTRANS STAFF UPDATE**

Referring to the April Multimodal Ridership Report, Ms. Ross said they have seen a small increase in ridership. She said she anticipated increased ridership moving into Phase 3 of the Governor's shelter-in-place order.

Ms. Lacsamana asked about driver hiring. Ms. Ross said they have a class of 12 currently, adding that they have over 400 candidates and are not taking any more applications.

Ms. Ross said there has only been one case of COVID-19. She said she admired the tenacity of the front-line workers.

Chair Barnes asked about distancing on buses and how to manage that. Ms. Ross said the limit is 10 people on a 60-foot bus. She said some operators exceed that limit for shorter rides of 15 minutes or less.

Mary Adler asked if SamTrans was doing any scenario planning regarding COVID-19 outcomes based on government orders and vaccine availability. Ms. Ross said that staff was having regular meetings to discuss emerging scenarios. She said there was much concern about school service and social distancing and maintaining safety.

Iris Chan asked how if a bus is full that is communicated to the passengers. Ms. Ross said that the operators explain to the passengers that SamTrans is practicing social distancing.

Michelle Lewis thanked Mr. Koya for his support. She said she was concerned that she was not able to take the bus during the pandemic. Ms. Ross emphasized that SamTrans' chief priority currently is keeping people safe. She said that workers in nonessential businesses should stay home and be safe.

Ms. Ross announced that she was resigning from SamTrans and would be starting a new position as Chief Operations Officer for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District.

She said that Ana Rivas, Acting Director of Bus Transportation, would be replacing her as CAC staff liaison. She expressed thanks to Director Ratto for his support and he wished her the best in her new position.

## **8. CAC MEMBER COMMENTS/REQUESTS**

Ms. Brook announced that Kai Forsley had resigned from the CAC as of May 18.

Scott Johnston asked if SamTrans could have an app that would allow riders to indicate their stop without touching a door or strip. Ms. Ross said that the operators currently have the ability to open the rear door without passengers having to touch it. She added that many riders will continue to use cash.

Vice Chair Baker wished Ms. Ross well and said he looked forward to working with Ms. Rivas.

Ms. Adler said that she is currently working remotely and not riding the bus, and did not yet know how long this situation would continue.

Ms. Lewis thanked Ms. Ross for her work with the CAC.

Allie Juarez thanked Mr. Koya and Ms. Ross. She said that she missed the Art Takes a Bus Ride Program and wanted to know if was scheduled to happen in 2020. Ms. Ross said that the program had been cancelled for this year and bus passes were cancelled also.

Mr. Gomez thanked both Mr. Koya and Ms. Ross.

### Public Comment:

Alex Madrid asked how passengers in wheelchairs are able to maintain social distancing. Ms. Ross said wheelchair patrons and those passengers needing assistance must board through the front door based on FTA (Federal Transit Administration) and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) rules.

## **9. LIAISON REPORTS**

### **a. SamTrans Board**

Vice Chair Baker provided highlights of Board actions from the May 6 meeting.

### **b. Community Engagement Committee**

Ms. Lacsamana said she had no report.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

Chair Barnes said that the next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 6:30 pm, via Zoom teleconference.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.