

**Liaison Report (Karyl Matsumoto)
Summary of San Mateo County Transit District's (District)
Meeting of February 3, 2016**

**AGENDA ITEM # 8
FEBRUARY 4, 2016**

The Community Relations Committee and Board

Authorized adoption of updated bicycle and similar equipment parking rules and regulations. This update allows Transit Police or other authorized personnel to legally move and/or remove improperly stored, parked or abandoned Personal Transportation Vehicles and will aid in increasing public safety and reducing conditions conducive to blight and criminal conduct in and about District property. Abandoned bikes and similar equipment such as scooters, skateboards, etc. will be disposed of in accordance with the Lost and Unclaimed Property Policy.

Tina Dubost, Manager, Accessible Transit Services, said staff continues to work with the California Highway Patrol and American Association of Retired Persons on the Age Well Drive Smart Program. Staff working on the Veterans Mobility Program will be making presentations at American Legion halls in the county.

Mike Levinson, Chair, Paratransit Coordinating Council (PCC), said the PCC's annual driver appreciation party will be on April 12.

Bill Lock, Chair, Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), said at the January 27 meeting he was elected chair and Juslyn Manalo was elected vice chair. The CAC received presentations on the 2016 Legislative Program and Social Media Program.

Average Weekday Ridership – December 2015 Compared to December 2014

Bus: 38,190, an increase of 0.9 percent

All modes: 148,120, an increase of 0.2 percent

The Finance Committee and Board

Received a report from the Audit Ad Hoc Committee (Gee, Groom, Guilbault). The District has new auditors this year, which provided a new team and fresh look at the financials. The auditors reported a clean bill of health for Fiscal Year 2015. The auditors are based in Palo Alto and work with many companies in the Bay Area. The committee recommended making this a standing committee of the Board.

Accepted the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015.

Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for December 2015.

Accepted the Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review for the Period Ending December 31, 2015.

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Authorized Execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the San Mateo County Transportation Authority and the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County to Update the Countywide Transportation Plan and Contribute up to a Maximum of \$25,000 to the San Mateo County Transportation Authority.

Authorized Filing and Execution of an Application for the Electric Bus Procurement Project in the Amount of \$949,523 and Annual Cap and Trade Funding Authorized Agent Forms and Certifications and Assurances.

Authorized Execution of an Amendment to the Funding Agreement with the County of San Mateo for the Allocation of \$10 Million in County Measure A Funds for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017. The allocation will fund transit services provided to the disabled, the elderly and youth, with particular emphasis on funding continued paratransit service.

Authorized Purchase and Delivery of 50 New Heavy-Duty Low-Floor 40-Foot Diesel Buses from Gillig, LLC for a Total Estimated Cost of \$25,424,223.

Authorized Award of Contract to Stertil Koni for the Purchase and Delivery of 11 Sets of Mobile Wheel Lift Systems for a Total Cost of \$336,457.

Authorized Purchase and Delivery of 10 Non-Revenue Support Vehicles with Elk Grove Toyota for a Total Cost of \$300,395.

Authorized Award of On-Call, No-Guarantee Contracts to Essence Printing, Inc., Fong Brothers Printing, Inc. and Pacific Standard Print to Provide Printing Services for a Not-to-Exceed Aggregate Amount of \$619,000 for a Five-Year Term.

Authorized an Increase in Authority for Information Technology Licenses, Maintenance Services and Professional Services for a Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$1.5 Million for Fiscal Year 2016.

The Legislative Committee and Board

Approved the 2016 Legislative Program (Program). The Program establishes principles that will guide the District's legislative and regulatory advocacy efforts. Staff received feedback on the draft Program presented last month and have incorporated the following changes into the final Program.

- Clarified the language supporting allocation of California High Speed Rail Proposition 1A bond funding for the Caltrain corridor.
- Added support for workforce housing funding to attract and retain quality personnel. This aligns with the goals set out in the Strategic Plan.
- Included advocating for funding for transportation projects that also include a storm water capture component.
- Modified the language addressing the State Transit Assistance Program to take into account recent regulatory changes.

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- Removed the reference for the need of a permanent extension of pre-tax transit commute benefits, since that became law after the draft was introduced.

On January 7 Governor Brown announced his proposed 2016-2017 State Budget, outlining his plan to spend \$36 billion on transportation over the next decade. In terms of transportation spending, the governor proposes to spend \$1.7 billion in 2016-2017 on local streets and roads, transit, investments in trade corridors, and highway repairs and maintenance. The governor proposes to spend \$3.6 billion in subsequent years. Funding sources include stabilizing the tax on gasoline and increasing the diesel excise tax, implementing a new road improvement charge, using additional cap and trade funds, and streamlining California State Department of Transportation to remove inefficiencies and reduce costs.

The day before the governor released his budget, Assembly Member Jim Frazier introduced his own Transportation spending bill, Assembly Bill 1591, creating a new funding package totaling almost \$7 billion in new investments on highways, local streets and roads, goods movement, and transit. The bill calls for increasing the excise tax on gasoline for highway maintenance, and increasing the diesel fuel tax with funds going to the Trade Corridor Improvement Fund. He also wants to increase vehicle registration fees by \$38 annually for road maintenance. Assembly Member Frazier's plan also calls for an increase of \$200 million in the Transit and Intercity Rail Program giving the program \$400 million in total. In addition to increasing the tax on gasoline and diesel fuel, Assembly Member Frazier proposes to generate funds by increasing the vehicle registration fee, increasing the zero emission vehicle fee and restoring truck weight fees. Staff anticipates Senator Jim Beall, Chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee, will be amending the transportation funding plan he laid out in Senate Bill Extraordinary Session 1 introduced last June, in the next few weeks. The Legislature will hash out these proposals in the upcoming months and hopefully will come up with a transportation funding package that will pass the Legislature by June.

The President will release the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Budget on February. Staff will be looking for the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project to be mentioned for potential funding through the Federal Transportation Administration Core Capacity Program. Following the budget submission will be the annual appropriation process where funds are allocated to specific programs and projects. The legislative team will be engaged on this issue and will provide updates on a regular basis. Congress has until September 30 to complete its work on the FY2017 appropriations bills or pass a continuing resolution to keep the government funded. The recently passed 2016 Omnibus appropriations legislation included \$500 million for an eighth round of TIGER grants. The notice of funding availability will be released this month and staff will evaluate if there are projects that should be put forth for potential funding.

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The Board of Directors

Presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Past Chair Shirley Harris.

Jim Hartnett, General Manager/CEO, reported:

- Paratransit ridership had been growing 2.5 percent a year and is now in double digit growth. Staff budgeted for 335,000 trips in FY2016, but on pace to hit 360,000 trips. The FY1988 budget was for 74,000 trips or \$865,000. Measure A was enacted in 1998 to have a trust fund from the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA) of \$25 million to support paratransit. This is an extremely important service and legally required to provide. Staff will be looking at this ridership closely during budget preparations.
- Investment in human capital continues with 2,400 hours of training in January.
- 13 bus operators graduated in January and nine part-time operators were promoted to full-time.
- Seven new maintenance employees, six utility employees and one Mechanic B are in training.
- Planning staff are providing technical assistance to those cities submitting applications for bike and pedestrian funding to the TA.
- A youth summer survey will be distributed in late February/early March to identify youth ridership during the summer.
- No routes in San Francisco have been affected by Super Bowl 50 activities.

The Board requested staff to provide updates on Route 295 in San Carlos and possible restoration of Route 46B that serves the San Carlos hills.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 2 p.m.