

Liaison Report (Karyl Matsumoto)
Summary of San Mateo County Transit District's (District)
Meeting of April 6, 2016

AGENDA ITEM # 7
APRIL 7, 2016

The Community Relations Committee and Board

Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) interviews were conducted by Committee members Jeff Gee, Carole Groom and Adrienne Tissier. Director Gee said the Committee was very happy with the number of qualified applicants. Two of the recommended appointments are high school students. The Board approved the committee's recommendation to appoint the following members:

- Three Year Terms
 - Joyce Gamber
 - Julia Lee
 - Juslyn Manalo (Incumbent)
 - David Nelson
 - Geraldine Wilson

- Two-Year Terms
 - Angel Barrios
 - Alicia Marie Jones

- One-Year Terms
 - Zachary Fucini
 - Frank Liu

Tina Dubost, Manager, Accessible Transit Services, said staff is getting ready to send out letters to all customers on an updated policy on no-shows and late cancellations. The policy change comes from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) recent Americans with Disabilities Act circular. With the new policy, staff will consider the number of trips the customer takes when determining if the no-shows and late cancels are part of a pattern or practice. People who have a no-show out of their control will not have it count against them.

Mike Levinson, Chair, Paratransit Coordinating Council (PCC), said the PCC's Policy Advocacy and Legislative Committee set some priorities last month. The PCC will be advocating for some of the ideas that are in the new FTA circular. The driver appreciation dinner is on April 12.

Average Weekday Ridership – February 2016 Compared to February 2015
Bus: 42,360, a decrease of 3 percent
All modes: 169,590, an increase of 5.9 percent

The Finance Committee and Board

Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for February 2016.

Received an Assessment of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Fuel Hedging Program (Program). A Program was instituted for FY2016 to cover 65 percent of the District's projected diesel

Liaison Report (Karyl Matsumoto)
Summary of San Mateo County Transit District's (District)
Meeting of April 6, 2016

fuel usage, which was approximately 1.2 million gallons. The Program allowed the District to reduce uncertainty in the fuel budget for FY2016 by locking in the market price at the time the fuel hedging transaction was executed. The District purchases fuel from Pinnacle Petroleum based on the average weekly spot price from Oil Price Information Service (OPIS) index, exposing the District to market fluctuation. During the 12-month period from March 2015 to February 2016, the price of OPIS has ranged from a high of \$2.34 per gallon on May 14, 2015 to a low of \$1.02 per gallon on January 21, 2016.

Legislative Committee

The Legislature was on Spring Break this month and reconvened on March 28. The Legislature has until April 22 to refer fiscal bills to the appropriations committee for further action. The members will break for Summer Recess on July 1. On February 18 the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) released its draft 2016 Business Plan. The CHSRA has presented its plan to the Assembly Transportation Committee, the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee, and will give a presentation to the Assembly Budget Committee on April 7. Jim Hartnett, General Manager/CEO, participated in those hearings and discussed the status of the Caltrain Electrification Project and the need for the State to provide their share of funding for the project. The public comment period on the Draft Plan closes on April 18. The CHSRA is required to prepare, publish, adopt, and submit an updated Business Plan to the Legislature by May 1.

On March 10, the Department of Transportation announced procedures that would allow States to redistribute nearly \$2 billion dollars in previously appropriated earmark money that has been sitting unused for years. The FY2016 appropriations legislation included language that transfers unused earmarks that are at least 10 years old and for which less than 10 percent of the funding has been obligated to State transportation departments for new projects. Funding must be used for projects within 50 miles of the location of the original intended use. For California, there could be nearly \$150 million available through this process. The California State Department of Transportation intends to set up a working group later this month to decide how funds should be repurposed within each region.

Last month FTA Administrator Therese McMillan announced she would be leaving the FTA and joining the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority as the head of planning. The current Special Advisor, Carolyn Flowers, will be taking Ms. McMillan's place at the FTA for the balance of the Obama Administration. Prior to joining the FTA, Flowers was the CEO for the Charlotte Area Transit System.

Several FTA and Federal Highway Administration Notice of Funding availability opportunities were announced this month including \$211 million in grants for buses and bus facilities projects and \$55 million for FTA's Low and No Emission Bus Program. Staff is currently evaluating both programs to see what projects might be eligible for possible funding, including possible funding for the zero-emission bus pilot program. Applications

Liaison Report (Karyl Matsumoto)
Summary of San Mateo County Transit District's (District)
Meeting of April 6, 2016

are due by May 13. Staff is also looking into the newly announced Rides to Wellness grant program. FTA is making \$5.3 million available through competitive grants for innovative transportation projects that support increased access to health services. Applications for this program are due by May 31.

Staff attended the American Public Transportation Association's annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. last month. Chair Zoe Kersteen-Tucker and Director Karyl Matsumoto also attended. A lot was learned about the new Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act and its associated rulemaking and implementation process. Staff and Directors had the opportunity to meet with staff from Senator Dianne Feinstein's and Congressman Mike Honda's offices, as well as with Congresswomen Anna Eshoo and Jackie Speier. At those meetings the group informed them about plans to pursue Federal funds for the Zero-emission bus pilot program. In addition, the group asked them to support the San Mateo County Transportation Authority's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery grant application for the Willow Road /Highway 101 Interchange Project. We also thanked them for supporting the president's budget request to include the Caltrain Electrification Project in the Core Capacity Program and asked them to continue to advocate including the project in the final budget.

Planning, Development and Sustainability Committee

Received a SamTrans Service Plan Progress Update. Average weekday ridership (AWR) was up 2.6 percent in 2014 and 0.9 percent in 2015. Total ridership was up 3.1 percent in 2014 and 0.8 percent in 2015. AWR for FLX Pacifica is 79 and 10 for FLX San Carlos. Some next steps include the discontinuation of FLX San Carlos and reallocating the resources to another San Carlos route, consideration of new pilot programs of express service to San Francisco International Airport, expansion of service in East Palo Alto and adjusting school bell time service.

The Board of Directors

Amended their Rules of Procedure to include an Audit Committee. The Audit Committee's focus would be the District's annual audits as well as additional audits initiated by the District or other entities. The Committee's meetings would be noticed and open to the public in accordance with the Brown Act. The meetings would not be subject to the Committee of the Whole process applied to committee meetings held on monthly Board meeting days.

Chuck Harvey, Deputy CEO, Organizational Support/Special Projects, reported:

- Staff has been preparing the draft FY2017 budgets and will be presenting recommendations at the May meeting. The Board Retreat Committee will be briefed on the recommendations prior to the May meeting. Staff has made a conscious effort to make budget recommendations related to the Strategic Plan. Initial budget recommendation has a structural deficit and staff is working to

Liaison Report (Karyl Matsumoto)
Summary of San Mateo County Transit District's (District)
Meeting of April 6, 2016

close the gap. Staff will show the cost of adding additional items and services. The options presented will include changes to service, technology, focus on a community presence and a broader awareness of how SamTrans can help people get to where they need to go and partnerships with private sector.

- The Board recently approved an emergency procurement for the oil/water separator and industrial waste line at North Base. That work is ongoing and should be completed in 30 days. There is additional work that will be required at North Base and will be included in the FY2017 Capital Budget.
- Fixed-route service averaged over 34,620 miles between service calls in February and paratransit averaged over 27,000 miles between service calls.
- Over 1,300 of hours of training was conducted in February.
- Weekend service on Route 294 was expanded as a pilot for the Half Moon Bay Pumpkin Festival in October. Weekend service now has 32 trips with one hour headways. February had a 50 percent increase compared to February 2015.
- Adjustments were made to Route 17 for school schedules.

The Board received a report from legal counsel and no action was taken on the existing litigation of Trudell v. San Mateo County Transit District.

The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 2 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned in memory of long-time San Mateo County resident Jim Gentile, best friend of Director Peter Ratto since 6th grade.