

SamTrans Board Liaison Report

Meeting of July 10, 2024

Board Received/Actions

- Approved Minutes of the Regular Board of Directors Meeting of June 5, 2024 and the Special Meeting of June 18, 2024
- Accepted the Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending May 31, 2024
- Authorized the General Manager/CEO to Execute Two Sublease Agreements with the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District, in a Form Approved by Legal Counsel, for: (1) Two Bus Bays within the Bus Deck at the Salesforce Transit Center; and (2) Three Bus Parking Spaces at the Bus Layover Facility under the I-80 Freeway in San Francisco
- Appointed a Member Representing the Community to the Citizens Advisory Committee
- Approved and Ratified the District Insurance Program for Fiscal Year 2025
- Approved a Request for Allocation of Regional Measure 3 Funds for the Dumbarton Busway Feasibility Study

Board Highlights

April Chan, General Manager/CEO, provided the following highlights under her General Manager's report:

- She commended Directors Marie Chuang, Josh Powell, and Brooks Esser who each drove a bus through the obstacle course during the June 15th Roadeo. She commended Training Manager Danyah Baliu-Garcia and her team for putting the event together. She also recognized operators Ariel Hale, and maintenance team members Anthony Singh, Omar Gonzalez, and Arvin Barrozo for getting the top prizes in the Roadeo competition.
- She thanked the Board for their participation at the June 18 Strategic Plan Workshop. She said that staff is making progress in compiling a draft Strategic Plan to present to the Board in Fall 2024, along with a 10-year Capital Improvement Program and a Measure W expenditure plan for 50 percent of the Measure W funds set aside for SamTrans.
- She noted that the new owner of the upcoming District headquarters (HQ), Swift Real Estate Partners, will be executing a general contractor contract soon and the team is still targeting a Fall 2025 completion date for the new HQ.
- Regarding the demise of Senate Bill (SB) 1031, a special Select Committee of MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission) is working with Senators Wiener and Wahab on how to move forward. A special Select Committee meeting was held in early June. She noted that Director David Canepa is one of the nine MTC commissioners included in the Select Committee. She reported that the goal of the MTC Select Committee is to work toward coming up with a game plan by Fall 2024. She noted that she and Michelle Bouchard, Caltrain Executive Director, are part of an advisory committee who will be providing input to this process.

- Clipper 2.0 will not be able to launch by the end of 2024 due to technical considerations. The MTC and Contractor are currently projecting a launch date in 2025; more details to follow in September.
- SamTrans service recovery for the past 11 months is at 90.5 percent of pre-pandemic levels, and the average for bus systems nationwide is at around 80 percent.
- The final phase of Reimagine SamTrans will be implemented on Sunday, August 4, and will include a number of new routes, including Route PCX, which runs between Pacifica and Daly City BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit).
- She commended operator Enzi Fang, who took decisive action during a thermal event with one of the battery electric buses. The South San Francisco Fire Department assisted and took control of the situation. As a result, the New Flyer battery electric buses have been taken out of commission out of an abundance of caution until the cause of the problem can be determined.
- She announced that Emily Beach, former Burlingame councilmember and Transportation Authority (TA) Board Member, will be joining the agency as the new Chief Communications Officer on July 15.

Community Relations Committee

Monthly Performance Report | May 2024 – Ana Rivas, Director, Bus Transportation, provided the latest performance statistics and employees of the month. She said the average weekday ridership across all four modes increased by 12.2 percent over the past year, and total monthly ridership increased by 11.1 percent. She said Ride Plus ridership also increased with 70 percent of ridership occurring in East Palo Alto and 30 percent occurring in Half Moon Bay. She said that there were only two DNOs (Did Not Operate) for the month and that maintenance met their goal of 25 miles between service calls.

Finance Committee

Approving and Ratifying the District Insurance Program for Fiscal Year 2025 – Marshall Rush, Insurance and Claims Administrator, presented the staff report outlining the District’s relationship with its insurers and the reasons for the increased premium. Director David Canepa asked over time if Mr. Rush had seen more coverage or less coverage over a period of five to ten years. Mr. Rush noted that the District has more coverage for less cost than other agencies. He said multiple factors such as inflation have negatively impacted insurance in general. Director Marie Chuang commended Mr. Rush on maintaining the District’s long-time relationship with its insurers and looking ahead.

Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee

Approving a Request for Allocation of Regional Measure 3 Funds for the Dumbarton Busway Feasibility Study – Josh Mello, Executive Officer, Planning and Development, introduced Chelsea Schultz, Manager, Strategic Planning, who provided the presentation. Director Peter Ratto said he had been involved with the prior collaboration with Facebook regarding the Dumbarton Corridor and was happy to see that the District was taking advantage of the corridor and

considering other improvements. Director Josh Powell said he was excited about the project and having dedicated bus lanes. Chair Marina Fraser said she thought the project would stir up a lot of interest. Director Brooks Esser asked why bus ridership was projected to be greater than train ridership. Ms. Schultz said it was because bus service can have higher frequency and greater coverage, be more nimble, and be more direct compared to the fixed alignment of rail. Director Canepa asked if there was a potential collaboration with AC (Alameda County) Transit. Mr. Mello said the intent is to have conversations with other transit operators in the East Bay about regional service on the corridor that fits the context of the adjacent communities.

Legislative Committee

State and Federal Legislative Update – Michaela Wright Petrik, Government and Community Affairs Officer, provided a summary of federal and state legislation, which included the following:

- On the federal side, she said that Congress returns to session with plans to approve appropriations bills before the August recess.
- At the state level, she said the Governor has signed the final budget, which maintains the \$4 billion for TIRCP (Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program).

Director Canepa asked where she sees potential opportunities in the future to access funding. Ms. Wright Petrik said they are working with their legislative advocates to meet with the Governor's administration. He asked about the average costs of grade separation projects, and April Chan, General Manager/CEO, said the current cost is estimated at \$300 million based on the Broadway Burlingame grade separation project, and she noted that grade separation project costs have gone up significantly over time.

Closed Sessions - There were two closed sessions, including a conference with labor negotiators and a conference regarding real property negotiations. Joan Cassman, Legal Counsel, noted there were no expected reportable actions and said she would provide the report-outs from the closed sessions at the beginning of the next regular Board meeting.