

**San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) Board Liaison Report
Meeting of December 3, 2025**

SamTrans Board of Directors Received and Approved the Following Items

- Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 5, 2025
- Accept Quarterly Fuel Hedge Update for Fiscal Year 2026 Quarter 1

Item 5.c. was pulled for further discussion. Staff provided further clarification in response to the following Board comments and questions:

- Non-revenue vehicles have 10-year life cycle
- Vehicles procured through State of California's, Department of General Services (DGS) contract which includes authorized fleet dealers; no San Mateo County dealers are currently on the list
- State and federal procurement rules require competitive bidding and do not allow geographic preference; pursuing a separate bid could increase cost

The Board requested staff to return in January 2026 with additional procurement background, including whether any San Mateo County fleet dealers are eligible or participated in the DGS process.

Report of the Chair

Chair Gee appointed Vice Chair Chuang, Director Esser, and himself to an ad hoc committee to support Senate Bill (SB) 63 return-to-source-efforts.

2026 Chair and Vice Chair Nominating Committee

Chair Gee stated Directors Canepa, Fraser, and Medina will serve on the committee.

Report of the General Manager/CEO

April Chan, General Manager/CEO, provided a report which included the following:

- Clipper 2.0 launches December 10; no new cards required; regional kickoff event hosted by Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) on December 10
- Holiday-wrapped bus participating in Redwood City's Hometown Holiday Parade on December 13 and operating throughout December. Marks SamTrans' 14th year of participation in annual holiday event
- She will be serving as Vice Chair of California Transit Association (CTA) for the next two years
- Board Retreat on February 12 will discuss 10-year financial outlook, status and direction on Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) transition, and status on SB 63 engagement

Monthly New Headquarters Construction Status Update – Kris McGee, Managing Principal at Urban Hive Development, and Joshua Mello, Executive Officer of Planning and Development, provided the presentation that included the following information:

- Day 1 tenant improvements nearly completed; Day 2 SamTrans work starts January 6, 2026; furniture and artwork preparation underway
- 20 percent retail space leased; office/retail negotiations ongoing, approval needed on office leases from Board possibly as early as early next year

Staff provided further clarification in response to the following Board comments and questions regarding Day 2 scope, Transit Oriented Development planning, and childcare planning next steps.

Community Relations Committee

Accessible Services Update – Tina Dubost, Manager, Accessible Services, stated December 17 marks two years of providing same day paratransit service; same-day transit program remains within budget, serving 709 riders with 39 percent medical trips and the rest for social, errands, shopping, and grocery shopping.

Citizens Advisory Committee Update – Deferred

Paratransit Advisory Council Update – Ben McMullan, PAC Chair, stated Paratransit Advisory Council (PAC) is still developing its workplan with continued focus on increasing membership.

State of Service Report | Fiscal Year 2026 Quarter 1– Jonathan Steketee, Manager, Operations Planning, provided the presentation that included the following information:

- Ridership up 3.1 percent and 2.7 percent in equity areas; weekday average around 10.5 percent
- On-time performance (OTP) 80 percent and improving
- Service calls decreased 19.5 percent, goal met
- Preventable accidents: down 44.3 percent
- Ride Plus up 2.2 percent year-over-year (YOY); higher usage in East Palo Alto

Staff provided further clarification in response to the following Board comments and questions regarding Ride Plus' higher ridership in East Palo Alto than Half Moon Bay with steady growth in both areas.

Finance Committee

Receive Quarterly Financial Report Fiscal Year 2026 Quarter 1 Results and Financial Outlook –

Kate Jordan Steiner, Chief Financial Officer, provided the presentation that included the following information:

- Quarter 1 deficit \$8.6 million, better than budget; non-labor favorable, labor slightly over due to overtime
- Operating costs rising; sales tax stable but needed capital projects add pressure to using some of the fund sources from operations
- Staff pursuing revenue growth, cost controls, and external funding
- Rising costs addressed via expense controls and potential budget adjustments

Staff provided further clarification in response to the following Board comments and questions regarding the following:

- Rising cost per passenger (14 percent increase in Quarter 1)
- Controlling operating and capital expenses
- Seek Board guidance at upcoming Board workshop on options to control and reduce costs
- Implementing changes via budget amendments within two-year cycle

Legislative Committee

Receive Legislative Update –

Michaela Petrik, Government Affairs Officer, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Federal Government shutdown ended; funding continues through January 30, 2026
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 transportation spending package under discussion
- Transportation reauthorization bill delayed until next year

Michael Pimental and Brendan Repicky, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange, presented on state legislature activity which included the following:

- Over 900 bills reviewed; updates on key transit-related legislation
- Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems Hub (ARCHES) hydrogen funding: \$10 billion private investment paused, \$1.2 billion federal rescinded; California \$400 million not yet allocated and potentially could be used for hydrogen projects but still too early to know; will keep SamTrans involved.
- Budget challenges may impact Cap-and-Invest and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)

Staff provided further clarification in response to the following Board comments and questions regarding the following:

- Hydrogen investment pending; advocacy needed
- Electric bus limitations
- Budget and Cap-and-Invest impacts

2026 Legislative Program – Michaela Petrik, provided the presentation that included the following information:

- Ensure SamTrans remains competitive for funding programs
- Protect funding and support major transit projects
- Advance zero-emission bus transition and streamline approvals
- Align with climate and federal transportation policies

Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee

2025 Update to the SamTrans Service Policy Framework – Kate Christopherson, Planning Administrator, Jonathan Steketee, Manager, Operations Planning, and Millie Tolleson, Director, Planning, provided the presentation that included the following information:

- Align with 2024 Strategic Plan; emphasizes customer focus, workforce delivery, mobility, and equity
- Equity priority areas, bus stop guidance, and service evaluation metrics updates
- Routes not meeting standards will receive action plans

Staff provided further clarification in response to the following Board comments and questions regarding the following:

- Ride Plus as alternatives to fixed route service
- Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) and Caltrain connectivity to support commuters; schedules aim to align with regional transit
- Focus on North County service needs due to the number of equity priority areas
- Approaches to improve farebox recovery
- Equity areas decreased, there is no proportional service impact to these areas
- Consider smaller buses for future needs

Grand Boulevard Initiative (GBI) Action Plan – Cassie Halls, Manager, Major Corridors Program, provided the presentation that included the following information:

- Modernize El Camino Real (SR 82) for safety and mobility; improve safety, mobility, and coordinated planning goals
- Build on local corridor studies across all San Mateo cities; enhance interagency collaboration and bus reliability
- 25-mile project, up to \$1 billion; \$500 million funding identified for possible funding, \$500 million needed

Staff provided further clarification in response to the following Board comments and questions regarding the following:

- Prioritize safety and reduce serious injuries
- Improve transit with bus lanes and better stops
- Slow traffic and support pedestrians/cyclists
- Collaborate with cities and implement quick-build improvements

Matters for Board Consideration: Audit Committee

Acceptance of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30, 2025 – Annie To, Director, Accounting, introduced Ahmad Gharaibeh, Partner, Eide Bailly, LLC, who provided the presentation, which included the following:

- District received an unmodified (clean) audit opinion
- No internal control findings or compliance issues were identified
- Received Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting
- National Transit Database (NTD), Transportation Development Act (TDA), and Measure W audits also had no findings

General Counsel Report: Closed Sessions

- Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel – Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4): One Potential Case

Joan Cassman, General Counsel, stated the Board authorized action to initiate litigation.