

**San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) Board Liaison Report
Meeting of January 7, 2026**

Report from Closed Sessions at December 3, 2025 Board Meeting

- Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code section 54957(a): Threat to Public Services/Facilities – Consultation with Mehul Kumar, Chief Information and Technology Officer and Steve Thomas, Director for Infrastructure and Cybersecurity
- Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b)(1): Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: General Manager/Chief Executive Officer
- Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code section 54957(b)(1): Public Employee Performance Evaluation
Title: General Counsel

Joan Cassman, General Counsel, and Chair Jeff Gee stated there were no reportable actions.

SamTrans Board of Directors Received and Approved the Following Items

- Approval of Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2025
- Adopt 2026 Legislative Program
- Adopting the Grand Boulevard Initiative Action Plan
- Updating the San Mateo County Transit District Measure W Citizens Oversight Committee Appointment Process
- Approve Appointments to the Measure W Citizens Oversight Committee
- Authorizing Execution of an Amendment to the Public Safety Communications Services Agreement with the County of San Mateo to Extend the Term for Five Years for an Estimated Aggregate Cost to the District of \$848,373

Report of the Chair

Chair Gee shared his gratitude for a successful, annual Public Employee Performance Evaluation of the General Manager/CEO and General Counsel.

Report of the 2026 Chair and Vice Chair Nominating Committee and Election of Officers for 2026 – Director Medina stated the Nominating Committee (Directors Canepa, Fraser, and Medina) selected Director Chuang as Chair and Director Esser as Vice Chair.

Proclamation Recognizing January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month – Tabby Davenport, Director, Safety and Security, presented the proclamation. April Chan, General Manager/CEO, highlighted signage and social media commitments that SamTrans will be doing to bring awareness.

Report of the General Manager/CEO

Ms. Chan provided a report which included the following:

- Hometown Holiday Parade and Shop with a Hero participation
- Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) meeting to establish a public transit revenue measure district under Senate Bill (SB) 63
- Clipper 2.0 implementation and troubleshooting; open-payment function available
- Upcoming February Board Workshop to cover financial outlook, SB 63 outreach, and zero-emission buses
- Fall celebration for SamTrans 50th anniversary
- Tenant improvements complete at new headquarters

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:

- 90 percent on-contract project improvement completion
- Transition from Day 1 to Day 2 project phase
- Continuation of Change Management and Move Management coordination

Staff provided further clarification in response to the following Board comments and questions regarding current headquarter in San Carlos and next steps for transit-oriented development.

State of Artificial Intelligence at San Mateo County Transit District – Mehul Kumar, Chief Information and Technology Officer, provided the presentation that included the following information on the approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI) adoption, GovAI implementation, and human involvement.

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

- Training AI models and data classification; pilot to understand if SamTrans model or a private Large Language Model (LLM) would best suit needs
- Document classification and privacy, chatbot will retain context without the vendor storing the data
- Learning process and risk associated with other transit agencies adopting AI highlighted at the American Public Transportation Association (APTA)
- Meeting public trust requirements and instilling guidelines aligned with Contracts and Procurement and Information and Technology (IT) department
- 40 to 50 percent modernization of applications in online data; establishment of data governance and classification needs to occur before AI implementation

Community Relations Committee

Accessible Services Update – Tina Dubost, Manager, Accessible Services, stated that the new contract with MV Transit for RediWheels began on January 1.

Paratransit Advisory Council Update – Ms. Dubost reported on the finalization of the PAC two-year work plan and upcoming website improvements.

Brown Act Informational Report and Authorizing Remote Meetings for the Citizens Advisory

Committee under Senate Bill 707 – Ms. Cassman provided the report that included SB 707 updates to the Ralph M. Brown Act and advisory committee member remote participation opportunity.

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

- Applicability to the Paratransit Advisory Council, Accessibility Advisory Committee, and Measure W Citizens Oversight Committee
- Inclusivity for CAC recruitment

Update on Citizens Advisory Committee Membership: Recruitment for Vacancies and Terms

Ending April 30, 2026 – Ana Rivas, Director, Bus Transportation, provided the presentation that included the following information on the value of CAC member field-based observations and insights, and recruitment period for eight available seats.

Monthly State of Service Report | November 2025 – Ms. Rivas provided the presentation that included the following information:

- Average ridership between all four modes increased 2.3 percent year-over-year
- Monthly ridership increase of 0.2 percent
- Microtransit average weekday ridership up to 18 percent; almost 19 percent increase compared to the previous year
- Youth unlimited declined 6.4 percent due to one less weekday during the month
- Did not meet preventive accident goals with 2.1 accidents per 100,000 miles
- Met goal for “did not operate” (DNO), missed 0.03 percent of scheduled trips
- Pedestrian safety awareness campaign launched

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

- Specialized training and use of technology to prepare operators with five years or less experience (50 percent of operators) in preventing accidents
- Current weather affecting routes
- Visiting other agencies to look for different technology

Finance Committee

Awarding a Contract to Deloitte Consulting, LLP to Provide the Product, Implementation and Maintenance Services of an Enterprise Performance Management System for a Total Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$749,620 for a Three-Year Base Term, with Three Additional One-Year Option Terms for an Aggregate Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$108,936, and an Optional End User Training and Video Recording for a Fee of \$21,600

– Ladi Millard-Olmeda, Director, Budget and Financial Analysis, and Kevin Yin, Director, Contracts and Procurement, provided the presentation that included the following information:

- Product for project delivery, operating budget, and capital budget and capital improvement plan, position budget, budget adjustments, and long-term planning
- Paused proposals to prioritize projects and minimize resource constraints
- \$3,176,000 in project cost; \$876,000 unfunded
- 43 percent reduction in implementation costs negotiated

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

- Contact includes liquidated damages clause for three times of implementation costs
- Milestone-based contract
- Current process streamlining, staff time reduction, and forecast capabilities

Authorizing Modification of Compensation Rates for Services Provided by General Counsel

Chair Gee provided the report that included the recommendation from the Human Resources Personnel ad hoc committee to increase the blended rate and remove the retainer effective January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2027.

Legislative Committee

Receive Legislative Update – Michaela Petrik, Government Affairs Officer, provided the State update that included the following information

State

- Legislature resumed on January 5
- Two 2025 bills to be passed by January 31 to be considered in 2026
- February 20 deadline for new bill introductions
- January 9 release of Governor Newsom's budget, projected \$18 billion budget deficit
- Senator Monique Limón appointment as President pro Tempore of the California Senate
- Senator Dave Cortese continues as Chair for Senate Transportation Committee; Senator Josh Newman Richardson continues as Chair Senate Budget subcommittee for Transportation
- Senators Josh Becker and Scott Wiener join Transportation Committee

Eve O'Toole, Lobbyist, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP; and Joe O'Brien, Lobbyist, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP; provided the Federal update that included the following information:

- January 30 deadline for Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations to avoid government shutdown
- Congress extension or reauthorization of the nation's service transportation laws and programs by September 30, 2026
- Bipartisan legislation on comprehensive housing reform

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

- Funding support for regions involved with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup
- Earmark continuation and amount limitations
- Potential for Federal Government shutdown and its effects

Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee

Bus Stop Improvement Program Amenity Refresh Project Draft Recommendations

Nicholette Tolmie, Planning Analyst - Bus Stops, and Christopher Espiritu, Planning Administrator, provided the presentation, which included the following:

- Internal and external stakeholder insight
- Shelter designs to account for specific weather conditions and material durability
- Seating and amenity pole to increase accessibility and visibility
- Real-time information and static and digital ads

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

- Involvement with municipalities and private property owners to maintain bus stops
- Digital ad and announcement revenue generation; alternative funding sources
- Outreach and municipality ownership to make improvements based on rider insight; over 1,800 SamTrans bus stops

General Counsel Report: Closed Sessions

- Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel Anticipated Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4) Initiation of Litigation: One Case
- Closed Session: Conference with Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 Property: Parcel Nos. 015-180-200, 015-180-110 (Southeast portion of Belle Aire Island, South San Francisco) Agency negotiator: Janni Baugh, Acting Director of Real Estate Negotiating parties: ELCAM Co. and Bay Investment Co. Under negotiation: Price and terms of payment

Ms. Cassman stated no anticipated action will be taken.