

**San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) Board Liaison Report  
Meeting of May 6, 2026**

**SamTrans Board of Directors Received and Approved the Following Items**

- Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of April 1, 2026
- Accept Quarterly Report for On-Call Contracts for Fiscal Year 2026 Quarter 3
- Accept Contracts and Procurement Quarterly Report on Technology Purchases for Fiscal Year 2026 Quarter Three
- Accept Quarterly Investment Report
- Awarding a Cooperative Purchasing Contract to A-Z Bus Sales, Inc. for the Purchase and Delivery of 26 Model Year 2026 Drivege 350EL Paratransit Vans for a Total Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$3,360,266, and Authorizing Disposition of 26 Paratransit Cutaway and Minivan Vehicles from Model Years 2017, 2018, and 2020

**Report of the Chair**

No report was presented by Chair Chuang.

**Proclamation Honoring Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

Randol White, Public Information Officer, provided the presentation recognizing the accomplishments of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community for the month of May, highlighting the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States in May 1843 and the contributions of Chinese immigrants to the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in May 1869. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up more than one-third of SamTrans ridership. The AAPI community will be showcased on SamTrans' social media platforms.

**American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Legislative Conference and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Council (HFCBC) Advocacy Day**

– Chair Chuang provided the presentation that included the following information:

- Attended with General Manager/CEO, April Chan, at the APTA conference to learn about ways to keep reliable service running and about the next federal transportation reauthorization plan after the current Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act expires
- Met with Senators Adam Schiff and Alex Padilla as well as Congressmen Kevin Mullin and Sam Liccardo to discuss local projects and funding challenges
- Joined hydrogen fuel cells partnership to advocate for funding and policies to support a clean fleet transition

**Ad Hoc Committees Report**

– Chair Chuang provided the presentation that included the following information:

- April 10 meeting for Child Care Ad Hoc (Directors Gee, Powell, Speier, and Chuang): discussed challenges and opportunities for bringing in childcare services at new Millbrae headquarters (HQ) retail space

- April 10 and April 27 meetings for Regional Transportation Measure Ad Hoc (Directors Esser, Gee, and Chuang): received public outreach updates on San Mateo County local investment plan,
- April 23 meeting for North Base Ad Hoc (Directors Esser, Gee, Powell, and Chuang): the sea level rise feasibility study and explored methods for improving perimeter protection

**Report of the General Manager/CEO | April 29, 2026**

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

- Phase 1 HQ move; June SamTrans Board of Directors (Board) meeting at Millbrae HQ; Phase 2 move anticipated for end of next week
- Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) lease executed and will take effect on May 1, 2026
- May 30 Interim Chief Financial Officer (CFO) delegation to Ladi Millard-Olmeda; CFO Kate Jordan Steiner's last day as May 31; active recruitment
- April 29 Sacramento visit with delegation and staff from committees such as Senate Housing, Senate Local Government, and Senate Transportation to find alternatives to restore the \$33 million in lost Alliance for Renewable Clean Hydrogen Energy Systems (ARCHES) funding for the zero-emissions bus program. Also advocated for the Burlingame Broadway Grade Separation and discussed Senate Bill (SB) 79 challenges for certain transportation projects
- Attended April 18 Progress Seminar; was on a panel with Caltrain Executive Director and Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Deputy GM
- Clipper 2.0 issues continue and bulk migration to occur after issues are resolved. Ridership numbers will be published when financial reconciliation issues are resolved due to discrepancy between ridership numbers recorded versus revenue received
- Route ECR on El Camino Real (ECR) temporary and extended detour accommodations on California Avenue
- North Base and South Base condition assessment report for capital assets and capital reserve program; will need to reconcile information from the reports with what the District has in the transit asset management system and the Capital Improvement Project (CIP)

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

- ECR Burlingame coordination and rider concerns for three year-long construction; consideration to return service on ECR for evening hours
- Distinguishment of minor damages versus accidents for preventable accidents
- Evaluation of Clipper card revenue losses and possible actions taken against Cubic Corporation (Cubic); contractual remedies discussions with Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Cubic, and Bay Area transit agencies; possible closed session topic for Board feedback
- ECR detour rider experience

**Announcement of the 2026 Art Takes a Bus Ride Winners** – Item was heard after the Finance Committee adjourned. Mr. White provided the presentation that included the San Mateo County Office of Education partnership to recognize art submissions from 1st through 12th graders, with the theme of Time Travelers Take the Bus to celebrate the 50th SamTrans Anniversary. Winners were selected by San Mateo County Arts Commission and featured on two bus wraps.

**Community Relations Committee**

**Accessible Services Update** – Tina Dubost, Manager, Accessible Transit Services, stated outreach efforts to showcase available transportation opportunities for seniors and those with disabilities.

Committee Chair Ratto moved Paratransit Advisory Council Update after Accessible Services Update.

**Proclamation Honoring Older Americans Month** – Committee Chair Ratto provided the presentation that recognized the community contributions of older Americans, noting SamTrans services as aiding in carrying out day-to-day activities and providing offerings to promote accessibility. Irene Liana and Kathy Uhl, co-chairs from the San Mateo County Commission on Aging, accepted the proclamation.

**Citizens Advisory Committee Update** – Committee Chair Ratto stated the report was in the packet.

**Appointments to the Community Advisory Committee** – Director Fraser stated Directors Fraser, Medina, and Ratto interviewed candidates on April 20 and recommended appointing Aurelio Huizar (Bus Riders), Kathleen Rubens (Bus Riders), Michael Auerbach (Community), and Jedidiah Koon (Multimodal Riders), as well as reappointing Ben Mangiafico (Community) and Alex Madrid (Multimodal Riders), to serve on the CAC for terms ending on April 30, 2029, except for Ben Mangiafico's, which would end on April 30, 2027.

**Paratransit Advisory Council Update** Ms. Dubost stated Connect Bay Area Local Investment Plan presentation receipt and SB 707 approval.

**Monthly State of Service Report | March 2026** – Ana Rivas, Director, Bus Transportation, provided the presentation that included the following information:

- 11 preventable accidents (five District-operated and six contracted), resulting in 1.3 accidents per 100,000 miles systemwide and 0.95 accidents per 100,000 miles for District-operated
- Safely Servicing Bus Stops Safety Campaign: safe curb approach, proper boarding alignment, and awareness of surroundings

- 44 service calls total for miles between service calls (31 District operated and 13 contracted), resulting in 1.3 calls between service calls per 25,000 miles systemwide; 1.0 service calls for diesel fleet and 2.6 service calls for zero-emission fleet

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

- Five identified paratransit preventable accidents and measurables to reduce accidents; attributable causes
- Service calls trend for aging fleet and bus parts availability for miles between service calls increasing
- Did not operate (DNO) decreased to 11
- Bus type breakdown for mileage between road calls; recalls and fleet reliability

### **Finance Committee**

**Authorizing Execution of an Amendment to the Agreement with the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office and an Updated Agreement with the County of San Mateo for an Additional Five Years of Law Enforcement and Emergency Dispatch Services, Respectively, to Reflect Modified Terms and Conditions for Indemnification** – Scott Kirkpatrick, Deputy Director, Safety and Security, and Joan Cassman, General Counsel, provided the presentation on an indemnity clause to equally split defense and participate in County's defense of claims.

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

- Extension of sheriff contract after June 30, 2025, expiration; County continued providing services while parties worked out indemnity clause
- Claims and lawsuits made over the years; none occurred in last ten years
- Equally shared claims, with SamTrans' maximum obligation of \$1 million; if claims were to arise, it would derive from provision of services supplied by the County Sheriff and County dispatch 911 services

### **Legislative Committee**

**Receive Legislative Update** – Jessica Epstein, Director, Government and Community Affairs, provided the presentation that included the following information:

Federal

- Congress in recess and returns the following week
- April 29 House Republican approval of Senate's reconciliation blueprint for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Homeland Security budget funding
- April 30 presidential signing of bipartisan bill to end government shutdown
- FY27 House appropriations process kickstarted; \$6 million proposed earmark for North Base Causeway Level Sea Rise project
- American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Legislative Conference and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Council (HFCBC) Advocacy Day attendance

State

- American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Legislative Conference and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Council (HFCBC) Advocacy Day attendance
- April 24 fiscal bill deadline and May 15 non-fiscal bill deadline; May budget revision
- April 14 California Air Resources Board (CARB) reduction of greenhouse gas fund revenues by \$2 billion (cap-and-invest program); FY26 and FY27 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP); governor budget reduced by \$230 million and previously covered under SB 125
- SB 1087 (sustainable communities modernization of framework) and SB 1361 (transit-oriented development exceptions) monitoring

Staff provided further clarification in response to the Board comments and questions regarding upzoning at high frequency transit stops and allowance for high-density housing.

**Presentation on Draft Local Investment Plan for Potential Senate Bill 63 Regional Tax Measure Return-to-Source Funds for San Mateo County Transit Purposes** – Ms. Epstein and Eileen Goodwin, President, Apex Strategies, provided the presentation that included the following information:

- Connect Bay Area Measure to span 14-years for a half cent in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, and Contra Costa County and a full cent in San Francisco; \$980 million annually
- Local investment return-to-source would generate approximately \$50 million annually to SamTrans; operating deficit projected start of FY28, so proactive measures are being taken
- Local Investment Plan Outreach feedback on service concerns and gaps of service
- Agency Advisory Group (AAG) and Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) feedback used to plan on necessities to maintain service and funding
- Recommended categorical allocations: enhance 30 percent, protect 45 percent, expand 20 percent expansion, and fix 5 percent

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

- Individual municipality considerations and splitting; feedback group selected individual prioritization
- Fair county distributions and framework
- Ensuring support and services, and coordination with other public transit agencies
- Categorization consistency needed for the survey responses
- Flexibility to re-calibrate priorities every three years, but priorities ultimately determined by Board's approval of funds
- Federal funding loss impacts and operational efficiencies to minimize costs during temporary solution
- Pedestrian safety improvements; transit agency and municipality responsibilities and changing conditions

**Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee**

This Committee was cancelled as there were no business items.

**General Counsel Report: Closed Sessions**

- Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel on a matter of Existing Litigation pursuant to Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1) Name of Case: John Cu and Crystal Gines v. San Mateo County Transit District, et al San Mateo County Superior Court Case 24-CIV-04216

Ms. Cassman stated the Board unanimously voted on a global settlement for the total amount of \$1,750,000, with the District's responsibility to pay half the amount (\$875,000).