

**San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) Board Liaison Report
Meeting of September 2, 2026**

SamTrans Board of Directors Received and Approved the Following Items

- **Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of August 5, 2026**
- **Awarding Contracts to Civic Edge Consulting, LLC and Omnia Associates, LLC for On-Call Ambassador Services for an Aggregate Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$545,000 for a Five-Year Term**
- **Awarding a Contract to FMS Ventures Inc., dba Banner Uniform Company, for Furnishing and Servicing Bus Operator and Transportation Supervisory Unit Uniforms for a Total Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$1.2 Million for a Five-Year Term**

Report of the Chair

Proclamation Honoring Transit Month – Tasha Bartholomew, Director, Communications, provided the presentation that included Transit Month activities and the SamTrans 50th Anniversary Community Celebration.

Proclamation Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month – Ms. Bartholomew provided the presentation that included information on National Hispanic Heritage Month and SamTrans' diverse ridership.

Report of the General Manager/CEO | August 26, 2026

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

- District Headquarters improvements, displays, and community artwork
- Clipper Next Generation ridership data, system stabilization, and transition readiness
- July 2026 banner month for the Transportation team: zero did-not-operates (DNOs), 85 percent on-time performance (OTP), and miles between preventable accidents meeting KPIs
- Preliminary Federal Transportation Authority (FTA) Triennial Review results with no findings
- Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) year-end ridership reaching 102 percent of pre-pandemic levels
- Regional emergency preparedness exercise involving multiple transit agencies
- Participation in the Move Bay Area West Bay Summit and Silicon Valley Pride events
- SamTrans 50th Anniversary video

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

- Clipper Next Generation transition timeline and outstanding issues
- July service performance and preventable accident results

Caltrain Funding Update – Michelle Bouchard, Executive Director, Caltrain, and Casey Fromson, Chief of Staff, Caltrain, provided the presentation that included the following information:

- Caltrain’s post-electrification transformation, service improvements, and ridership growth
- Regional transportation, economic, and environmental benefits
- Improved service frequency, travel times, customer experience, and OTP
- Changing ridership demographics and travel patterns
- Internal cost reduction scenarios, impacts on ridership, regional connectivity, and new revenue opportunities
- Regional transit funding challenges and impacts on Caltrain
- Need for sustainable long-term funding

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

- Caltrain’s clean energy, safety, and performance improvements
- Collaboration among SamTrans, Caltrain, and regional transit agencies
- Caltrain’s role in regional mobility and reducing roadway congestion
- \$75 million annual operating deficit and regional funding challenges
- Need for long-term funding and regional collaboration to address transit funding challenges

Approving Execution of a Contract for Special Counsel Legal Services with Adamski Moroski Madden Cumberland & Green LLP for a Not-To-Exceed Amount of \$200,000 – Ms. Chan provided the presentation that included Caltrain governance and agreement updates, and the need for special counsel services through FY28.

Community Relations Committee

Accessible Services Update – Tina Dubost, Manager, Accessible Transit Services, stated that Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) training focused on consistent paratransit eligibility determinations and complex cases.

Community Advisory Committee Update – Dylan Finch, CAC Chair, stated that the CAC received updates on the Ride Program Panel, Grand Boulevard Initiative, Central El Camino Multimodal Plan, Redwood City bus boarding island, and improved transit signal priority.

Paratransit Advisory Council Update – Ben McMullan, PAC Chair, stated the PAC will participate in the 50th anniversary celebration and has planned presentations on paratransit and transit initiatives.

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

- Weekday ridership decreased 0.7 percent; monthly ridership increased 0.4 percent
- 23.7 percent decreased in Unlimited Pass users

- Safety campaign focused on right-side clearance, safety following distance, and passenger boarding
- Use of dashcam data to identify safety trends and support operator coaching
- School route observations and operational impacts from new Redwood City speed limits

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

- Redwood City school zone traffic and coordination with schools and local police
- Access to restrooms at schools
- Zero-emission bus reliability, maintenance, infrastructure, and technology maturity
- Zero-emission bus reliability comparisons with other transit agencies

Finance Committee

This Committee was cancelled for the month as there were no business items.

Strategic Planning, Development, and Sustainability Committee

San Mateo County Transit District Sustainability Update – Bo Baney, Manager, Environmental and Sustainability Planning, provided the presentation that included the following information:

- FY23-25 sustainability report and public sustainability dashboard
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and criteria air pollutant reductions
- Zero-emission bus deployment and operational efficiency
- 90 percent reduction in natural gas use at the District facilities
- North Base and South Base water main replacement projects
- Employee sustainability initiatives, BayPass pilot, and waste reduction
- Strategic Sustainability Plan and future program priorities

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

- BayPass employee participation and usage
- North Base and South Base underground piping and corrosion
- Sustainability impacts of the District headquarters relocation
- Three-stream recycling and waste reduction practices

Legislative Committee

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

Federal

- Continuing resolution extends federal funding and the current surface transportation law through December 11, 2026
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB) grant regulation implementation delayed to December 11

State

- 2026 legislative session concluded September 1 with significant reductions in transportation funding
- Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) funding reduced from \$400 million to \$95 million; Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) from \$240 million to \$57 million; Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) from approximately \$200 million to \$48 million
- SamTrans supported bills on LCTOP reform, zero-emission bus weight requirements, forward-facing cameras, and organized metal theft sent to Governor
- Assembly Bill (AB) 1599, Aaron's California Transit Stop Registry, streamlined to reduce administrative burden and retain existing bus stop numbering and infrastructure

General Counsel Report

- **Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1): Maria Concepcion Reyes v. San Mateo County Transit District, Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, Case No. 25-CIV-02235**
- **Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code section 54957(a): Threat to Public Services/Facilities – Consultation with David Santoro, Chief Administrative Officer; Tabby Davenport, Director of Safety and Security; and Scott Kirkpatrick, Deputy Director of Safety and Security**

Joan Cassman, General Counsel, stated any action taken will be reported at the next regular SamTrans Board of Directors Meeting.