

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT (DISTRICT)  
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CALIFORNIA  
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 3, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** M. Fraser, J. Gee (joined at 2:27 pm), C. Groom, R. Guilbault, R. Medina, D. Pine, J. Powell, P. Ratto (Vice Chair), C. Stone (Chair) (left at 3:24 pm and rejoined at 4:47 pm)  
**(Via Teleconference)**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** C. Mau, J. Cassman, D. Olmeda, A. Chan, J. Brook, D. Seamans

**1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Charles Stone called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance (Spanish interpretation was provided on a separate Zoom channel by prior arrangement and at the request of members of the public.)

**2. ROLL CALL**

Ms. Seamans confirmed that a quorum of the Board was present.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. **Adoption of Resolution Making Findings that the Proclaimed State of Emergency for COVID-19 Continues to Impact the Board's and Committees' Ability to Meet Safely in Person** – *Approved by Resolution No. 2021-49*
- b. **Approval of Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of October 6, 2021**
- c. **Acceptance of Statement of Revenues and Expenses for the Period Ending September 30, 2021**
- d. **Award of Contract for Physical Inventory Services** – *Approved by Resolution No. 2021-50*
- e. **Award of Contract for Overhead and Mechanical Doors Scheduled Maintenance Services** – *Approved by Resolution No. 2021-51*
- f. **Award of Contract for Furnishing Renewable Diesel (R99), Ultra-low Sulfur Diesel Fuel, and Fueling Services** – *Approved by Resolution No. 2021-52*
- g. **Approval of Shuttle Study Recommendations** – *Approved by Resolution No. 2021-53*
- h. **Acceptance of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021**

Public Comment:

Kristi Corley said that she would like to hear more about the shuttle study.

Aleta Dupree said she supported continuing to hold virtual meetings to be inclusive of people with disabilities, and expressed support for renewable diesel.

Motion/Second: Guilbault/Medina

Ayes: Fraser, Groom, Guilbault, Medina, Pine, Powell, Ratto, Stone

Noes: None

Absent: Gee

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Aleta Dupree said it was important to continue working with Clipper and Clipper Start and supporting electric buses and Caltrain.

#### **5. PUBLIC HEARING**

##### **a. The Reimagine SamTrans Recommended Service Changes/Preferred Network**

1. Chair Stone opened the public hearing at 2:18 pm.
2. Christy Wegener, Director of Planning, provided the presentation.
3. Chair Stone asked if the directors had questions. He asked how decisions are made in terms of what kind of ridership keeps a route intact or be eliminated. Ms. Wegener explained the process of examining route utilization.

*Director Jeff Gee joined the meeting at 2:27 pm.*

4. Chair Stone called for any public comment.

Kristi Corley said they would need routes in Portola Valley to support new housing for individuals with Down Syndrome. She wanted to retain the routes that support the specialized populations in their small city.

Julio Garcia, Redwood City, expressed support for having more buses, times, and routes in low-income communities.

Meredith Park, SamTrans Citizens Advisory Committee, advocated building a generation of transit riders by exploring the diversity of ridership.

Rona Gundrum said she was opposed to the changes to Route 60 serving the Redwood Shores community.

Adriana Fernandez noted the outreach that was done within the East Palo Alto ridership community.

Don Cecil praised the District's community engagement efforts in the Reimagine outreach process.

Aleta Dupree said she supported having frequent service on the ECR (El Camino Real) route.

Amada Martinez, Nuestra Casa (translated from Spanish), commended the District on the proposed routes with better times and connections.

Michael Levinson said there was a need for extra assistance for riders with visual impairments.

CT said she would like to see more buses at school pick-up time so that students do not have to worry about rushing for the bus and being pushed into traffic.

Martha Ortega, Nuestra Casa (translated from Spanish), noted issues with buses that arrive behind schedule, such as Route 397 southbound from San Francisco to East Palo Alto. She also requested additional bus shelters.

Adina Levin called for improving the hours of service for Route 296, which serves Menlo Park and Redwood City.

Cynthia Castro, Nuestra Casa (translated from Spanish), thanked the SamTrans team for entrusting Nuestra Casa to conduct community polls both outside and inside the buses.

Rick Nahass, Pacifica Climate Committee, Seamless Bay Area, said he would like to see more studies about increasing fares and how SamTrans can work with MTC (Metropolitan Transportation Commission).

Sonia Elkes said that transit was important for the community, climate, and the independence of youth. She advocated expanding the Route 295 service to connect the dozens of schools between San Mateo and Redwood City.

Karen Molinari said she was pleased with the increased ridership on Route 61, and advocated for ways to encourage youth to be life-long transit patrons.

5. Chair Stone asked the board members for comments.

Director Jeff Gee asked what the rider profile was for the SamTrans rider. Ms. Wegener said the findings of the latest Triennial Report would be available in 2022.

Chair Stone said he supported having affordable housing in Portola Valley and providing appropriate bus service for those residents.

Director Carole Groom said there had been many robust conversations during prior public hearings.

Director Rico Medina said he wanted to assure riders that the plans will be adapted to suit changing needs.

Vice Chair Peter Ratto concurred that the Reimagine process was a demand-based system that continually responds to service needs.

Director Dave Pine asked how staff would inform the Board if there were changes requested by the public. Ms. Wegener provided the timeline for Board briefings and an upcoming ad hoc meeting.

Director Josh Powell noted that making system changes of such a large magnitude comes with trade-offs and encouraged people who are negatively impacted to speak up as SamTrans improves the system.

Chair Stone noted that SamTrans does the best it can to provide service to schools.

6. Chair Stone made a motion to close the public hearing at 3:09 pm.

## **6. REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Stone said that SamTrans was working on a pilot program to provide free bus passes to students in San Mateo County for students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches.

*Chair Stone left the meeting at 3:24 pm.*

## **7. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO**

Carter Mau, Acting General Manager/CEO, noted that his report was in the packet.

He noted the September ridership numbers were up to 63 percent of pre-COVID levels and that SamTrans was doing better than other transit agencies in the Bay Area. He said COVID vaccinations for District employees are at 81.8 percent. He provided a presentation on the SamTrans hiring and training programs for operators.

Director Gee requested a heat map for where operators live and to track operator retention.

Director Rose Guilbault asked if there were any pools of prospective applicants that the District uses for recruitment. Mr. Mau said they look all over the Bay Area and they are also considering partnering with regional educational institutions for recruitment of mechanics.

Vice Chair Ratto said he was pleased with the growth in ridership and noted lower ridership on a recent trip on SMFTA's (San Francisco Municipal Transportation Authority) 38 Geary line.

#### **8. BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS/COMMENTS**

There were no requests.

#### **9. RECESS TO COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Board meeting recessed to Committee meetings at 3:39 pm.

#### **10. RECONVENE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Vice Chair Ratto reconvened the Board meeting at 4:11 pm.

#### **11. MATTERS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Director Rose Guilbault reported on the following items:

##### SUBJECTS DISCUSSED:

- a. Accessible Services Update
- b. Paratransit Coordinating Council Update
- c. Citizens Advisory Committee Update
- d. Monthly Performance Report – September 2021

#### **12. MATTERS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Director Josh Powell led the Board in voting on the following item:

##### MOTION:

- a. Acceptance of Quarterly Investment Report and Fixed Income Market Review and Outlook

Motion/Second: Powell/Ratto

Ayes: Fraser, Gee, Groom, Guilbault, Medina, Pine, Powell, Ratto

Noes: None

Absent: Stone

#### **13. MATTERS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Director Marina Fraser reported on the following item:

SUBJECT DISCUSSED:

- a. State and Federal Legislative Update

**14. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Vice Chair Ratto noted that the correspondence was in the packet (available online).

**15. DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

Vice Chair Ratto announced the time and location of the next meeting as Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 2:00 pm, with teleconference or location details to be provided prior to the meeting.

**16. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

- a. **Closed Session: Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. Initiation of Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4): One Potential Case**
- b. **Closed Session: Conference with Labor Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6**

**Agency-designated Representatives: Pat Glenn and David Olmeda**

**Employee Organization: Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1574 (Bus Operators, and Maintenance and Customer Service Employees)**

Ms. Cassman announced that since it was not anticipated that the Board would have any actions to report, the Board would not reconvene in open session following the closed sessions.

*The Board recessed to closed session at 4:15 pm.*

*Chair Stone rejoined the meeting at 4:47 pm.*

**17. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at [www.samtrans.com](http://www.samtrans.com). Questions may be referred to the District Secretary's office by phone at 650-508-6242 or by email to [board@samtrans.com](mailto:board@samtrans.com).