

**SAN MATEO COUNTY TRANSIT DISTRICT (DISTRICT)
1250 SAN CARLOS AVENUE, SAN CARLOS, CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES OF STRATEGIC PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
MEETING /
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
APRIL 7, 2021**

Committee Members Present: C. Groom (Committee Chair), J. Gee, D. Pine

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present Constituting Committee of the Whole: M. Fraser, R. Guilbault, R. Medina, J. Powell, P. Ratto, C. Stone

Other Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: J. Hartnett, C. Mau, J. Cassman, D. Olmeda, A. Chan, J. Brook, D. Seamans

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Carole Groom called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2021

Motion/Second: Guilbault/Powell

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

3. REIMAGINE SAMTRANS ALTERNATIVES AND PHASE TWO OUTREACH UPDATE

Christy Wegener, Director of Planning, provided the presentation.

Director Josh Powell said that the first option appeared to have the most positive impact on social equity. Ms. Wegener said that alternative expands all-day service. Millie Tolleson, Principal Planner, said that lower-income area routes had been targeted for increased frequency. Director Powell asked why Alternative 3 is the only option with an on-demand portion. Ms. Wegener said that based on their experience with the Pacifica pilot program, on-demand service is not a replacement for fixed-route service and that they now want to focus on areas where the routes are straighter.

Public Comment:

Rick Nahass, Pacifica, requested considering Muni in addition to BART and Caltrain as next-connectivity transit modes. He also spoke in support of having a semi-express route to San Francisco.

Mike Levinson asked if the survey indicated the specific stops that might be eliminated or if it just referred to fewer stops in general. Ms. Wegener replied that it means that they will look into the fewer stops option more specifically if respondents choose that option.

Committee Member Jeff Gee thanked Ms. Wegener's team for the multi-pronged community outreach strategy.

Director Peter Ratto said that in regards to the digital divide, hard-copy mailers are essential for reaching the public, including device users. He said he supported maintaining Route 292's connection to San Francisco.

Director Marina Fraser asked about the target for Alternative 3. Ms. Wegener said they are trying to preserve the most coverage.

Chair Charles Stone asked which school routes would be cut. Ms. Wegener said Routes 80 and 85 in Portola Valley due to low ridership.

Ms. Tolleson encouraged riders to take the survey on the Reimagine website.

Chair Stone noted that increased frequency creates connectivity.

Director Rico Medina asked for confirmation that the District had reached out to the Mayor of Brisbane, which Ms. Wegener confirmed.

April Chan commended the planning and government affairs departments for their efforts.

Committee Member Dave Pine asked about adjusting the proposed alternatives after receiving survey response feedback. Ms. Wegener said they would develop a preferred network based on their analysis of survey feedback and considering the constraints on resources such as operators and vehicles. She said they planned to bring that back to the Board after the summer.

Committee Chair Groom asked about the feasibility of on-demand service. Ms. Wegener said it is a consideration in some of the alternatives. She said it could be costly since meeting rider needs could require additional vehicles.

Jim Hartnett, General Manager/CEO, discussed the District goals of frequency, reliability and speed.

4. SAMTRANS ENERGY PROCUREMENT STRATEGY STUDY AND DRAFT ENERGY POLICY

Amelia Timbers, Principal Planner, Sustainability, provided the presentation.

Chair Stone asked what kind of solar power could the District expect to generate. Ms. Timbers responded renewable and battery power, but it could include other sources in the future. Ms. Chan said they had focused on the property that SamTrans owns.

Director Rose Guilbault asked how the District would be compensated in the state program. Ms. Timbers said that as part of the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, the state compensates entities that replace high-carbon fuels with lower-carbon fuels. She asked if SamTrans had an existing sustainability plan. Ms. Timbers said that there is a plan in process and that there are reports published biannually.

Committee Member Gee asked if there is an opportunity to go to a third-party investor to invest in solar fields. Ms. Timbers said that the study looked at that question but that the coordination to realize that is not feasible now.

Director Ratto expressed concern about the electrical grid and storage capacity meeting the demand of electric buses.

Chair Stone and Committee Member Pine said the District should strive to work with Peninsula Clean Energy.

5. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at 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.