

**San Mateo County Transit District
1250 San Carlos Avenue, San Carlos, California**

**Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting Minutes**

February 23, 2022

Members Present (Via Teleconference): M. Adler, S. Appenrodt, J. Baker, I. Chan, S. Johnston, N. Lacsamana, M. Lewis, A. Madrid, M. Park (Vice Chair), B. Randall (Chair),

Members Absent: B. Gomez, A. Juarez

Staff Present: A. Rivas, A. Linehan, D. Olmeda, T. Dubost, J. Steketee, J. Brook

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Bianca Randall called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

CAC Secretary Jean Brook called the roll. A quorum was present.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

There were no comments.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 26, 2022

Motion/Second: Baker/Adler

Ayes: Adler, Appenrodt, Baker, Chan, Johnston, Lacsamana, Madrid, Park, Randall

Abstentions: Lewis

Noes: None

Absent: Gomez, Juarez

5. Presentation: 101 Express Lanes Project Update

Amy Linehan, Public Affairs Specialist, provided the presentation.

John Baker said he did not see how the project will serve to reduce traffic and should be limited to buses.

Nancy Lacsamana said that the project was essentially a two-tier system and was not equitable. She said that there were many safety issues with how the lanes near San Francisco Airport had been striped by Caltrans. Ms. Linehan said that North of I-380, the project is still in the environmental phase and they have not yet decided if a new lane will be added.

Vice Chair Meredith Park questioned the equity goals of the project, and asked about the cost of tolling. Ms. Linehan said she would talk to staff and provide the financial information.

Alex Madrid asked how they know if a driver is using FasTrak correctly. Ms. Linehan said that tolls are collected based on the driver switching their tag to reflect the occupancy of their car; she also noted that the California Highway Patrol will be policing users. He asked about toll equity; Ms. Linehan said they will launch a reduced-toll program in San Mateo County in March.

Scott Johnston asked if a toll tag would be needed or if the system would have the ability to read license plates for those with FasTrak accounts and charge them the full toll by default. Ms. Linehan said the system reads license plates as well as toll tags.

6. Report of the Chair

Chair Randall noted that Vice Chair Park would be attending the SamTrans Board meetings and providing a report each month on the CAC meetings.

7. SamTrans Staff Update

Ana Rivas, Director of Bus Transportation, reviewed the highlights of the staff report.

Vice Chair Park asked if the operators were employees or contractors. Ms. Rivas said about 30 percent of fixed route service is contracted out with MV Transportation.

Mr. Madrid asked if the bus would not go forward unless all the doors are shut. Ms. Rivas said operators are trained that buses that they cannot move the bus when the doors are open. He asked if the bus automatically cannot move when the doors are open. Ms. Rivas replied that that is true when the back door is open, but that it is up to the driver not to move the bus when the front door is open. He asked about signage or an announcement instructing passengers to please hold on, which Ms. Rivas said she would take under advisement.

Mr. Baker asked if the operator staffing would be adequate for the August runbook. Ms. Rivas said they are working on new training concepts that would yield more operators.

8. CAC Member Comments/Requests

Steve Appenrodt noted that the express lanes project seems inequitable, providing a faster commute only for those who can afford it.

Iris Chan asked if paratransit operators were in the same pool of drivers as the fixed-route operators. Ms. Rivas said they are represented by a separate union. Ms. Chan asked if there were any plans to upgrade older bus shelters, specifically the one on El Camino Real and Davey Glen. Ms. Rivas said that they continually assess existing shelters and that she would look into that location.

Michelle Lewis said she felt that the express lane project as whole was elitist and asked how the public would be notified about traffic reduction as a result of the express lanes. David Olmeda, Chief Operating Officer, Bus, said they would share any data gathered regarding traffic flow and equity.

Mr. Madrid said he would like to receive data about paratransit performance as well as fixed route service. Tina Dubost, Manager, Accessible Services, provided a brief summary of the latest statistics.

Vice Chair Park said she had attended the Safe Routes to School meeting in Redwood City where they discussed cleaning up the Sequoia Station bus depot.

9. SamTrans Board Liaison Report

Vice Chair Park provided a summary of the February 2 Board meeting.

10. Next Meeting

Chair Randall said that the next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 6:30 pm via Zoom teleconference (additional location, if any, to be determined).

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.