

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

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

October 26, 2022

Members Present (Via Teleconference): M. Adler, S. Appenrodt, J. Baker, C. Carey, B. Gomez (left at 7:16 pm), S. Johnston, N. Lacsamana, M. Lewis, M. Park (Chair), D. Seibert

Members Absent: A. Juarez, A. Madrid (Vice Chair)

Staff Present: A. Rivas, T. Dubost, A. Ward, N. Kostielney, J. Brook

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Meredith Park called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

CAC Secretary Jean Brook called the roll and noted that a quorum was present.

3. Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

There were no comments.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 28, 2022

Motion/Second: Lacsamana/Johnston

Ayes: Adler, Appenrodt, Baker, Cary, Gomez, Johnston, Lacsamana, Lewis, Park, Seibert

Noes: None

Absent: Juarez, Madrid

5. Approval of 2023 SamTrans CAC Meeting Calendar

Nancy Lacsamana asked if the meetings would be in person or hybrid in the coming year. Ms. Brook said the CAC would follow the SamTrans Board's lead based on future anticipated legislation that may require Board and Committee members to attend meetings in person, but that CAC meetings would remain virtual in the meantime.

Motion/Second: Adler/Baker

Ayes: Adler, Appenrodt, Baker, Cary, Gomez, Johnston, Lacsamana, Lewis, Park, Seibert

Noes: None

Absent: Juarez, Madrid

6. Presentation: Transit Safety and Awareness

Sergeant Andy Ward and Detective Nick Kostielney, San Mateo County Sheriffs Department, provided the presentation.

Scott Johnston asked how do they operate when an incident crosses county lines. Sergeant Ward said the transit police works in the three counties. He said they may ask local agencies to stabilize incidents until the transit police arrive.

John Baker asked if it was possible to text to 911 where making a phone call may arouse suspicion. Sergeant Ward said they would respond to texting but prefer phone calls. Mr. Baker asked if the transit police respond 24/7, 365 days a year. Sergeant Ward said they are on duty 365 days a year but are not available between 1:00 to 5:00 am, during which time the local agencies take over.

Ms. Lacsamana asked if mental health awareness is part of their training. Sergeant Ward said everyone in their unit receives 40 hours of training in crisis intervention in cooperation with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

Michelle Lewis asked what happens when homeless persons ride the bus at night. He said if someone is a paying customer, they can ride. If the bus is out of service, then they attempt to connect the individual with local resources such as shelters.

Sergeant Ward said they have done research on assaults on bus operators and noted they have had only two incidents in 2022.

Chair Park asked if the stations were being monitored. Sergeant Ward said they would have increased patrolling presence at terminal and transfer stations, such as Redwood City. She asked if transit safety information is ever shared with school resource officers, particularly with high schools. Sergeant Ward said that the Sheriff's Department has a full-time resource officer who is available to present to schools when requested.

Mary Adler asked how SamTrans compared to other transit modes such as Muni (San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency) and Caltrain. Sergeant Ward said they tended to receive more disturbance calls on the trains than on the buses. He said they have been putting two-deputy teams on the buses as well as on the trains., and have received positive feedback.

Ana Rivas, Director of Bus Transportation, added that bus operators are trained to de-escalate events and to call Radio Control for assistance. She said that Radio Control will contact Transit Police and dispatch a Field Supervisor to the bus.

7. Report of the Chair

Chair Park polled the members regarding attending an in-person reception at 5:30 pm prior to the next CAC meeting on November 30.

8. SamTrans Staff Update

Ms. Rivas reviewed the highlights of the staff report. She said that SamTrans participated with SFO (San Francisco International Airport) on an emergency drill.

Bob Gomez left the meeting at 7:16 pm

Ms. Lacsamana asked for an update on the hiring of new bus operators. Ms. Rivas shared the District's recent efforts to recruit new operators.

Chair Park asked about the number of DNOs (Did Not Operate). Ms. Rivas said that so far, they are at zero DNOs for the month of October, which is a new record.

9. CAC Member Comments/Requests

Mr. Baker said he was pleased that SamTrans was at two-thirds of pre-pandemic ridership. He said he was looking forward to hearing a report on the Youth Mobility pilot. Ms. Rivas said they could present that information at the next CAC meeting.

Ms. Lewis said she was happy that ridership was up.

Chair Park congratulated April Chan on her appointment to General Manager/CEO.

10. SamTrans Board Liaison Report

Chair Park provided a summary of the October 12 Board meeting.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

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

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.