

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

**Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting /  
Committee of the Whole**

**December 6, 2023**

Committee Members Present: J. Gee (Chair), M. Chuang, M. Fraser

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present Constituting Committee of the Whole: D. Canepa, B. Esser, R. Medina, R. Mueller, J. Powell, P. Ratto

Other Board Members Absent: None

Staff Present: A. Chan, D. Olmeda, K. Jordan Steiner, S. van Hoften, J. Cassman, J. Brook, D. Seamans

**10.b.1. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Jeff Gee called the meeting to order at 2:45 pm.

**10.b.2. Approval of Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of November 1, 2023**

Motion/Second: Medina/Esser

Ayes: Canepa, Chuang, Esser, Fraser, Gee, Medina, Mueller, Powell, Ratto

Noes: None

Absent: None

**10.b.3. Update of Innovative Clean Transit Plan**

Liria Larano, Deputy Chief, Bus Fleet and Facilities Infrastructure, provided the presentation on the plan, including compliance deadlines, training, evaluation of zero-emission technology, cost analyses and estimates, fleet procurement, and a progress report.

Director David Canepa asked for the cost, and Ms. Larano responded it was \$155 million. He noted the advantages of exploring both types of technologies and asked what sort of protections SamTrans has in case one of these technologies does not perform. David Olmeda, Chief Operating Officer, Bus, responded with some background and noted that the plan provides the best opportunity in terms of investment, reliability, and resiliency, and said that training of employees is paramount.

Committee Chair Gee commented on getting away from lithium batteries and noted the research on liquid batteries in China, where he had recently visited.

Director Ray Mueller asked if cost estimates fit the projected budgets for those years so that it all balances. April Chan, General Manager/CEO, said the numbers were previously included per state mandate and were looking better now with cheaper fuel cell technology and infrastructure, and noted they would be updated as part of the capital improvement plan that will be brought back to the Board.

Committee Chair Gee asked what the order of magnitude of the \$700 million that comes from grant funds. Ms. Chan introduced Eve Ng, Director, Grants and Fund Management, who said they were working hard to ensure that the District is as close to 100 percent grant-funded as possible. She said they hope to achieve at least 90 percent grant funding for the upcoming 108 hydrogen fuel cell electric buses.

Committee Member Marie Chuang asked what the battery lifespan was and the cost of disposal. Mr. Olmeda said the BEBs' (battery electric buses) battery packs would be replaced at least once in the life of the bus and that the costs are factored into the cost of the bus. Committee Member Chuang asked if the interim charging stations are permanent or if they would be relocated. Ms. Larano said "interim" refers to the means by which the buses will be charged until the permanent structure is completed. Committee Chair Gee noted that the new buses are very quiet.

Motion/Second: Canepa/Chuang

Ayes: Canepa, Chuang, Esser, Fraser, Gee, Medina, Mueller, Powell, Ratto

Noes: None

Absent: None

#### **10.b.4. Award of Contract for the Purchase and Delivery of Up to 108 Heavy-Duty, Low-floor Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Buses and Disposition of 105 2009 Gillig Diesel Buses**

Kevin Yin, Director, Contracts and Procurement, presented the staff report for awarding the contract for hydrogen fuel cell buses and disposal of the diesel buses. Ms. Chan noted prices for these vehicles have been going up and recognized Dave Harbour, Director of Maintenance, who was able to work with the manufacturer to lock in the price of \$1.5 million until June 2024. She noted that they already had \$95 million in FTA (Federal Transit Administration) grants in the bank in addition to previously secured state grants.

Director Brooks Esser asked what the District paid for the 17 BEBs currently in use. Mr. Olmeda said the total cost was approximately \$1.1 million due to the supply chain, cost of raw materials, and increased general demand.

Chair Josh Powell said he was pleased that the District had received 90 percent of the cost in grants.

Motion/Second: Fraser/Ratto

Ayes: Canepa, Chuang, Esser, Fraser, Gee, Medina, Mueller, Powell, Ratto

Noes: None

Absent: None

**10.b.5. Authorization to Sell Two Parcels in the City of San Carlos to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board for Property Used for the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project**

Ms. Chan introduced Janni Baugh, Deputy Director, Real Estate Management and Development, who provided the presentation describing the subject properties for the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board to use for the Peninsula Corridor Electrification Project.

Motion/Second: Chuang/Powell

Ayes: Canepa, Chuang, Esser, Fraser, Gee, Medina, Mueller, Powell, Ratto

Noes: None

Absent: None

**10.b.6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 pm.

An audio/video recording of this meeting is available online at <https://www.samtrans.com/about-samtrans/video-board-directors-cac-and-measure-w-coc>. 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).